

How Kashmiris Are Building a Support System In Mumbai

From cancer treatment referrals to missing persons support, the Kashmiri circle in Mumbai fills the vacuum left by institutions.

Fiza Masoodi

Mumbai: Earlier this year, a Kashmiri family stepped onto a crowded platform at Mumbai's Dadar station. They had come with a toddler in their arms and a medical file in their bag. The city, vast and fast, offered no direction. Soon, they were stranded,

lost between streets, and unsure whom to call or where to go.

Someone in their wider network forwarded them a number. Within hours, help arrived.

The number belonged to a member of the JK Mumbai Circle, a growing network of Kashmiri professionals across India's financial capital.

That evening, the family was

offered a place to stay, connected with doctors, and brought a home-cooked meal.

The Circle began as a WhatsApp group in 2023. Today, it includes over a hundred members, including bankers, doctors, civil servants, restaurateurs, artists, who coordinate daily to respond to fellow Kashmiris in need.

Without office, funding, or



NGO status, the group fills the gap where official systems fall short.

Every day, someone posts a request: A patient needs a hospital referral, a student is looking for a hostel, and a graduate asks for help with a résumé.

The replies come quickly, usually with options, sometimes with offers to meet in person. "What's being built isn't an

organization," said a founding member of the group. "It's a safety net, held together by trust."

The Rhythm Keeper

At the center of the Circle is Ikram, a banker from Srinagar who moved to Mumbai after working in different Indian cities since 2002. | [More on P10](#)

'Op Mahadev': 3 Terrorists Killed Near Dachigam



Press Trust of India

Srinagar: In a major breakthrough, the Army's elite para commandos on Monday gunned down the alleged mastermind of the Pahalgam terror attack along with two of his associates in an encounter in a forest area on Srinagar's outskirts in Kashmir, officials said here.

Officials said that a joint anti-terror operation was launched by the Army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police under code-name 'Operation

Mahadev' in the upper reaches of Harwan.

The officials said Suleiman Shah alias Asif, who is believed to be the mastermind of the April 22 attack, was killed after the security forces launched a surprise action following a technical signal indicating use of a satellite phone that was used by the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack.

The other terrorists killed in the action have been identified as Jibran -- who was allegedly involved | [More on P10](#)

'After Years Of Suffering, Justice Delivered' LG Hands Over Jobs To 80 NoKs of Terror Victims

» Says Fabricated Narratives Of Separatist Elements Now Crumbling » 'Committed To Correcting Historical Injustices'

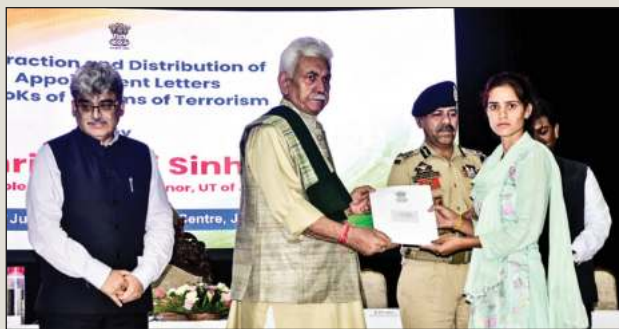
Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday handed over appointment letters to 80 next of kin (NoKs) of terror victims at an event in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor said these families of terror victims were threatened into silence, and their suffering was ignored to shield the perpetrators and those who aided them.

"After years of grief and suffering, the families of terror victims from Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, and Reasi are getting justice," LG said.

Following the Baramulla



function where 40 terror-victim families received jobs, this marked yet another step in what the LG described as "justice" to those affected by terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Common citizens of J&K

endured unspeakable trauma caused by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and the terror ecosystem that was pulling the strings. Terror victim families were threatened into silence. Their sufferings were ignored

to shield the perpetrators and those who aided them," LG said.

He added, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are determined to crush terrorism and bring those aiding and abetting terror outfits to justice. I assure the terror victim families that the perpetrators will be punished."

The Lieutenant Governor recalled incidents of violence, including the killing of Tara Devi in Cherji village, Kishtwar on 21st July 2001; the throat-slitting of Gyan Devi and her infant son in Balgran village on 30th April 1998; and the martyrdom of Ashfaq Ahmed of Doda on 5th April 2005. | [More on P10](#)

Era Of Conventional Warfare Over: LG At IIT Jammu

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the era of conventional warfare is over and called on IIT Jammu students to lead innovations in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and modern communication systems. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony Navarambh to welcome new

batches of BTech, MTech, MSc, and PhD students, the LG urged students to develop new solutions for global challenges and remain at the forefront of technological progress. "Operation Sindoor sent a clear message that India's defence system is second to none," Sinha said. | [More on P10](#)

Op Sindoor Debate EAM Again Rejects US Assertion Of Modi-Trump Call

DM Says Operation Paused After Achieved Goals

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday asserted that at no stage in any conversation with the US was there any linkage of trade with halting of Operation Sindoor and said there was no call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump between April 22 and June 17.

Jaishankar referred to the two phone calls between Trump and Modi, with the first one being on April 22, when the US President conveyed sympathies for the Pahalgam terror attack, and the second one on June 17, when he called the PM to explain that he could not meet him in Canada.

Intervening in the special discussion in the Lok Sabha on 'India's strong, successful and decisive Operation Sindoor in response to the terror attack



in Pahalgam', the senior BJP leader also said the result of India's diplomacy post-Pahalgam attack was that only three out of 190 nations which are part of the UN opposed Operation Sindoor. There was overwhelming support that the country which has been attacked has the right to defend itself, he said.

Jaishankar said India's military action against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack marked a "new normal"

in combating cross-border terrorism with a five-point approach that included firm response to terrorist acts, not yielding to nuclear blackmail and blood and water cannot flow together.

Though a combative Jaishankar took on the previous Congress governments on a range of issues including on 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, policy on China as well as Pakistan, the major highlight of his nearly 40-minute address was his articulation of the new normal in combating cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

"The challenge of cross-border terrorism continues but Operation Sindoor marks a new phase. There is now a new normal. The new normal has five points," Jaishankar said.

Explaining the new normal, he added, "One -- terrorists will not be | [More on P10](#)

CM Eyes Statehood Restoration in Ongoing Session

Press Trust of India

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he is hopeful of restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir during the Monsoon session of Parliament, asserting that his government will raise the issue if there is no progress on it during this period.

However, the J&K Congress said they are intensifying the statehood restoration agitation from August 1 and announced a three-week programme including a chain hunger strike as part of its 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq' campaign.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, Chief Minister Abdullah said, "Let this Parliament session pass. We are hopeful that we will get something in this session. If we do not get anything, we will talk after that. I will not go for a strike as long as the Parliament is in session."

He was responding to a question on the Congress' announcement that it will intensify its



agitation for the restoration of statehood.

The National Conference and the Congress fought the last year's assembly elections together with the national party only winning six seats against the regional party's 42 seats. The NC is also enjoying the support of five independent MLAs.

The Congress has decided to stay away from the government till the restoration of statehood to J&K.

"If I am right, the Parliament session will continue till August 21 or 22. If we do not see any progress on restoration of statehood | [More on P10](#)

Comedian Bashir Kotur Passes Away

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Renowned Kashmiri comedian Bashir Ahmad Bhat, popularly known by his stage name Bashir Kotur, passed away on Monday at his residence in Hanjigund area of Chadoora, Budgam. His death comes just a day after being discharged from hospital, where he had been under intensive care due to multiple health complications.



Family sources said that the veteran artist had been battling serious health issues and was recently admitted to the ICU. Though he was | [More on P10](#)

Lambardar Can't Hold Office Till Death: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has upheld an amendment, deleting a Sub-Rule that provided that Lambardar appointed otherwise than by election can hold the office till he dies or is dismissed, discharged or till the general election is held.

Dismissing a bunch of petitions, a bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal termed it as a welcome step on the part of the Government in streamlining the appointment, election and nomination of Lamabardars.

The petitioners, claiming to have been appointed as Lambardars otherwise than by election under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Lambardari Act, 1972 along with the Jammu and Kashmir Lambardari Rules, 1980 had assailed SRO No. 412 dated 29



September 2017 issued by the government to the extent of deletion of Sub-Rule 5 of Rule 16 of the Rules and for directing the authorities not to dislodge them from their respective offices of Lambardar.

"It is worthwhile to mention that no orders in respect of removal of petitioners were issued by the Government and also no elections for the office of Lumbardars were notified by the Government, but the petitioners, apprehending their removal, have filed these petitions in anticipation to stall the process of election which is

nothing but an abuse of process of law," the bench said and dismissed the petitions.

"The respondents (authorities) are left free to hold elections in accordance with Rules," the court said, adding, "It is hoped that the respondents would strictly follow the mandate of Rules while making temporary appointments of Lambardars."

The court also ruled that the casual vacancy can be filled by nomination in terms of Rule 17 of the Rules for a period not exceeding six months. "This exceptional power can be resorted to only in cases where an unelected Lambardar is appointed in terms of Rule 11 of the Rules," the court said.

The court underlined that under the amended Rule 14 (4) of Rules of 1980, the appointment to a vacant post of Lambardar | [More on P10](#)

'BRUTAL CUSTODIAL TORTURE ON FELLOW CONSTABLE'

CBI Books DSP, 5 Other J&K Police Officials

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The CBI has booked six officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Police following allegations of inflicting "brutal and inhuman custodial torture" on a fellow police constable two years ago.

In its FIR registered on the orders of the Supreme Court, the central agency has named Deputy Superintendent of Police Aijaz Ahmad Naiko and five others, who were then posted at the Joint Interrogation Centre, Kupwara, officials said.

Apart from DSP Naiko, Sub-Inspector Riyaz Ahmad and four other J&K Police officials-- Jahangir Ahmad, Imtiyaz

Ahmad, Mohammed Younis and Shakir Ahmad-- have been named in the FIR for allegedly inflicting "brutal and inhuman custodial torture" over six days on Constable Khurshed Ahmad Chohan.

The victim, who was posted in Baramulla, was summoned through a signal communication on February 17, 2023, to report before SSP, Kupwara ostensibly for investigation in connection with a narcotics case.

On arrival, he was handed over to the Joint Interrogation Centre, where Naiko, Riyaz Ahmad and others tortured Khurshed for six days with iron rods and wooden sticks, besides | [More on P10](#)

'Unethical Referrals, Private Practice': 6 Doctors Banned

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday ordered a ban on six doctors for allegedly engaging in private practice during official duty hours and making unethical referrals to private Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs).

According to a government order issued by the Health & Medical Education Department, the action follows an evaluation conducted by the State Health Agency under the Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY/ SEHAT Scheme, which revealed that these doctors had been violating norms and undermining

the scheme's objectives. The doctors found involved in private practice during duty hours include Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bashir (Consultant Surgeon, GMC Anantnag) with 312 cases, Dr. Ishaq (Medical Officer, DH Pulwama) with 170 cases, and Dr. Younis Kamal (Associate Professor Orthopaedics, GMC Anantnag) with 185 cases.

Additionally, three doctors were found involved in unethical referrals to private EHCPs: Dr. Vikas Gupta (Medical Officer, CHC Hiranagar) with 19 cases, Dr. Manju Kumari (Medical Officer, EH Vijaypur) with 18 cases, and Dr. Raj Kumar Bhagat (Medical Officer, DH Samba) with 12 cases

The order | [More on P10](#)





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2

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Ali Mohammad Allie s/o Mohd Jamal Allie R/o Kalseri Nehalpora for issuance of legal hair certificate..

Public Notice.

IT is inform to general public that applicants wife's legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants wife namely Zareefa Begum died on 05/01/2025 and left following legal hairs..

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Ali Mohammad Allie	67	Husband	MARRIED
Farooq Ahmad Allie	39	Son	MARRIED
Mashooqa Begum	35	Daughter	MARRIED
Ghulam Ahmad Allie	34	Son	MARRIED
Raista Bano	31	Daughter	MARRIED
Nadeema Ali	25	Daughter	MARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Application of Fancy Akhter D/o Noor Uddin Sheikh w/o Mohd Sulthan Sheikh R/o Pattan for issuance of legal hair certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants father's legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought to Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father died on 31/07/1995 and left following legal hair..

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Fancy Akhter	33	Daughter	MARRIED

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

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NEET,9th and 10th (All subjects)
List of faculty members with qualification

Name	subject	Qualification	Whether govt employee or not
Er.sajad Bhat	Physics	B.Tech/M.Tech	NO
Mr.Ashraf Allaie	Chemistry	M.Sc (Chemistry)	NO
Mr.Mashooq	Chemistry	M.Sc (Chemistry)	NO
Mr.Javeed Kareem	Zoology	M.Sc (Zoology)	NO
Dr.Mubashir	Botany	Ph.D Botany	NO
Mr.Riyaz Ahmad	Maths	M.Sc Mathematics	NO
Mr.Bilal Khirkha	S. Science	M.A. History	NO
Mr.Marifat	English	M.A. English	NO
Mr.Mohd Ashraf	Urdu	M.A.Urdu	NO
Ms. Samina	Coordina-tor	B.A.	NO

FEE Structure (Session 2025)

Class	FEE	Duration
9th	16,000	Full Course
10th	16,000	Full Course
11th	30,000	Full Course
12th	30,000	Full Course
NEET	30,000	Full Course

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to information of the general public that I am applying for Contractor Card D-Class from office of the Superintendent Engineer Public Works (R&B) Department Circle, Pulwama/ Shopian if anybody having any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same to the office of the Superintendent Engineer Public Works (R&B) Circle, Pulwama/Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rubeena Akhter W/O Riyaz Ahmad Bhat
R/O Muslim Abad, Chursoo, Awanitpora, Pulwama,
J&K-192122. Contact Number. 8825046392

inf

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S Rest Realm situated at Mir Masjid Khanyar

Public Notice

Whereas I we . 1. Hilal Ahmad Bhat S/o Gulzar Ahmad Bhat R/o Mir Masjid Khanyar
, intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Rest Realm situated at Mir Masjid Khanyar -- under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections , if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/ organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

mko

NOTICE

I Osama Muzayen D/O Mohammad Sultan R/O Friends Lane, Near Salafia Bus Stop, Lal Bazar, Srinagar would be applying for a change in the given name in my passport. I want to split my Given Name in passport as Given name Osama and surname Muzayen. If anybody is having any objection, they may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

BMHS/2024/101

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my University records as Muskaan Hassan while my correct name is Muskan Hassan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the University of Kashmir within seven days. After that no objection shall be netertained.

Muskan Hassan
D/o Ghulam Hassan Dar
R/o Peth Makhama Magam

bmgs

From Office of the Advocate Tawseef Gani And Associates

In the case of
Bar Association Pattan Through its President

1. Advocate Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat
2. Advocate Mohammad Afzal Najar.(Vice President).
3. Advocate Irshad Ahmad Dar.(Treasurer)
4. Advocate Rayees Ahmad Tantray.(Secretary)

Caveators

Versus

Public at Large

(Non-Caveators/Non-Applicants)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko Sd/advocate

Court of Additional Special Mobile Magistrate at Pantha Chowk Srinagar

In the case of:

Abid Sultan S/o Mohammad Sultan Mir, R/o Lasjan Bund, Srinagar – Decree Holder

Versus

1. Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Salam Bhat
2. Fahmeeda W/o Shabir Ahmad Bhat
3. Danish Shabir S/o Shabir Ahmad Bhat

All residents of Zawoora, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar – Judgment Debtors

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

Notice is hereby given under Rule 64 of Order XXI of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, that pursuant to an order of this Hon'ble Court, the attached property of the above-named Judgment Debtors will be sold by public auction in satisfaction of the decree amounting to 14,00,000/- (Fourteen Lakh) along with costs and interest up to the date of sale.

Date & Time of Auction: 25th August 2025 at 12:00 Noon
Venue: Tehsil Office, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar

The sale will be conducted in lots as specified in the Schedule attached to the court order. Interested members of the public are invited to participate in the auction personally or through an authorized agent.

Important Notes:
Judgment Creditors are not permitted to bid without prior permission of the court.

The sale will be subject to conditions outlined in the court's proclamation including terms of payment and default consequences.

If the decretal amount and costs are paid in full before the auction, the sale will be cancelled.

For immovable property, a 25% deposit must be paid immediately by the successful bidder; failure to do so will result in resale.

The full purchase amount must be paid within 15 days from the date of sale (excluding the day of sale).

By Order of the Court

Given under my hand and seal of the court

Dated: 15th July 2025

No.2253-55/ASMM/PC/26/07/2025

Additional Special Mobile Magistrate
Pantha Chowk, Srinagar

fko

ISLAMIA MODEL PUBLIC SCHOOL KALANTRA PAYEEN, BARAMULLA

Ref No: Impskp/25/07

Dated: 28/07/25

List of Managing Body

S. No	Name & Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Manzoor Ah Sheikh S/o Habibulla Sheikh	Kalantra Payeen	M.A B.ed	Business	Chairman
02	Zahoor Ah. Dar S/o Ab. Rehman Dar	Tangwari Payeen	Hafiz	Teacher of the school	Secretary
03	Bilal Ahmad Parray S/o Habibullah Parray	Kalantra Bala	BA	Private job	Member
04	Imtiyaz Ah Malik S/o Abdul Rahim Rather	Kalantra Bala	10th	Business	Member
05	Niyaz Ah Rather S/o Abdul Rahim Rather	Kalantra Payeen	B.Sc	Business	Member
06	Javid Ah. Malik S/o Abdul Ahad Malik	Kalantra Bala	10th	Business	Member
07	Miss Waheeda D/o Ab. Ahad Sheikh	Tangwari Payeen	M.A	Teacher at School	Member

If anybody have any objection can contact the Worth Director School Edu. Kmr. within seven days.

(Chairman)
fko Islamia Model Public School

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e- NIT No. 42/2025-26 Dated 26-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-
Call 2nd

S. No.	Name of the Work	Block	Estimated/ Adv. Cost(In lacs)	Cost of tender docum ents (In Rupees)	EMD (in %)	Class of Contractor	Time of completion	Major head
1.	Construction of Segregation Shed at Gujjar Basti Aglar A	Achgoze	5.648	300/=	2%	DEE/CEE	30 Days	SBM II

Position of A/A:- Accorded Position of T/S:- Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-07-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	26-07-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	04-08-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	05-08-2025 at 10:00 AM or any convenient day In the office of the Executive Engineer REW Pulwama
5.	Note: - Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bids opened. Incase The original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bids Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall take action as per Rules.	

Special Condition 01:

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

SC02:- Contractors Strictly not eligible

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

Conditions for Bidders:

Every Participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the Bank Account No. which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No Payment shall be released by Govt. Deptt./Agency to any other Bank Account except the one linked with GST Registered number of the Successful bidder. As per Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated 08/07/2025 issued by Govt. of J&K Finance Department Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar.

1. Contractors who failed to execute the allotted work/works during the previous financial year (2024-25) are not eligible for-tendering for the current financial year (2025-26).

2. Any Bidder who will go down more than 15% of Advertised Cost shall upload the Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR during tendering process as per Unbalance Bid Table mentioned in NIT at S.No09a. (Non uploading of Additional Security will let to the rejection of the tender).

3. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Pulwama (Tender receiving authority).

4. In Addition to Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security), the 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract. The EMD (Bid Security/Earnest money) of 2% of advertised cost of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

5. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) shall submit all the hard copies of uploaded documents within 05 Days before fixation of Contract. Failure to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and he shall be debarred to participate in any tendering process up to 12 months after forfeiting the CDR and case for debarring of the Contractor is forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

6. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR of the unsuccessful Bidder shall be released after opening the Tender on production of Treasury Challan.

7. The Tender Opening Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.

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

9. Unbalanced Bid: The bidders have to produce additional security in shape of CDR/FDR

of recognize scheduled/commercial Bank, pledged to Executive Engineer REW Division

Pulwama. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for maximum six months or more after the last

date of receipt to bids along with the bid document as per following break up:

10. Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR

S.NO.	Percentage of Unbalanced Bid viz: Advertised cost on account flow rates	Additional Security Advertised value of work as percentage of Advertised cost
1.	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2.	Greater than 15% up to 20% below	5%
3.	Greater than 20% up to 25% below	10%
4.	Greater than 25% up to 30% below	15%
5.	Greater than 30%	20%

Xen/REW/Pul/1535-41
DIPK-4371/25

Dated:-28/07/2025

Sd/= Executive Engineer
REW Division Pulwama

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROJECTS DIVISION

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For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir online e-bids are hereby invited for Capex works in Srinagar City of Jammu & Kashmir. The details are as under:

S. no	Description	EMD Rs in lacs	Cost of Document in Rs.	Last date for submission of e-Bid
1	Completion of 33/11 KV, 1X10 MVA Substation at Tailbal along with 33kV line for system strengthening and upgradation of power Infrastructure under Capex Budget.	0.88	1100.00	06/08/2025 at 1400 Hours.

1. 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:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 23/07/2025 at 1200 Hours.
B	Clarifications start date	24/07/2025 at 1100 Hours.
C	Clarifications end date	26/07/2025 at 1400 Hours.
E	e-Bid submission(start)date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD in pdf)	24/07/2025 at 1200 Hours.
F	e-Bid submtssion(end) date & Time	06/08/2025 at 1400 Hours.
G	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	08/08/2025 at 1400 Hours.
H	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time(Only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.
I	Venue of opening of technicals FINANCIAL-BIDS	Office of the Executive Engineer Project Division Srinagar Right

2. The bidders need to submit the cost of Documents and EMD as stated in the above table pledged to Accounts Officer, with Chief Engineer Projects Kashmir, payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft as cost of document/Bid Processing fee and EMD must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original instruments should reach the office of Chief Engineer projects Kashmir Airport Road Humhama opposite Police Post up to 09/08/2025 up to 4:00pm.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMDs in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Accounts Officer, Projects Kashmir payable at Srinagar. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. 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.

3. 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 or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be

4. The scope of work under the subject package includes site survey, planning, design, engineering, assembly manufacturing, testing, supply, loading, transportation, unloading, insurance, delivery at site, handling, storage, Installation, testing/Commissioning.

5. 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.

6. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening/Submission of Hard Copy being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids/ Submission of Hard Copy shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

7. All the required documents should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format. Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Only Hard copy of Cost of document and EMD is required to be submitted in hard format also.

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

Hard copy of Cost of document and original instrument of EMD must be delivered to the office of the Chief Engineer projects Kashmir Airport Road Humhama opposite Police Post up to 05/08/2025 up to 4:00pm.

No: PRRT/SGR/415-418

DIPK-NB-1376/25 Dated: 28/07/2025.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PROJECTS DIVISION
RIGHT

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CRAFT IN CRISIS:

City’s Known Wood Carver Struggles To Keep Legacy Alive

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Mohammad Rafiq Najar, a 65-year-old walnut wood carving artist from Naidboni, Rainawari in Srinagar, has spent over four decades chiselling life into wood. But today, the seasoned artisan says the intricate art that once earned him awards and recognition is no longer enough to earn him a dignified livelihood.

“I started learning this craft from my father, Noor Mohammad Najar, when I was young,” Rafiq said.

“For the last 40 years, I have been dedicated to walnut wood carving, but the demand for this work is declining with every passing day.”

Once considered a pride of Kashmiri heritage, walnut wood carving is struggling for survival. While Rafiq has received dozens of awards over the years—including the prestigious State Award in 2011—the recognition has not translated into a sustainable income.

“I had applied for the National Award after winning the State Award, but my application was rejected. Still, an artist never gives up,” he said. Rafiq now takes on work wherever it is available—travelling from one house to another, carving handmade panels into doors, ceilings, and furniture, just to make ends meet. “It has become extremely difficult to support my family through this art. We are barely able to make ends meet,” he said.

The government, he said, has not offered substantial support at the local level. “The Union Government is giving Rs 8,000 per month to awardee artists, which is some help, but it isn’t enough to live with dignity. The

state machinery needs to do more.”

Najar expressed deep concern over the fading respect and recognition for handmade work. “Earlier, artists were treated with great respect. Today, our work is seen as outdated, and people don’t want to pay for quality handcrafted products,” he lamented. “Until and unless handmade work is valued and artists are respected, this craft cannot flourish.”

Despite facing hardships, Rafiq has trained dozens of young artisans over the years. But they, too, are struggling. “Even the youth I have trained are unable to earn a decent living. If renowned artists like us are in distress, how can we expect youth to choose this path?” he asked.

The artisan has urged the government to take meaningful steps to revive the dying art. “There must be structured schemes to attract youth, support marketing of handmade items, and ensure artisans can earn decent livelihoods. We need exhibitions, online platforms, and direct market linkages,” he said.

Rafiq’s work has reached countries across the globe, and he has even travelled abroad, where he was welcomed with respect. Yet, at home, his talent struggles for survival. “Abroad, I was respected for my work. But here, even my basic needs remain unfulfilled,” he said.

“I am not happy doing this work anymore—not because I don’t love the art, but because there’s no future in it now. At the very least, an artist should be able to feed their family. That’s not the case today,” he said, his voice tinged with both sadness and resilience—(KNO)

KU, JKAACL Host Symposium On Hussaini Literature



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a collaborative literary effort, the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and the Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir, organized a one-day symposium titled “Hussaini Literature and Its Poetic Traditions” at the Conference Hall of the Urdu Department, University of Kashmir. The event, held on July 28, 2025, attracted scholars, poets, academics, students, and lovers of literature for an engaging day-long exploration of the cultural, spiritual, and poetic legacy inspired by the life and martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.).

The inaugural session focused on the research and academic dimensions of Hussaini literature. Chaired by renowned literary critic Prof. Shad Ramzan, the session delved into the humanistic essence and moral significance of Hussaini writings. Prof. Ramzan emphasized the enduring impact of the Hussaini tradition on Kashmiri literary thought. Chief Guest Dr. Sameer Siddiqui highlighted the relevance of Hussaini themes in fostering compassion, courage, and moral clarity in society. Prof. Ejaz Mohammad Sheikh, Head of the Urdu Department, spoke on the responsibility of academic institutions in preserving such legacies. Jawaid Iqbal Khan, Head of the Centre for Languages and Literature (Kashmiri) at JKAACL, outlined the Academy’s

THE EVENT WAS WIDELY APPRECIATED, with the audience commending the joint efforts of the University of Kashmir and JKAACL in organizing a symposium that meaningfully contributed to literary discourse and cultural preservation

contributions in publishing and documentation. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Haleem presented detailed research on the evolution and literary depth of Hussaini texts, followed by an interactive question-answer segment.

The second session featured a Mehfil-e-Mushaira chaired by noted poet Ghulam Hassan Gamgeen. Chief Guest Fayaz Tilgami praised the initiative, stating that such literary gatherings strengthen young minds’ bond with poetic and cultural traditions. Abdul Khaliq Shams attended as Guest of Honour. Poets recited powerful verses evoking sacrifice, steadfastness, and the legacy of Karbala, drawing emotional responses from a captivated audience.

The third and final session, also poetic in nature, was presided over by Mrs. Rukhsana Jabeen, with Saad-ud-Din Saadi as Chief Guest and Bashir Chirag as Guest of Honour. The poets in this session paid rich tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.), drawing upon themes of moral resilience and spiritual sacrifice. Speakers and participants reiterated the cultural and academic importance of continuing to engage with and promote Hussaini poetic

traditions. Over 30 distinguished poets presented original compositions in homage to Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.). Among them were Abdul Rehman Fida, Fayaz Tilgami, Ghulam Hassan Gamgeen, Gulshan Badrani, Dr. Hasrat Hussain, Inayat Gul, Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, Mehfooza Nabi, Mehtaab Manzoor, Saleem Yousuf, Mashroom Jehangir, Yousuf Sameem, Nisar Azam, Shabir Hussain Shabir, Prof. Shad Ramzan, Rukhsana Jabeen, Saad-ud-Din Saadi, Shafaq Sopori, Syed Akhtar Hussain Mansoor, Bashir Chirag, Touseef Raza, Skinder Irshad, Mohammad Yousuf Shaheen, Ali Ahsan, Mir Muzamil, Syed Masood Shahdab, Nasia Ahad Khan, and Mir Umar Fayaz.

The event was widely appreciated, with the audience commending the joint efforts of the University of Kashmir and JKAACL in organizing a symposium that meaningfully contributed to literary discourse and cultural preservation.

Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Assistant Editor, conducted the day’s proceedings, while Jawaid Iqbal Khan, Editor (Kashmiri), delivered the vote of thanks.

Awareness Programme On Drug Abuse Held At Khimber

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Khimber, organized an awareness programme aimed at sensitizing students about the growing threat of drug abuse.

An impactful theatrical performance by a local artist group captured the emotional and societal toll of addiction, leaving the audience visibly moved. The students responded with overwhelming appreciation and expressed a strong interest in witnessing more such transformative cultural initiatives.



Nazir Ahmad, Principal of the institution, commended the programme for its timely relevance and lauded the use of culture as a medium to guide and educate the youth.

Addressing the gathering, Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, highlighted the immense potential of

art in shaping young minds and reaffirmed DIPR’s commitment to continue such socially responsive programmes.

The event culminated with a collective pledge by students, staff, and officials to stay vigilant and contribute towards a healthier, drug-free society.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
MAGISTRATE BOMAI ZAINGEER

No. /B&D/ T2 /2025
Subject: Issuance of registration orders in respect of delayed Birth.

28/7/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office has received a written application from Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir S/O: Late Gh. Rasool Mir R/O: Lager Pura Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death Certificate in favor of Son and Daughter Adnan Ahmad Mir, Irtiqa Mohi-ud-Din Who was Born on: 15/12/2015 and 5/7/2011 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard if any one has any objection He/She may file the same before the office under signed within 07 Days. After that no objection what so ever will be entertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar
Zaingeer

FKO

In Loving Memory
On the 37th Death Anniversary of

Syed Merak Shah Qadri

Gone from our lives, one so dear, But in our hearts, forever near.

It has been over three decades since you left us. Though time flies, the void you left behind still remains. You were the epitome of generosity, compassion, and unwavering spirit. Your absence is deeply felt, and your memory continues to inspire us every day. We strive to live in a way that would make you proud. May Allah (SWT) grant you the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

Fondly remembered by:
Ishfaq Ahmed Qadri (Son) & Daughters

INFO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for fresh pesticides and Fertiliser under the name M/S Malik Pesticides & Fertilisers situated at Dawlatpora, Kreeri, In this regard, if anybody is having any objection, may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within the time period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

MUZAFAR AHMAD MALIK
S/O: GH QADIR MAILK, R/O: DAWLATPORA, KREERI, BARAMULLA.
Contact: 9682652030

FKO

KASHMER
Aspire. Strive. Achieve.

HPVT
Help Poor Voluntary Trust

OBSESSIVE
COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ...
but...
did I clean it enough?
?Wash it again?
Is it clean now?

It's not just
RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING
BUT
UNSEEN PAIN
distress
myths and stigma
associated with OCD

KASHMER Kashmir American Society of Healthcare,
Medical Education & Research
In collaboration with
HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust)
is initiating a **Free 8 weeks Group therapy** for the individuals
suffering with OCD by
a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading
consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is
experiencing symptoms of OCD,
seeking professional help is
crucial.

You do not have to fight your
battles alone.

There is no need for referral,
simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT
Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal
Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

KASHMIR OBSERVER®
SRINAGAR | TUESDAY | 29.07.2025 03

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488, 2452222, 2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar-Leh- (Open)

HIJRI
CALENDAR
3 Safar
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR

4:00

ZUHR

12: 37

ASR

5:33

Magrib

7:40

ISHA

9:14

This Day In History

- 238- The Roman Senate and Praetorian Guard proclaim 13-year-old Gordian III as Emperor - the youngest-ever emperor of a united Rome
- 362- Emperor Julianus of Constantinople's "School Edict" prohibit Christian teachers from using pagan literature, which was standard text for classical education at the time
- 626- Avars under Khagan Bayan begin the siege of Constantinople, which fails, preserving the Eastern Roman Empire
- 904- Byzantine city Thessalonica is sacked by Saracen pirates led by renegade Leo of Tripoli
- 1014- Battle of Strumitsa Valley: Byzantines destroy Bulgarian armies
- 1030- Battle of Stiklestad: Norwegian King Olaf II is killed while trying to reclaim the throne, one of the most famous Norwegian battles
- 1566- Great Britain executes Agnes Waterhouse, the first British woman convicted of witchcraft in Chelmsford, England
- 1567- James VI is crowned King of Scots at Stirling
- 1579 Antwerp's request union with Utrecht
- 1588- The "Invincible" Spanish Armada is sighted approaching England, and several skirmishes follow forcing the invading fleet to make a long and costly retreat around Scotland and Ireland
- Samuel de Champlain
- 1629- French colonist Samuel de Champlain surrenders Montreal to British privateers led by David Kirke after a blockade of the colony
- 1655- The largest town hall in the world at the time opens in Amsterdam
- 1676- Nathaniel Bacon is declared a rebel for assembling frontiersmen to protect settlers from Native Americans
- 1693- War of the Grand Alliance: Battle of Landen/ Neerwinden - France wins
- Pyrrhic victory over Allied forces in the Netherlands.
- 1696- Louis XIV. King of France, & Victor Amadeus II, Duke of Savoy, sign Peace of Turin,
- a turning point in the War of the League of Augsburg
- 1783- Skaptar Volcano on Iceland erupts killing about 9,000
- 1786- 1st newspaper published west of Alleghenies, Pitts Gazette
- 1858- Treaty of Amity and Commerce/Harris Treaty signed between US & Japan opening Japanese ports to trade
- 1899 -The First Hague Convention is signed.
- 1913- Albania becomes sovereignty under prince Wilhelm von Wied
- 1914- Russia mobilize troops along Austrian boundary
- 1914- In response to Austria's declaration of war on Serbia, Russian diplomats and general urge general mobilization, but the Tsar calls for partial mobilization
- 1921- Adolf Hitler becomes leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party
- 1922- Greek troops defeat Turkish forces and are on their way to Constantinople, but the Allies forbid them taking the city
- 1927- 1st iron lung installed (Bellevue hospital, NY)
- 1932- Great Depression: in Washington, D.C., U.S. troops disperse the last of the "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans.
- 1944- Allied air force bomb Germany for 6 hours
- 1949- Moscow ends the blockade of West Berlin
- 1949- BBC radio begins broadcasting

Araghchi: Israel Plotted to Assassinate Me in June

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi revealed Sunday that Israeli forces attempted to assassinate him during the peak of the Tel Aviv 12-day military assault on Iran in June.

"A bomb was planted in a house across from the one where I live," Araghchi stated via Telegram, adding that Iranian security forces managed to neutralize the threat. The plot, according to Araghchi, was timed to coincide with Israel's broader campaign of targeted killings and airstrikes, which began on June 13 under the pretext of halting Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

While Araghchi was attending the 51st session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Turkey, Israeli surveillance drones were reported to have hovered persistently over the Iranian delegation. "We responded by taking immediate precautions, such as turning off our phones," he said, highlighting the constant threat posed by Israeli espionage even in diplomatic settings, pan-Arab

news channel Al-Mayadeen reported on Monday.

The assassination attempt came amid a wider Israeli operation that killed several Iranian scientists and senior military officers in a series of aggressive and unprovoked strikes on Iranian soil. Tehran responded with measured but firm retaliation, launching drone and missile barrages targeting Israeli military installations. The United States escalated the conflict further by striking Iranian



nuclear facilities on June 22, an act widely condemned by Iranian officials as blatant aggression. In response, Iran targeted the US airbase at Al Udeid in Qatar.

The confrontation came to a temporary halt on June 23, when the US President announced a ceasefire

Iran Slams Media for Spreading Israel-Linked Fake News



Trans Asia News

New Delhi: Iran has issued a sharp rebuke to sections of the Indian media over "fake and fabricated" reports about Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, accusing them of amplifying Israeli-linked propaganda and undermining journalistic credibility.

In a sharply worded statement issued Monday, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India criticised sections of the Indian media — including prominent outlets — for amplifying unverified social media content that it said insulted Iran's leadership and misled the public.

The Embassy was responding to recent stories in Indian news publications that claimed Iran's spiritual leader was "spending his days sleeping and using drugs." These reports appear to have drawn content from a social media account allegedly connected to Israel's intelligence agency Mossad — a source the Iranian government dismissed as propaganda-driven and unreliable.

"Such irresponsible reporting not only undermines public confidence but also severely damages the professional reputation of these media

institutions among their audiences," the statement said.

While affirming its respect for press freedom and the right to information, the Embassy urged Indian journalists to rely on credible and impartial sources. It warned that repeating sensationalist narratives from dubious foreign-linked social media accounts risked dragging Indian media into geopolitical information warfare.

The statement also reaffirmed the role of Iran's Supreme Leader not only as the spiritual and political head of the country but also as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. Referring to a recent military confrontation — described by Iran as a "twelve-day imposed war" with the Zionist regime — the Embassy said Ayatollah Khamenei played an active leadership role in guiding military operations, ultimately leading to what it termed a "decisive act of self-defence and victory."

In its concluding remarks, the Embassy appealed to Indian journalists to resist being drawn into external propaganda and instead help "strengthen the historical ties of friendship and mutual respect between the peoples of two great civilizational-states."



Hunger Must Never Be A 'Weapon Of War': UN Chief

Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA: United Nations chief Antonio Guterres urged the international community on Monday to reject hunger as a weapon of war.

UN agencies have been warning of life-threatening hunger in Gaza as aid supplies dried up, and international pressure has been building for a ceasefire to allow a massive relief operation.

Israel's government, under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, furiously denies that it is using hunger as a weapon of war, and instead accuses the aid agencies of failing to pick up and distribute aid delivered to Gaza's border crossing points.

"Climate change is dis-

rupting harvests, supply chains, and humanitarian aid. Conflict continues to spread hunger from Gaza to Sudan and beyond," Guterres told a UN conference in Ethiopia by video.

"Hunger fuels instability and undermines peace. We must never accept hunger as a weapon of war," the UN chief added said.

In the Gaza Strip, the war-shattered Palestinian territory is gripped by dire humanitarian conditions created by 21 months of war and made worse by Israel's total blockade of aid from March to May.

Since the easing of the blockade, the levels of aid reaching Gaza have been far below what aid groups say is needed.

On Sunday, as Israel

began a "tactical pause" in the fighting to allow the UN and aid agencies to tackle a deepening hunger crisis, the World Health Organization warned that malnutrition was reaching "alarming levels."

Sudan is "the largest humanitarian catastrophe facing our world and also the least remembered", Othman Belbeisi, the regional director of UN's IOM migration agency, told reporters last week.

Since April 2023, Sudan has been torn apart by a power struggle between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, commander of the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

The fighting has killed tens of thousands and displaced more than seven million people.

Corbyn and Sultana's New Party Surges Past 400,000 Sign-Ups

Ben Chacko

Morning Star

London — Over 400,000 people have already signed up to join the new political party launched by Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana — a figure that surpasses the membership of any existing British party.

While the demand for a left-wing alternative to Labour has long been evident, even supporters of the new party did not anticipate such an overwhelming response.

The surge underscores a critical reality: Labour's rightward shift under Keir Starmer, since 2020, has alienated vast swathes of the left. Starmer, elected on a platform promising continuity with the Corbyn years, has instead presided over a crackdown on internal democracy through expulsions, suspensions, and bans on discussion — actions that have driven many members away.

Critics who accuse the new party of splitting the left must confront an inconvenient truth: this movement didn't set out to rival Labour — it was born from exclusion.

Those behind the initiative only decided to run candidates against Labour after being pushed out of it. If Labour now faces a challenge from the left, the blame lies squarely with Starmer's leadership.

Importantly, the excitement around Corbyn's new project challenges the narrative that Labour's socialist phase was a political misstep. While party officials often cite two electoral defeats to dismiss Corbynism, they overlook the massive rise in Labour's vote between 2015 and 2017 — and that the 2019 election still saw Corbyn win more votes than Starmer ever has.

The Corbyn era mobilised hundreds of thousands of activists and brought millions to the Labour fold by channeling widespread disillusionment with decades of political consensus — marked by privatisation, deregulation, and deindustrialisation. That discontent remains potent today, as evidenced by the crumbling support for both Labour and the Conservatives.

While these frustrations are not always expressed in traditionally left-wing terms — as seen in the rise of Re-

form UK — they stem from rejection of the same neoliberal legacy. The systematic sidelining of socialism within Labour has not reflected a public shift, but rather a top-down suppression. Given a new platform, the left could regain national traction and even exert pressure on Labour from the outside.

That said, building a viable new party will be challenging. Polls suggest it could attract significant votes, but not yet shake Reform's dominance. Learning from Labour's success in 2017 and avoiding the pitfalls of 2019 — including internal factionalism and insularity — will be crucial. Simply rerunning the Corbyn project from 2015-19 is unlikely to succeed.

Nonetheless, this is a powerful beginning. In a political climate marked by growing authoritarianism, racism, and bipartisan complicity in foreign atrocities, a mass left movement could be vital in reviving the causes of public ownership, redistribution, and social justice. No genuine socialist can ignore this moment. -IPA

Saudi Forces Arrest Egyptian Pilgrim For Raising Palestinian Flag In Mecca

Trans Asia News

Riyadh: Saudi forces detained an Egyptian pilgrim in the holy city of Mecca for raising the Palestinian flag and protesting the Israeli-imposed siege and starvation in Gaza.

Video footage circulated online shows a man exclaiming "Wa Islamah!" — a phrase historically employed to convey distress when Islam or Muslims face peril, as he urgently appeals for assistance for the starving people of Gaza near the Ka'aba, a cube-shaped shrine that Muslims face when they pray.

The poignant scene, recorded and shared on social media, shows the pilgrim stating, "The children of Gaza are dying. O Muslims!"

A few seconds later, Saudi officers show up and detain him inside the mosque.

The incident has triggered widespread condemnation and reignited debate over Saudi Arabia's strict bans on political expression at Islam's holiest sites.

Authorities ban all slogans and symbols, including national flags, during Hajj and Umrah, asserting that these measures safeguard the sanctity of worship.

Nonetheless, critics argue that the kingdom employs these limitations to hinder support for Palestine and to silence expressions of Muslim solidarity.

In 2023, a British pilgrim was arrested for donning a white keffiyeh and a prayer bead in the colors of Palestine.

Apart from Mecca, Saudi officials have purportedly initiated a wider campaign against citizens who express criticism of Israel or show support for Gaza online.

Israeli forces killed at least 63 Palestinians, includ-

Authorities ban all slogans and symbols, including national flags, during Hajj and Umrah, asserting that these measures safeguard the sanctity of worship.

ing 34 aid seekers, in Gaza on Sunday, despite announcing plans to implement what they described as "humanitarian pauses" to allow aid trucks to enter the war-ravaged territory.

Gaza's Health Ministry has recorded six more deaths from malnutrition over the past day, including two children, bringing the total number of starvation deaths to 133.

At least 59,821 Palestinians have been killed, mostly women and children, and another 144,851 individuals injured in the brutal Israeli onslaught on Gaza since October 7, 2023.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants last November for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former minister of military affairs Yoav Gallant, citing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on

Contraband Worth Rs 390 Crore Seized As Mumbai Cops Bust Mephedrone Racket

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai :Mumbai police have seized more than 187 kilograms mephedrone worth Rs 382 crore following a raid in Mysuru in neighbouring Karnataka, leading to the arrest of four persons, a top official said on Monday.

The probe into the case began in April this year after a man was held with 52 grams of mephedrone in Sakinaka in western Mumbai, and his interrogation led police to three more persons, from whom 4.53 kg mephedrone worth Rs 8 crore was recovered, he said.

Further probe into this racket led to the arrest of Salim Imtiyaz Sheikh alias Salim Langda (45) from Bandra Reclamation on July 25, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 10) Datta Nalawade said.

"He led police to a struc-

ture along Ring Road in Mysuru, which looked like a hotel and garage from the front side. However, on entering it, we found a mephedrone manufacturing unit. The contraband from here was being supplied to Mumbai and adjoining districts. In all, we have arrested eight persons and seized 192 kilograms of mephedrone worth Rs 390 crore," the DCP said.

The operation in Mysuru took place on July 26, leading to the arrest of three more persons besides Sheikh, he said.

"It is a big chain and more arrests are likely. We are also verifying where they got the formula to manufacture mephedrone. The eight persons held so far, five of whom are from Mumbai, have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act," Nalawade said.

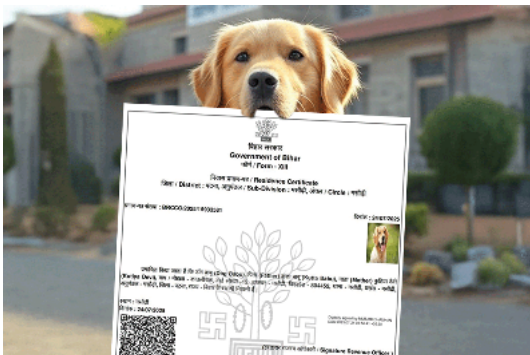
NEWS MAKERS

'Dog Babu' Gets Residence Certificate in Bihar as 77 Lakh Voters Vanish

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a bizarre twist that has triggered outrage across political circles, a residential certificate bearing the photo and name of a dog has reportedly been issued by government authorities in Bihar — even as lakhs of genuine voters are allegedly being struck off the electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The certificate, issued in the name "Dog Babu" from Kaulichak Ward 15, Masaurhi block of Patna district, includes further absurdities: the father's name is listed as "Kutta Babu," and the mother as "Kutiya Devi." The document appears to have been officially generated through the state's Right to Public Services (RTPS) portal and bears the signature of Rev-



enue Officer Murari Chauhan.

Congress leader Supriya Shrinete shared the image of the certificate on social media, questioning the credibility of governance and voter data integrity. The authenticity of the document has not been independently verified by The Telegraph Online.

The incident comes at a time when

the Election Commission is under fire for allegedly removing over 77 lakh legitimate voters — many of whom reportedly possess valid identity documents like Aadhaar, Voter ID (EPIC), ration cards, and PAN.

"All this while a dog named 'Dog Babu', son of 'Kutta Babu' & 'Kutiya Devi', has been granted residence. What are we witnessing — governance or grotesque theatre?" said Nilanjan Das, State General Secretary of the Trinamool Congress's IT & Social Media Wing.

Opposition parties are accusing the BJP-led NDA government of using bureaucratic manipulation to erase voters selectively and compromise the democratic process ahead of elections.

As calls grow for a thorough investigation, the Election Commission and Bihar government have yet to respond to the controversy.

Renovation Work Begins At Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor's Houses In Pakistan

Press Trust Of India

The reconstruction and renovation work on the ancestral homes of legendary Indian actors Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor officially began in Pakistan's Peshawar city on Monday, according to officials.

The project is set to be completed in two years at an estimated cost of Rs 70 million, said Director of Archaeology Dr Abdus Samad.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government released the funds for the project, which includes structural and aesthetic restoration of the historical residences.

The Directorate of Archaeology and Museums has been tasked with overseeing the work, which aims to restore the buildings to their original condition.

The provincial Archaeology Department has planned to convert both structures into museums dedicated to the lives and careers of the legendary actors.

The then-Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif declared these houses a na-



tional heritage site on July 13, 2014.

According to Dr Samad, the primary goal of the project is to safeguard the province's historical and cultural heritage while promoting heritage tourism. This initiative will not only boost local tourism but also create new employment opportunities, he said.



LG Hands Over Job Letter To Daughter Of Official Killed In Pak Shelling

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday handed over a job assurance letter to the daughter of additional district development commissioner (ADDC), Rajouri Raj Kumar Thapa who lost his life in Pakistani shelling during Operation Sindoor in May, an official said.

Sinha handed over the job assurance letter to Mareesa Thapa in presence of her mother Meenakshi Kundan Thapa at Raj Bhawan here, the official said.

According to the job assurance letter, the daughter of the

slain officer will be appointed an Assistant Law Officer after completion of her studies.

The J-K Lt Governor expressed his solidarity with the family of Thapa and reaffirmed the commitment of the administration to providing all possible assistance.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar was also present on the occasion.

Thapa was among 28 persons killed in a wave of artillery shelling, and missiles and drone strikes by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir during operation Sindoor between May 7 and 10.

Shia Association Protests Media Misrepresentation of Iran's Supreme Leader

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Members of the All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association held a peaceful protest at Press Colony on Monday, condemning what they called false and inflammatory coverage of Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei by several national TV channels.

Led by clerics and community elders, the protesters said the misrepresentation of Iran's Supreme Leader had deeply hurt the religious sentiments of Shia Muslims worldwide. One senior cleric termed the portrayal "a

deliberate attempt to provoke and defame."

The Association announced plans to issue legal notices to the media houses involved and demanded a public apology along with the immediate removal of the objectionable content.

The demonstrators called for ethical journalism, warning that continued insensitivity toward religious figures could spark unrest and deepen sectarian divides. They urged media regulators to ensure greater accountability in coverage of sensitive issues.

Car Involved In Attempt To Murder Case Seized: Police

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu Police on Monday seized a Mahindra Thar, involved in an attempt to murder case in Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu, while a massive manhunt was launched to nab the accused driver.

As per officials, the incident, which has been classified as an attempt to murder, was caught on CCTV cameras, has raised serious concerns about road safety and reckless driving in the region.

Speaking to media, Superintendent of police SP Jammu South Ajay Sharma as per KNO said that the Mahindra Thar JK02DP-9594 allegedly struck an elderly pedestrian in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu has been seized while the driver, who was identified as Manan Aanad managed to flee the scene.

"As per the video, the driver deliberately hit the victim, seriously injuring him and fled the scene, shows the intent of crime," the officer said, adding, "The incident has been registered as a case of attempt to murder under relevant sections of the BNS at Police Station Gandhi Nagar. The vehicle has been seized and a manhunt launched to nab the culprit," he said.

Moreover, the elderly victim, who rushed to medical care, has been receiving treatment

at Government Medical College and Hospital Jammu, though his condition remains critical due to head injury.

Preliminary investigations suggest the driver acted with malicious intent, prompting the police to treat the case with utmost seriousness.

Addressing the media at Gandhi Nagar Police Station, SP South Ajay Sharma emphasized the police's resolve to bring the culprit to justice: "This is a heinous act of violence against a defenseless elderly person. The driver of the Thar vehicle, bearing registration number JK02DP 9594, not only endangered a life but also fled the scene, showing complete disregard for the law. We have registered a case of attempt to murder and are employing all available resources, including CCTV analysis and witness statements, to apprehend the accused. The Jammu Police will leave no stone unturned to ensure justice is served."

Local MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa also visited GMC Jammu to enquire about the health of the victim.

Expressing concern over an attempted murder case reported in Jammu's Gandhi Nagar, Randhawa condemned the violent act and urged police to nab the culprit as soon as possible and punish as per law.

OPERATION SINDOOR

NC MP Demands Relief For Shelling Victims

NEW DELHI- An MP from Jammu and Kashmir on Monday demanded that adequate compensation should be given to families living in border areas whose properties were damaged during the shelling by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Participating in the discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, National Conference MP Mian Altaf Ahmad said some compensation has already been given, but it was not enough and more was needed to help the affected people reconstruct their houses.

He also claimed that "innocent civilians" were arrested

after the Pahalgam attack and demanded that the government review their cases.

Ahmad suggested that more bunkers should be built to protect civilians during any war-like situation.

He also demanded that the government ensure severe punishment to terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.

According to PTI, the MP also battled for "railway line for Rajouri as army people live there".

India launched military strikes under Operation Sindoor on May 7, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which terrorists killed 26 people, mostly civilians.

Tourist Visits To J&K During Jan-June 2025 Stood At Over 95 Lakh



Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The figures for domestic tourist visits (DTVs) to Jammu to Kashmir during January-June this year stood at more than 95 lakh, according to data shared by the government.

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat shared the data in a written response to a query on whether

the Centre is aware of the decline in tourist footfall and business losses in Jammu and Kashmir during the peak tourist season following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi also asked if any assessment was made by the government on its economic impact on local tourism-dependent stakeholders.

"No such assessment has been made by the Ministry of Tourism on the economic impact on local tourism-dependent stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir," Shekhawat said.

In his response, he shared year-wise tabulated data for domestic tourist visits (DTVs) and foreign tourist visits (FTVs) from 2020 to 2025.

This data is provided by the state tourism department. Based on the latest information received from the Jammu and Kashmir tourism department, the number of DTVs and FTVs stood at 95,92,664 and 19,570 respectively for the period January-June of 2025.

DTVs for preceding four years were -- 2,35,24,629 (for year 2024); 2,06,79,336 (2023); 1,84,99,332 (2022); 1,13,14,920

(2021) and 25,19,524 (2020).

FTVs for preceding four years were -- 65,452 (for year 2024); 55,337 (2023); 19,985 (2022); 1,650 (2021) and 5,317 (2020), and for January-June period of 2025 it stood at 19,570.

Shekhawat said the Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps or initiatives to promote the tourism sector in the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

PULLQUOTE: This data is provided by the state tourism department. Based on the latest information received from the Jammu and Kashmir tourism department, the number of DTVs and FTVs stood at 95,92,664 and 19,570 respectively for the period January-June of 2025.

CM Omar Visits Family Of Gujar Youth Killed In crossfire

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday visited the bereaved family of Gujar youth Parvez Ahmad, who was killed in a crossfire when police were chasing suspected peddlers in Jammu city.

Abdullah on Friday called for an investigation into the incident and said that the use of force by police has to be calibrated and not "indiscriminate."

The chief minister who flew in from summer capital Srinagar to Jammu went straight to the house of the deceased Gujar youth to express his condolences.

He was accompanied by minister Javed Rana and his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani.

"The family talked to Omar Abdullah who visited them to express his condolences and share their grief. He has assured them that there will be justice," provincial secretary of National Conference Sheikh Bashir Ahmed told reporters here.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed said the party is hopeful that justice will be delivered to the family. "Various options are being discussed. People are looking to the Lieutenant Governor (Manoj Sinha), who over-



sees police affairs. A special investigation team has been constituted and the probe is ongoing. Let us wait for the outcome," he added.

"Those found involved in the incident after the probe will receive the severest punishment. We hope the case will be taken to its logical conclusion and the court will award appropriate punishment," he said.

Parvez Ahmad (21), a youth hailing from the Nikki Tawi area of Jammu, was killed in crossfire when police were allegedly chasing drug peddlers in the Satwari area on Thursday. His killing has sparked protests by the Gujar community, with his family accusing the police of murdering an "innocent" man in a "staged" encounter.

On Friday, the chief minister

said the incident was highly unfortunate and deeply regrettable. "Use of force by the police has to be calibrated and cannot be indiscriminate. J-K has paid a heavy price in the past because of incidents such as these," he said on X.

Abdullah further said that the incident should be investigated in a transparent and time-bound manner.

According to PTI, the Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who visited the Parvez Ahmad's house on Sunday, also called for an impartial inquiry into the incident. Prior to his visit, National Conference minister Javed Rana had visited the family on Saturday.

Congress and BJP leaders have also met his family to extend condolences.

Four Arrested in Revenue Fraud Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch Kashmir on Monday announced the arrest of four individuals in connection with a major corruption case involving cheating, false mutations, and fraudulent insertions in official revenue records. The case, registered under FIR No. 14/2025, has implicated seven individuals, including two revenue officials, for their alleged involvement in a criminal conspiracy that defrauded landowners in both Srinagar and Budgam districts.

According to a statement issued by the Crime Branch Kashmir, a thorough investigation based on credible evidence led to the arrest of four of the seven accused. The case is being investigated under sections 167, 420, and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code, read with section 5(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Nowgam Srinagar; Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shaff Cheeni, son of Abdul Ahad Lone, resident of Peerbagh Srinagar; Shah Nawaz Ahmad Rather, son of Noor Mohammad Rather, resident of Padshahi Bagh Srinagar; and Shabir Ahmad Wani, son of Mohammad Ismail Wani, resident of Bagandar Lasjan.

The accused were reportedly part of an organised group

that tampered with official land records, facilitating false ownership claims and illegal property transfers. Officials say the fraudulent activities caused significant financial loss and distress to innocent individuals, many of whom were unaware their property rights were being manipulated.

Among the three absconding accused is a serving Tehsildar, Ms. Nusrat Aziz, daughter of Abdul Aziz Lone, a resident of Gurez currently residing at Mehjoor Nagar in Srinagar. Notably, her bail plea was rejected by the Hon'ble Court of the Anti-Corruption Judge in Srinagar. She remains on the run and is also implicated in four other FIRs, two registered with the Crime Branch, Kashmir, and two with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Kashmir.

The other two accused who are evading arrest include Ashiq Ali, son of Ghulam Rasool Khan, a resident of Panjeri Jagir currently living in Hawal Srinagar, who served as the then Patwari of Balhama Srinagar; and Shamima Akhter, wife of Mohammad Shafi Lone, a resident of Gooripora Rawalpora.

Crime Branch officials confirmed that efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining accused as per the law. The investigation continues, with authorities determined to dismantle the network and ensure accountability in what is being viewed as one of the more serious recent cases of systemic corruption in the revenue department.

PDP's 26th Foundation Day

Mehbooba Urges GoI to Show Compassion Towards J&K People

Agencies

SRINAGAR: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State, Mehbooba Mufti, on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi can "resolve the issue" of Jammu and Kashmir if he wants. She added that no amount of security will work unless the Government of India (GoI) opens its heart to the people of the region.

Addressing a gathering on the party's 26th Foundation Day here, Mehbooba recalled the vision of her late father and party founder, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, saying the PDP has always stood for peace through dialogue and political engagement.

She urged PM Modi to "shift away from the militarised policy" in J&K, saying, "If anyone has the power to resolve Jammu and Kashmir's issue, it is PM Modi. He has got the mandate of over 120 crore people."

Mufti stressed the PDP's core belief in political dialogue, saying, "We

never compromised on our belief that only political engagement can bring lasting peace."

Criticising the Centre's heavy reliance on security forces in Kashmir, she said, "They keep sending more CRPF companies to Kashmir. But how much security will you deploy?"



Will that solve anything? You can't win hearts with guns and bunkers."

She raised concerns about India's growing military spending, pointing to inequality in basic services. "We are spending billions on weapons while schools

in many parts of the country don't even have clean drinking water or toilets," she said.

On India's foreign policy approach, the PDP chief said, "What is India's foreign policy without addressing Jammu and Kashmir? What have we achieved from decades of hostility? Pakistan invested in weapons, and India turned Kashmir into a heavily militarised zone. Meanwhile, China surged ahead economically. Even our own External Affairs Minister has acknowledged this reality."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION HANDWARA
RAJWAR ROAD, HANDWARA - 193221
EMAIL: exenifcdhandwara@jfkashmir.com; xenirrigationhandwara@gmail.com

Subject: - Corrigendum.
Kindly read Executive Engineer Irrigation & FC Division Handwara as EMD and Tender Fee payable to instead of Convener, purchase committee, Directorate of ISM in case of eNIT No. 05-IFCD/HND/2025-26 Dated:24/07/2025 bearing endorsement No. IFCDHND/1916-25 Dated 24/07/2025 published under tender id 2025_IFC_282398_1. All other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in original e-NIT.

No: IFCDHND/1932-41
Dated: 26/07/2025.
DT: 28/07/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPK-4407-25
Irrigation & F C Division,
Handwara.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE BOMAI ZAINGEER
No: /B&D/ T2 /2025
Date: 28/7/2025
Subject: Issuance of registration orders in respect of delayed Birth.
PUBLIC NOTICE
This office has received a written application from Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir S/O: Late Gh. Rasool Mir R/O: Lager Pura Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death Certificate in favor of his Daughter Irtiga Mohi-ud-Din Who was Born on 5/7/2011 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard if any one has any objection He/She may file the same before the office under signed within 07 Days. After that no objection what so ever will be entertained by this office.

FKO
Naib Tehsildar
Zaingeer

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR
(ERSTWHILE MECHANICAL HOSPITAL & CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR)
Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in
GIST OF E-TENDER
e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/53/e-tendering, Dated: 25-07-2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: --

Name of Work	Est. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Replacement of damaged circulation coil of the 600 Kg/Hr capacity Revomax Steam boiler (RXA-06 Model) (Thermax make) in the laundry of Govt. Bone and joint Hospital Srinagar	1,50,000	200	30	04 MCSof 2025 Dt: 08.05.2025	M&HDS/TS/23 of 06/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 25.07.2025 (16.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 25.07.2025 (16.00 hrs)

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 25.07.2025 (18.00 hrs) to 01.08.2025 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 01.08.2025 at 15.00(hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/2913-17
Dated: 25.07.2025

DIPK-4408-25
DT: 29/07/2025

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

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KO VIEW

The Growing
Drug Crisis

At a time when the law and order in Jammu and Kashmir has changed for the better, J&K is battling another crisis: drug abuse. The numbers speak for themselves. According to media reports, since 2018, over 1.12 lakh kilograms of narcotics have been seized. The number of people arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has crossed 10,000. And still, the crisis continues to grow, often hidden in plain sight, in homes, in schools, and increasingly, in graveyards. The 17 suicides linked to substance abuse since 2018 may be only the tip of the iceberg.

The data presented in Parliament this week by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, confirms what many on the ground have long feared: drug trafficking, illegal cultivation of poppy and cannabis, and substance abuse have taken root in alarming ways. The year 2020, for instance, saw over 27,000 kg of drugs and 40,000 litres of liquid narcotics seized, according to the data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). This is a chilling peak that exposes the scale of the under-world economy feeding off Kashmir's vulnerabilities.

In recent years, the J&K Police and other agencies have stepped up their crackdown destroying illegal crops, with 1,000 acres cleared in 2024 alone. They have seized consignments, and arrested offenders, f 1,460 in 2018 and now 3,453 in 2022, reflecting the seriousness of the situation and the state's growing response.

Yet enforcement alone is not enough. Addiction is not just a law and order issue; it's a public health emergency. The fact that more than 83,000 people have undergone treatment at de-addiction centres since 2020, and nearly 9,400 at the IMHANS Kashmir clinic alone, is both a sign of progress and a stark reminder of the scale of the crisis.

The reasons for this surge are many, psychological trauma, unemployment, peer pressure, easy availability of drugs, and porous borders. But unless there is a whole-of-society approach with schools, religious leaders, local communities, parents, and youth themselves involved, the problem will continue to fester.

The government's efforts are visible, but a stronger response is needed. We must treat drug dependence as a disease, not a crime. We should aim for rehabilitation, not just punishment, and education, not just enforcement.

For Kashmir, long scarred by conflict, the drug menace poses a different kind of threat. In fighting this battle, we cannot afford to lose another generation.

Kashmir's Urban Health
Crisis Has Arrived

The signs are everywhere: diabetes in the young, sleepless nights, rising temperatures, and stress.

Dr. Raies Ahmad

There was a time when moving to the city meant you had made it. City life in Kashmir once held the promise of modernity: better jobs, quicker access to services, and brighter futures for children.

For many families from remote districts, settling in towns like Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, or Sopore was a symbol of upward mobility.

Today, that promise feels more like a pressure.

The charm is fading under layers of smog, concrete, and chronic stress. Our cities, though full of ambition, are now draining us.

Urban stress - the unseen weight of noise, pollution, overcrowding, and social disconnection - is no longer a theory. It's a growing health crisis.

In Srinagar, the city where I serve as a public health officer, the signs are clear.

PM2.5 levels, those fine inhalable particles that settle deep into our lungs, often exceed the safety limits defined by the World Health Organization.

In peak winter, when people burn wood and trash for heat, the air becomes dense and dangerous. According to the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee's 2022 report, several localities in Srinagar recorded winter air pollution at nearly 200 micrograms per cubic meter, four times the safe threshold.

This bad air worsens respiratory issues.

In my clinic, I see a steady rise in cases of childhood asthma, chronic bronchitis, and sinusitis, especially during winter inversion days, when pollutants get trapped close to the ground.

Patients from high-density neighbourhoods like Batamaloo, Nowhatta, and Qamarwari often come in with recurring throat and chest infections.

Noise, too, is a daily invader. From early morning construction drills to late-night traffic snarls, our cities hum at a pitch that leaves no room for rest.

In a 2023 health behaviour survey across Srinagar, Pulwama, and Ganderbal, nearly 6 in 10 respondents reported difficulty sleeping due to city noise.

Sleep, though underrated, is the foundation of health. When disturbed regularly, it leads to poor immunity, irritability, anxiety, and even metabolic disorders.

Urban heat is another silent hazard. Cities like Srinagar now record



Urban stress may not always show up as a critical emergency. It hides behind slow fatigue, silent illnesses, and social numbness. But its toll is real.

higher summer temperatures than ever before. This July was one of the hottest months in two decades, with temperatures crossing 34°C. But heat isn't evenly felt.

In areas with fewer trees and more asphalt, like Hyderpora or Bemina, the "urban heat island" effect makes outdoor life unbearable.

In this month alone, SMHS and SKIMS hospitals received over 900 cases of heat-related fatigue and dehydration.

These environmental triggers intersect with lifestyle patterns that urban life encourages but rarely supports. Fast food chains and sugar-laden snacks fill the gaps left by long commutes and erratic work hours. Affordable fresh produce is hard to come by in many parts of the city.

A recent nutrition audit conducted by the Directorate of Health Services found that 34% of urban residents in Kashmir had poor dietary diversity, eating fewer than three food groups per day.

The results are showing up in our bloodstream.

Hypertension, type 2 diabetes, fatty liver, and early-onset obesity are no longer "elderly diseases." Among people aged 25-45 in urban Kashmir, nearly one in four now shows early symptoms of a non-communicable disease.

Sedentary routines, stress, and poor diets are a deadly mix. Many

people drive or take autos even for short distances due to poor pedestrian pathways and unsafe streets.

The average daily step count, based on a pilot study using fitness trackers in downtown Srinagar, was a meager 3,500, far below the recommended 10,000.

Beyond the body, urban stress eats away at the mind.

In fast-growing cities, community structures thin out. Extended families are split across apartments. Children grow up with more screens and fewer conversations.

In a 2023 report by the Mental Health Services Cell of J&K, urban youth in Kashmir were found to be twice as likely as rural youth to report symptoms of anxiety, loneliness, and low mood.

Working professionals, especially women juggling domestic responsibilities and office pressure, show rising levels of burnout. Therapy remains out of reach for most. Stigma adds to the isolation.

City planning doesn't help. Srinagar, despite being a capital city, has fewer than 50 officially maintained parks for a population of over 1.2 million.

That's less than 2 square meters of green space per person, well below the WHO's suggested minimum of 9.

In many colonies, even footpaths are missing. There are no designated cycling lanes, shaded

waiting zones, or noise barriers along main roads.

The city is expanding, but it isn't healing.

So how do we fix this?

We must start with urban design that puts people, not just property, at the center. Cities need breathable streets, lined with trees and flanked by wide pavements.

Planners must ensure every neighbourhood has access to a park within 10 minutes of walking. They must allot more space for non-motorized transport, build cycling tracks, pedestrian crossings, and car-free zones, especially near schools and hospitals.

Air quality monitors should be made public and real-time. The administration should ban open waste burning, incentivize solar panels and clean cooking fuel, encourage rooftop gardens and vertical greenery, and create awareness campaigns around noise hygiene. Simple rules like silent zones near clinics and schools can go a long way.

We also need to promote emotional health. Urban schools can introduce mindfulness activities. Public libraries, community halls, and shared playgrounds should be revived as safe, inclusive spaces. Local NGOs and health workers must work together to normalize conversations around mental health and create accessible referral systems for counseling and psychiatric care.

Diet is another frontier. We must promote weekly farmers' markets in cities, and introduce healthy food carts that offer local, affordable alternatives to junk food. ASHA workers and mohalla committees should be trained in basic nutrition counseling. We need to start urban farming drives in schools and housing societies.

All of this requires vision, and urgency.

Urban stress may not always show up as a critical emergency. It hides behind slow fatigue, silent illnesses, and social numbness. But its toll is real.

The cities we're building are shaping how we breathe, eat, move, rest, and relate to one another.

If we want these cities to be livable, not just functional, we must listen to what our bodies and minds are already telling us.

We still have a choice. We can design cities that help us heal, or let them become places that make us sick.

The author is a Community Health Officer with the National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Fix the Rules

For a stronger tomorrow, the valley must trade emotional appeals for transparency, law, and long-term thinking.

Irshad Mushtaq

Land deal sealed with trust, a scheme disguised as community service, or a promise of quick money have become familiar traps in Kashmir. The cost is high: eroded trust, stalled progress, and a culture of shortcuts.

Kashmir cannot afford this any longer. Across the world, thriving societies succeed not because of sentiment, but because rules are respected and enforced. Dubai didn't grow by chance. It grew because its systems worked. Everyone knew the law, and that law applied to everyone.

We must bring that mindset home. For too long, ethical boundaries have blurred in Kashmir. The habit of bending rules for personal gain has chipped away at collective growth. It's time to replace this culture with one rooted in accountability.

That starts with education. Young people must learn that honesty isn't weakness. It's power.

This isn't just a citizen's job. Administrators, especially officers from IAS and JKAS, can lead the shift. When policies are enforced fairly and consistently, they create a foundation people can trust. Without that, laws are just words.

Fraud, land grabs, and emotional manipulation can't be the norm. They hold back the promise of development. What Kashmir needs is a clear path built on law, ethics, and a shared commitment to do better.

A future shaped by rules, not ruses, is possible. The work begins with rejecting the easy way and choosing the right way.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir's Silent Recession Is a Wake-Up Call

For decades now, the economy of Kashmir has been falling apart. Discord has been the backdrop, but the decline is deeper, more structural.

It's visible in fading industries, scattered families, jobless youth, and the growing emptiness in markets once filled with chatter.

Economic downfall here isn't just about falling numbers. It's a slow erosion of hope.

Kashmir's gross domestic product has suffered repeated blows. A report pegged the economic losses at 15 lakh crore by 2015. Then came 2019. The abrogation of Article 370 was followed by a prolonged shutdown. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry estimated that over 18,000 crore was lost in just four months.

Tourism tanked, trade froze, investors pulled out, and the internet disappeared.

The cost wasn't just financial. Students lost months of online learning. Young entrepreneurs running digital businesses folded. Families couldn't reach doctors over telemedicine. For a UPSC aspirant in downtown Srinagar, the blackout meant missing lectures, updates, and a critical study window.

Unemployment continues to crush the youth even today. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Jammu and Kashmir's unemployment rate has often ranked among the highest in the country. Many of the unemployed are highly educated: engineers, post-graduates, even PhDs. With few opportunities, thousands migrate each year. Some never return.

This steady brain drain is weakening the backbone of Kashmir's future.

The private sector, which drives most modern economies, is almost non-existent here. Fear of violence, lack of investor confidence, and policy confusion have kept companies away. Local businesses struggle without access to capital or markets. Startups rarely survive.

The private sector hasn't failed in Kashmir. It hasn't been given a chance.

Tourism, once a dependable source of seasonal employment, is barely hanging on. Terror attacks, such as the recent one in Pahalgam, have spooked tourists and widened the trust gap. For shikara operators on Dal Lake or houseboat owners in Nigeen, bookings are no longer pre-

dictable. Entire towns dependent on tourism see only occasional spikes, never stability.

Handicrafts tell another sad story. Pashmina shawls, walnut woodwork, papier-mâché art are heritage. Yet, many artisans are abandoning their craft. Demand has dropped, middlemen exploit profits, and young generations are choosing labour work over looms.

Education should be the great equalizer, but in Kashmir, it's stuck in another era. Classrooms teach outdated content. Exams reward rote learning, not skills. Meanwhile, the rest of India races ahead with coding bootcamps, digital marketing institutes, and startup accelerators. Here, a student can graduate with top marks and still be unprepared for a basic job interview.

The 2019 promise was economic revival. After Article 370 was revoked, the central government spoke of big investments and development. Some road and tunnel projects have come up, but private sector energy remains missing. The bureaucracy moves slowly. Local entrepreneurs feel cut out. The big promises remain mostly on paper.

So what can turn the tide?

First, Kashmir needs to stop relying only on government jobs. A serious investment in skill-based education is essential: coding, design, content, agriculture tech, crafts innovation. It should start in schools and scale in colleges.

Second, the private sector must be nurtured. Offer tax incentives, build startup incubators, and ensure security for businesses. If peace talks remain stalled, at least economic planning shouldn't be.

Third, traditional sectors like handicrafts and tourism should be given global marketing support and fair pricing policies. They are cultural assets waiting for modern platforms.

Finally, the government must earn back trust. Real consultation with local business leaders, educators, artisans, and youth is the only way forward. People want to build. They just need to believe they're part of the future.

Restoring Kashmir's economy isn't only about numbers. It's about dignity.

Sincerely,

Tahir Nazir
lone3186209@gmail.com

The Man Who Made Kashmir Laugh

He turned pain into punchlines, sorrow into satire. Now, with Bashir Kotur gone, Kashmir mourns a voice that made it feel whole.

Ansar Hussain Dar

Days before he died, Bashir Kotur looked straight into the camera and flashed his signature angry expressions.

False rumours of his death were swirling online. People were already posting tributes. But Bashir, ever the showman, responded the only way he knew how: with a line sharp enough to pierce grief and absurd enough to go viral. "Don't bury me before my time," he said, wrapped in a pheran, his smile worn but intact. That was his final performance.

On Monday morning, in his modest home in Hanji Gund, Budgam, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, better known across Kashmir as Bashir Kotur, passed away. He was 65.

His death marks the end of an era, not just for Kashmiri comedy, but for a way of telling truth through laughter, a way of resisting despair with disguise.

For nearly two decades, Kotur's face flickered across local cable TV screens. His brand of streetwise comedy became a household ritual, one of the few sources of collective joy in a region fractured by violence and uncertainty.

He was never formally trained in performance, yet he could command a room like few others. His jokes were unscripted, his timing flawless, his satire piercing.

"He made us laugh when nothing else did," said Faheem Dar, a Srinagar-based videographer who grew up watching Kotur's shows. "He wasn't just funny, he made pain easier to live with."

Kotur's sketches, often alongside fellow comedians like Gulzar Fighter and Seth Rafi, were lo-fi productions.

Shot with handheld cameras, staged in living rooms, draped with floral bedsheets as backdrops, they rarely ran for more than 10 minutes. But they ran deep.

Kotur played everything from corrupt bureaucrats to clueless husbands, each character shaped by the quirks of everyday Kashmiri life.

"He turned our relatives into comic roles," Dar said. "You'd watch and say, 'That's my uncle!'" And in doing so, Kotur did something re-



HIS CHARACTERS, FLAWED AND STRANGELY LOVABLE, BECAME AMUSING.

Schoolboys mimicked his catchphrases. Grandmothers waited for his shows. Shopkeepers played his lines on loop in their stalls.

markable: he made laughter part of the language of survival.

Born in Hanji Pora Wathora, a hamlet in Budgam district, Bashir was a school dropout. By age 12, he had already discovered a gift for mimicry.

His heroes weren't film stars or singers. They were Bandh-e-Pather performers: folk satirists who wandered from village to village performing political and social skits that mixed mockery with music.

He came from a long line of these performers. "Seven generations," he'd proudly say.

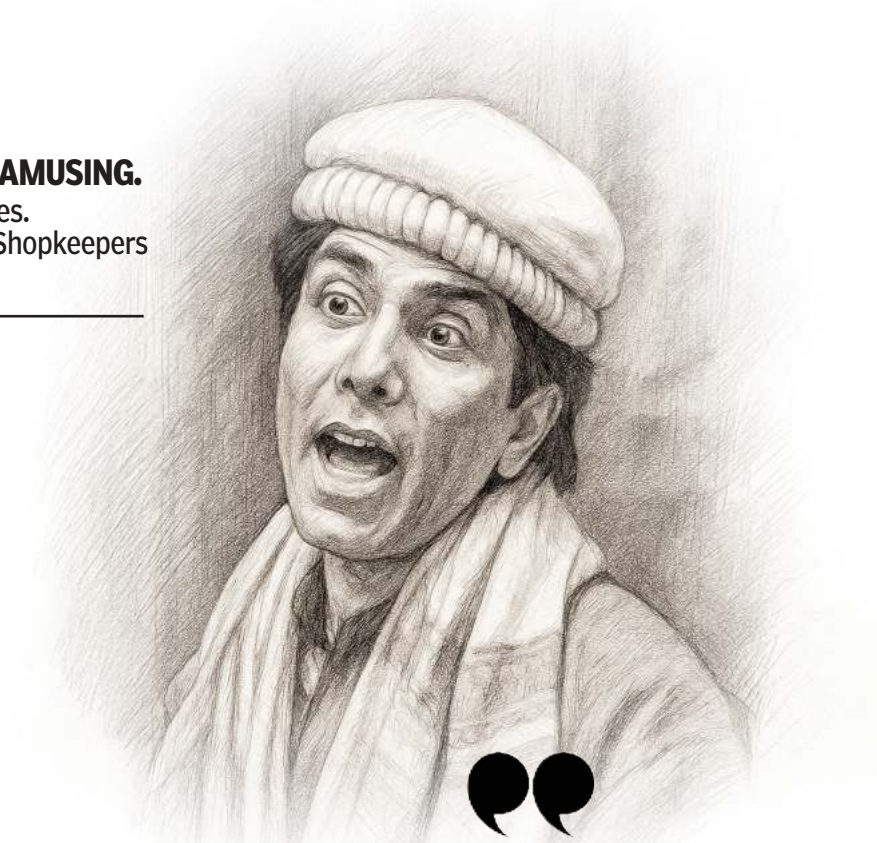
At 17, he joined the National Bandh Theatre, led by Ghulam Ali Majboor, and trained in folk acting, verse, and physical comedy.

He spent hours learning a traditional water-balancing dance, once breaking a dozen glasses during practice. His response was a shrug and a smile. "I broke a few things," he later joked. "But mostly, I broke people into laughter."

In the early 2000s, as Kashmir reeled from a decade of conflict and curfews, a new medium emerged: local cable TV. It was raw and largely unregulated.

And it gave Bashir Kotur his stage. His characters, flawed and strangely lovable, became amusing. Schoolboys mimicked his catchphrases. Grandmothers waited for his shows. Shopkeepers played his lines on loop in their stalls.

There was hardly any makeup team or scriptwriters. It was just Bashir, and the life



BASHIR KOTUR BELIEVED THAT HUMOUR DIDN'T MOCK PEOPLE, it embraced them. "You laugh with people," he used to say, "not at them."

he had watched unfold around him.

Comedy, he said, came straight from the street.

"You just need to listen," he told a friend once. "The jokes are already there, at the ration depot, in the bus, at the bank."

Despite his fame, Kotur never found financial security.

There were no rerun fees, state support, and artist pensions. As cable TV shrank and internet platforms took over, the stage disappeared. He opened a small grocery shop in his

village to make ends meet. Even there, he kept performing, cracking jokes with customers, mimicking them as they bought rice or soap.

"I turned the counter into a comedy club," he'd say, only half-joking.

But his health began to falter.

In March 2022, a road accident shattered his arm. The injury didn't heal. He was in and out of hospitals. Then came a chronic illness. His voice grew weaker. His spark dulled.

In one of his final video appeals, watched thousands of times online, he had lost his wit to worry: "I want to live. I want to make you laugh again."

Donations poured in, fans rallied, and artists wrote tributes. But no government agency stepped forward and no cultural institution offered help.

Bashir had spent a lifetime making Kashmir laugh. When he needed the valley's institutions, they went silent.

"He was left to die a legend, but in poverty," said poet and activist Akeel Ahmad. "Like so many Kashmiri artists."

At his funeral in Hanji Gund, dozens gathered: neighbours, young fans, old collaborators. Some cried, others passed around phones, showing each other their favourite clips.

"Watch this," one man said, replaying Kotur's famous sketch as a music teacher who couldn't hold a tune.

"He was our Charlie Chaplin," someone whispered. "But from Budgam."

His art was local, but his timing universal. His laughter didn't ignore the pain. It leaned into it, then turned it around.

Bashir believed that humour didn't mock people, it embraced them. "You laugh with people," he used to say, "not at them."

And now, the satirist has left the stage. But somewhere, in a dimly lit home where memories run deep, Bashir Kotur is being remembered for his presence: "He was Kashmir's laughter in the age of lockdowns."

- The author is a Multimedia Editor at Kashmir Observer.

The Film That Redefined Indian Cinema

As India changed, Sholay remained timeless, an enduring symbol of cinematic brilliance

Tirthankar Mitra

Back in 1975, when most homes didn't even have colour TVs, and mobile phones were a distant dream, Sholay exploded onto the big screen like a cinematic thunderstorm. Half a century later, the fire hasn't gone out.

The timeless flick is a full-blown blockbuster lesson in filmmaking. Sholay had it all - action, drama, friendship, revenge, love, dacoits, unforgettable dialogues - and still does.

Even today, it grips new fans the way it did generations ago. That's the kind of magic only Sholay can pull off.

The film moves at breakneck speed, contributing to its turbulent and gripping narrative. Every scene is meticulously placed, creating a seamless cinematic experience that keeps viewers at the edge of their seats.

There's nothing superfluous, everything fits perfectly. Modern cinema still struggles to match Sholay's impact. It has set a benchmark that remains difficult to surpass.

As the film celebrates its golden jubilee, it transcends being merely a commercial hit. It has become a cultural touchstone.

While a week may be a long time in politics, Sholay's appeal remains unchanged even after fifty years.

Ramesh Sippy crafted what could be called a cinematic multiverse long before the term was popularized. Here's why it continues to resonate.

The legendary friendship between Jai and Veeru is iconic. Thakur represents vengeance cloaked in restrained wrath. Gabbar Singh is pure evil, unapologetically so, offering no sympathy and expecting none in return.

Basanti is spirited and fearless, a fitting description, especially considering that the term "feminist" was not in mainstream usage during the mid-70s. Radha, with her strength and sorrow, holds her ground silently, yet powerfully, among a cast of larger-than-life characters.

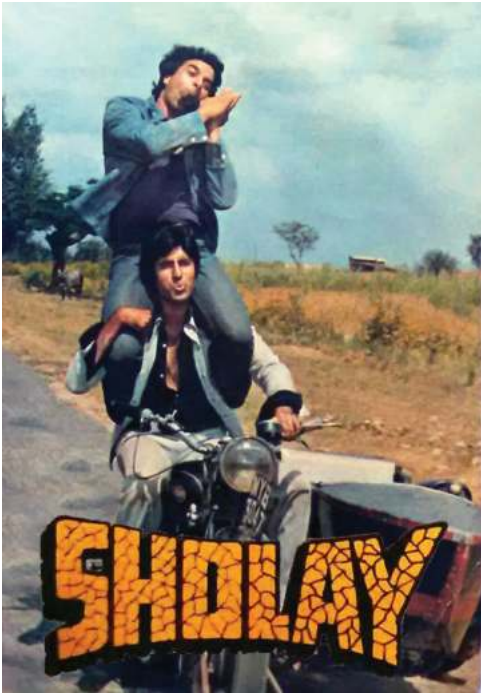
There is universal agreement on one point: Sholay was ahead of its time. It took the Indian film industry decades to catch up with its innovation and brilliance. In the 50 years since its release, India has undergone monumental changes: the Emergency, shifting political powers, the assassination of two prime ministers, coalition governments, wars, sectarian strife, and protests.

Yet Sholay remains untouched, timeless in its appeal.

It is Indian cinema's biggest and most unforgettable spectacle. Its enduring brilliance lies in its consistency.

The movie has never felt the need to reinvent itself, each new generation rediscovers it afresh.

For those over 60, the scene of a train hurtling through logs laid by dacoits was unforgettable. For



Fifty years on, Sholay isn't just a film. It's a legend. A cinematic storm of friendship, revenge, and unforgettable characters

younger audiences, countless other scenes carry that same awe.

The conversation between Inspector Thakur and Jai, interrupted by a dacoit raid, remains memorable.

As Thakur shoots the handcuff chain linking Jai and Veeru, the trio literally "walk the talk."

If Hollywood had spaghetti Westerns, Sholay gave us the quintessential curry Western. From Jai gunning down bandits on horseback to Veeru hurling flaming coals from a leaking barrel of oil, the action still feels exhilarating.

Sholay cracked the code of film marketing long before it became a formal discipline. In many ways, it is an institution in branding.

Revisiting it isn't nostalgia. It's proof of what Indian cinema can achieve when every department delivers at its peak.

At home and abroad, Sholay resonates with every screening.

It is a living emblem of Indian cinema's soft power. Comparisons have been made with The Magnificent Seven in Hollywood or Kaala Sona in India, but none hold up.

Sholay exported emotion, and when emotion is done right, it outlives every trend.

- IPA

Ali Emran and the Rise of a New Kashmiri Cinema

From forgotten downtown alleys to international festivals, the Srinagar-based filmmaker blends mysticism, memory, and meaning to reshape South Asian independent cinema.

Fiza Masoodi

In a modest Srinagar neighborhood not far from the bustle of Lal Chowk, a Kashmiri filmmaker is building a cinematic universe.

Ali Emran, 42, doesn't chase fame. He seeks something else: meaning.

And in a region like Kashmir, where art often wrestles with history, identity, and silence, meaning matters.

Emran's films feel like they remember. They remember the weight of tradition, the softness of spiritual longing, and the wounds that remain just beneath the skin of everyday life.

His stories are shaped by Kashmir, but they speak far beyond it, to anyone who has ever searched for selfhood in a world that often denies it.

In 2006, when Emran released his first short film, The Ninth Act, the idea of a Kashmiri making independent films felt distant.

The film was experimental, unsettling, and full of questions. That was the point.

Since then, his work has moved through genres and languages, from mystical fiction to documentary, from Kashmiri to Urdu, but his preoccupations have remained constant: the soul, the self, and the society around it.

Last year, he made history.

On October 4, 2024, Emran's feature film Qouluf: The Ensorcelled became the first Kashmiri-language film to screen in a local cinema hall in more than sixty years.

The screening, held at Inox Srinagar, drew diverse audiences: young cinephiles, old-school artists, students of literature, and even those who had never seen a Kashmiri film on the big screen.

"People cried," Emran recalled. "They heard their mother tongue in a dark theatre and it felt like coming home."

Qouluf went on to screen at the Kolkata International Film Festival and the India Habitat Centre Film Festival in New Delhi. It drew praise for its layered storytelling and cinematic lyricism.

Shot across the highlands of Gurez and the narrow lanes of old Srinagar,

the film blends the mystical with the philosophical aspect of Kashmir.

Before Qouluf, Emran had already turned heads with Ibtida (The Beginning), a bold Urdu-language adaptation of Ayn Rand's The Fountainhead.

In the film, he transplants Rand's ideas of creative integrity and defiance into a Kashmiri setting, asking what it means to remain true to art in a place so often shaped by semblance and strife.

The film sparked discussion in academic circles and theatre workshops across India.

His 2025 documentary Baand: The Musical Journey of an Artist is perhaps his most tender film to date.

It traces the journey of a performer of Baand-e-Pather, Kashmir's traditional folk theatre, which once thrived in rural gatherings but now teeters on the edge of disappearance.

With music, oral stories, and sweeping visuals, Emran draws attention to a heritage at risk, and the artists who carry it in their bones.

These stories matter in a region where language and identity have long been entangled with politics and power. Kashmir has more than 7 million people, most of whom speak Kashmiri at home, yet the language remains missing from schools and public life.

Emran's work insists on reclaiming that space through cinema.

His smaller works are no less ambitious. In Tasavuf, he explores Kashmir's deep Sufi tradition. In Know Me, he reflects on the gap between the self and how the world sees it. In Baand-e-Jashn, he revisits moments of joy from a disappearing cultural archive.

Beyond film, Emran has left a mark on Kashmir's theatre scene. His stage production Dream Sellers was choreographed as a movement-based critique of consumerism and lost dreams. His adaptations of Agha Shahid Ali's The Country Without a Post Office and Saadat Hasan Manto's Toba Tek Singh brought literary grief and absurdity to Kashmiri stages with renewed urgency.

Now, Emran is reaching into the past to tell stories about faith and myth. He's working on two upcoming

documentaries: Jesus & Kashmir, which examines local legends and forgotten manuscripts linking Jesus's lost years to Kashmir, and End Time Priest-King, a study of pre-Islamic Kashmiri spiritual traditions and their influence on modern identity.

Each project draws from years of personal research, travel, and interviews.

He often jokes that he's part-filmmaker, part-monk. Those who know him say he listens more than he speaks, often scribbling thoughts into a black notebook he's carried for decades.

His films are not fast. They unfold, allow silence to speak, and do what few South Asian films attempt: they give the audience time to feel, wonder, and remember.

The Indian independent film scene is still catching up to what directors like Emran have been doing for years, making meaningful cinema without budgets, stars, or studio backing.

Yet the tide is slowly shifting. Streaming platforms have opened new windows. Film festivals are more curious about regional voices. There's now a conversation around cinema that embraces complexity over gloss.

In this evolving landscape, Emran's voice stands out not only because it's rare, but because it's rooted.

His work reminds audiences that Kashmir is not just a backdrop for conflict, but a world of philosophy, aesthetics, and inner life.

He is often asked why he doesn't move to Mumbai or Delhi. "Because my stories are here," he replies.

For Emran, filmmaking is a form of devotion. His camera is less about spectacle and more about search for beauty, meaning, and a place in a world that often feels fragmented.

In doing so, Ali Emran has become more than a filmmaker. He is, in his own words, "a witness to wonder."

And from Srinagar, that wonder continues to unfold, frame by frame.

The author is a scribe from Srinagar. She can be reached at fizamassoodi2001@gmail.com

Walking 7,000 Steps Daily May Cut Dementia Risk By 38%: Study

Press Trust Of India

Locking in 7,000 steps a day could lower overall death risk by 47 per cent, dementia by 38 per cent, and depression by 22 per cent, a new study published in The Lancet Public Health has claimed.

The analysis of data from 88 studies published between 2014 and 2025, involving 1.6 lakh adults, is the first to comprehensively assess how steps taken daily can help keep numerous health conditions at bay -- unlike previous research that mainly focused on heart health or overall death rates, researchers said.

The study team included researchers from the University of Sydney, among other institutes in Australia, the UK, Spain, and Norway.

Walking 7,000 steps daily was also associated with a six per cent lower chance of developing cancer, and was seen to reduce the chance of developing heart disease by 25 per cent, diabetes by 14 per cent, and of suffering a fall by 28 per cent, compared to taking 2,000 steps daily.

The authors highlighted that targeting 7,000 steps per day may be more realistic, compared to the current unofficial 10,000 steps per day -- especially for the less active -- and can still provide significant improvements in health.



They, however, cautioned that evidence for conditions, such as cancer and dementia, was supported by a small number of studies, which meant a lower level of certainty for these results.

Many studies also did not account for factors, including age and frailty, which can introduce a bias in the study's findings, the team said.

They authors wrote, "Compared with 2,000 steps per day, 7,000 steps per day was associated with a 47 per cent lower risk of all-cause mortality, a 25 per cent lower risk

of cardiovascular disease incidence, a 47 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular disease mortality, a non-significant six per cent lower risk of cancer incidence, a 37 per cent lower risk of cancer mortality, a 14 per cent lower risk of type 2 diabetes, a 38 per cent lower risk of dementia, a 22 per cent lower risk of depressive symptoms, and a 28 per cent lower risk of falls." They added, "The evidence certainty was moderate for all outcomes except for cardiovascular disease mortality (low), cancer incidence (low), physical function (low), and falls (very low)."

Study Estimates Over 9 Of World's Lands At High Risk Of Animal-To-Human Infections

Press Trust Of India

Over nine per cent of the world's land area is at "high" or "very high" risk of a zoonotic outbreak -- triggered when an infection spreads from an animal to a human or vice versa, such as the Covid pandemic, according to a study.

Findings published in the journal Science Advances also estimate 3 per cent of the global population to be living in extremely risky areas, and about a fifth in medium-risk areas.

Researchers, including those from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre

(JRC) Scientific Development Programmes Unit in Italy, analysed location-specific information from the 'Global Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology Network' dataset and the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of diseases prioritised according to their potential for causing an epidemic or a pandemic.

Covid, Ebola, coronavirus-related MERS and SARS, and Nipah are among the most prioritised infections in the WHO's list.

The team's analysis suggests that conditions driven by climate change -- higher temperatures and rainfall, and water shortage -- elevate the risk of

zoonosis, or 'spillover events'.

The study "presents a global risk map and an epidemic risk index that combines countries' specific risk with their capacities for preparing and responding to zoonotic threats (excluding SARS-CoV-2)."

"Our results indicate that 9.3 per cent of the global land surface is at high (6.3 per cent) or very high (three per cent) risk," the authors wrote.

They also estimated about 7 per cent of Asia's and 5 per cent of Africa's land area to be at high and very high risk of outbreak, following Latin America (27 per cent) and Oceania (18.6 per cent).

Overall, the authors found

that climate-related changes to the environment substantially drove a region's vulnerability to the risk of a spillover event.

They wrote, "This underscores the need for continued monitoring and the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation efforts into public health planning."

"Translating these risk estimates into an epidemic risk index allows for the identification of high-risk areas and supports policymakers in improving response capacities, allocating resources effectively, and fostering international collaboration to address global health threats," the team said.

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Mohammad Rafiq Bhat S/O Mohammad Qasim Bhat
R/O Rainawari Bhat Mohalla Mobile: 9622710410

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(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
(UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR)
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CITY ROADS (SMC) DIVISION SRINAGAR.**

1ST FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No:- E-NIT/54/CRD/SMC/SGR/2025-26DATED: 26-07-2025.

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders (in Single cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Advt. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit @2% of Adv. Cost	Comple- tion days	Class of Contractor	M.H of A/C
1	Construction of Flag post at FCS and CA Kashmir office premises.	3.94	200/-	7880/-	15 Days	DEE Class	R&M (2025-2026)

AAA: Accorded.

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Drawings, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.inas per the schedule of dates given below:
Scheduled Dates& Time of Online Tenders.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice Online	26-07-2025.		
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	FROM	26-07-2025 2:00 P.M	
3	Bid submission Start Date	26-07-2025	FROM	2:00 P.M
4	Bid Submission End Date	31-07-2025	UPTO	4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31-07-2025 at 5:00 P.M in the office of theExecutive Engineer City Roads SMC Division Srinagar.		

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of introducing Bank Receipt as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (With NIT No. and S.No. of work mentioned)by simply uploading a copy of necessary Bank Receipt.

2. Bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @2% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar which shall be uploaded with the tender documents at the time of tendering. The same shall be released after receipt of 5% of performance security which should be valid till completion of DLP from the successful Bidder.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Sitewww.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

5. The lowest bidder (LI) also called the successful Bidder has to produce a performance security amount equal to 5% (five percent) of the contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG immediately after the opening of financial bids, but prior to fixation of contract. The validity period of the FDR/ BG for requisite amount shall be upto DLP. Any FDR/ BG having less validity period shall not be entertained. The CDR/ FDR/ BG shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP).

6. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws/ modified his bid during the period of validity etc, the Department is at liberty to suspend the bidder for one year or as shall be deemed suitable by the tender inviting Authority. Same shall hold good if the bidder fails to produce performance security within the specified time.

7. The successful bidder (LI) shall have to furnish hard copy of the uploaded documents viz Registration card duly renewed, Valid GST Registration, PAN Card, GSTR-3B etc. alongwith Treasury Challan Receipt.

8. The execution of works falling under the jurisdiction of LAWDA shall be subject to NOC from LCMA (LAWDA) Department.

NIT/54/CRD/SMC/SGR/2025-26/e-tendering/
DIPK-4386/25

DATED:-28-07-2025.

Executive Engineer,
City Roads (SMC) Division, Srinagar.

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India Sees ₹65,000 Cr Digital Transactions Worth ₹12,000 Lakh Cr In 6 Years

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian digital payment landscape witnessed over 65,000 crore transactions amounting to more than Rs 12,000 lakh crore in the past six financial years, Parliament was informed on Monday.

The government has been closely working with different stakeholders, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), fintechs, banks and state governments, to increase the adoption rates of digital payments in the country including in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

RBI has set up a Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) in 2021 to encourage deployment of digital payments acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to 6 cities, North-Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir, he said.

As on May 31, 2025, around 4.77 crore digital touch points have been deployed through PIDF, he said.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said, the New Digital Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25.

"The model envisions that the public sector banks (PSBs) will build their in-house capability to assess MSMEs for credit, instead of relying on external assessment. PSBs would develop a new credit assessment



model, based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs in the economy," he said.

Subsequently, the Union finance minister had launched the New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs on March 6, 2025.

The model leverages the digitally fetched and verifiable data and devises automated journeys for MSME loan appraisal using objective decisioning for all loan applications and model-based limit assessment for both Existing to Bank (ETB) as well as New to Bank (NTB) MSME borrowers, he said.

The digital footprints used by the model may include Pan authentication using NSDL, mobile and email verification using OTP, Application Programming Interface (API), fetching of GST data through service providers, bank statement analysis using account aggregator, ITR upload and verification, API-enabled commercial and consumer bureau fetch and due diligence using Credit Information Companies (CICs), fraud checks, through APIs, among others, he said.

Week-Long 'Aakanksha Haat' Opens In Gulmarg To Promote Local Artisans



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA- Member of Legislative Assembly from Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Monday jointly inaugurated, 'Aakanksha Haat', a week-long exhibition organized by the district administration Baramulla under the national initiative, 'Vocal for Local' campaign at waiting area of Gondola in Gulmarg.

The initiative is part of the countrywide 'Aakanksha' brand launched by NITI Aayog, aimed at promoting local products, artisans, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) from Aspirational Blocks across India with a goal to strengthen the rural economy, support traditional skills, and connect local entrepreneurs to national and global markets.

'Aakanksha Haat' featured a wide array of local products including traditional crafts, Kash-

miri carpets, handloom items, organic produce, local delicacies, and herbal goods, among other region-specific offerings. The event also hosted live craft demonstrations, cultural performances, skill-building workshops, and sessions on marketing and entrepreneurship.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Chief Planning officer, Baramulla along with other district officers and saw enthusiastic participation from artisans, SHGs, local entrepreneurs and hundreds of tourists/visitors.

At the outset, MLA and DC Baramulla took a detailed round of the exhibition, inspecting stalls set up by various SHGs, artisans, government departments, and local entrepreneurs. These stalls showcased a wide range of region-specific products, including intricately woven Kashmiri carpets, handloom textiles, organic produce, herbal goods, traditional crafts, and local delicacies.

Focus On Agri, Retail Loans Drives J&K Bank's Profit Growth: MD & CEO Chatterjee

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir Bank's focus on agriculture and retail lending has helped it register a record profit of Rs 485 crore in April-June, the bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said on Monday.

J&K Bank on Friday said its profit after tax at Rs 484.84 crore in the April-June period of FY26 was the highest-ever in a first quarter so far. The latest Q1 profit was 16.7 per cent higher against Rs 415.49 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

Chatterjee further said the bank would have posted its highest-ever profit for a quarter, had it not set aside Rs 87 crore towards investment in the RRB, which was necessitated due to the amalgamation of Ellaquai Dehati Bank in the Union Territory into Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank.

"There has been a total transformation in the way the bank has put up a product. We were almost totally dependent on Kissan Credit Cards. Now we have introduced an all-purpose term loan for agriculture that creates an investment credit. The agri sector has already seen a growth of Rs 1,500 crore this quarter," Chatterjee told PTI in an interview.

The MD said the bank has set a target of Rs 5,000 crore loan in the agriculture sector this fiscal and he hopes to cross that mark with much ease.

"Our target is to have Rs



5,000 crore this year but as I look at it, it should be much more than that. The way it has been accepted, and the offtake, I would expect it to be more than Rs 5,000 crore," he added.

Chatterjee said the agri loan product introduced by the bank right in the beginning of the financial year has been a major success.

"The offtake has been so good. I would say that it has beaten other banks, the big banks also. I have seen big banks not having that kind of growth in the agri sector, the kind of growth that we have had," he said.

Chatterjee said the bank's retail loan business in rest of India has witnessed phenomenal improvement after the lender focussed on expanding its key products there.

"It (expansion) has gone very well in the rest of India, especially the retail products. The growth has been phenomenal, it is 50 to 75 per cent improvement over last year. It was just a matter of identifying a few products since in the rest of India, you compete with all the other

banks," he said.

Chatterjee said the bank will be very selective on the products and focus on those which have a universal acceptance like home loans and auto loans.

He said while the retail segment has shown positive results, the bank has shed its exposure to the corporate sector.

"Retail has had very good growth this quarter. The corporate has not, because we generally lend to large corporates and they are very very competitive in nature. Consciously, we have shed a bit of it," he said.

The J&K Bank MD said during the last quarter of the previous financial year, he had very little time to work on internal processes, but the measures taken in the recent past would lead to better business growth.

"We have started it from the first quarter and it went mostly on correcting the processes which will lead to better business growth. For example, we are creating centralised processing sales for corporate, SME as well as agri," he added.

'J&K Bank's Robust Security System Foiled All Cyberattacks Post Pahalgam'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir Bank's website was subjected to a series of cyberattacks from Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack, but a robust security system ensured all such attempts were foiled, said MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee on Monday.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, Chatterjee said the cyberattacks were launched from the neighbouring countries and beyond within one day of the Pahalgam attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead.

"(April) 23rd onwards, preventive steps had been taken by this bank. The (cyber) attacks were from all sides, whether neighbouring countries or beyond. But we have managed to prevent any disturbance to any of the applications because of the strong cybersecurity system that we have," Chatterjee said.

The head of the financial institution said that the cybersecurity system is so robust that the Jammu and Kashmir government has

appointed the bank's cybersecurity chief as an advisor.

"We have cyber security to that level. Now, even the UT government recognises that, and our cybersecurity officer has been engaged as an advisor by the UT government to direct them," he said.

Chatterjee said the Reserve Bank of India rates the J&K Bank as one of the best in terms of cybersecurity among all banks.

"(Also) Indian Banking Association (IBA) recently came up with awards on cybersecurity. And, in our size category, we got all the awards for the best cybersecurity," he added.

Asked if the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor affected the bank's business, Chatterjee said while there was a definite impact, the local economy was on a revival path after the launch of the Vande Bharat train and the start of the Amarnath yatra.

"It (Pahalgam attack) has had a very strong impact on the tourism in the UT. If you look at the hotel bookings even now, they are not

so good. It has improved (though). Since the start of the Vande Bharat Express and Amarnath yatra, it has shown signs of revival, but the Pahalgam attack has impacted (loan) repayments," he said.

Chatterjee said, despite the issues, he was happy with the way borrowers behaved in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The slippages have still been below one per cent, in spite of all this. If you look at the tourism and transport sector, it has been badly hit. But still, I would say people have tried to repay, and we are trying to help them," he added.

Chatterjee said through the UT Level Bankers Committee, the bank has proposed to the government to notify this geography as a disturbed area (for banking purposes) post Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

"Once that notification comes, and it is almost about to come any day, we will be able to give borrowers the rephased loans and, in case of need, some additional help too," he said.

Indian Economy Has Look And Feel Of 'Steady As She Goes' For FY26: FinMin

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian economy has the look and feel of "steady as she goes" for the current fiscal, the finance ministry said on Monday even as it flagged slowing credit growth.

In its monthly economic review, the ministry said the first quarter of fiscal 2025-26 (FY26) presents a picture of resilient domestic supply and demand fundamentals.

With inflation remaining within the target range and monsoon progress on track, the domestic economy enters the second quarter of FY26 on a relatively firm footing.

While geopolitical tensions have not elevated further, the global slowdown, particularly in the US (which shrank by 0.5 per cent in Q1 2025), could dampen further demand for Indian exports.

"Continued uncertainty on the US tariff front may weigh on India's trade performance in the coming quarters. Slow credit growth and private investment appetite may restrict acceleration in economic momentum," it said.

Further, given the deflationary trend in the wholesale price index, one has to observe economic momentum in nominal quantities. Measured in constant prices, economic activity may appear healthier than it is, the review report said.



"All that said, the economy has the look and feel of 'steady as she goes' as far as FY26 is concerned," it said.

The report noted despite monetary easing and a strong bank balance sheet, credit growth has slowed, reflecting cautious borrower sentiment and possibly risk-averse lender behaviour.

"A growing preference for bond markets, particularly commercial papers among corporates due to lower borrowing costs, may also explain the shift," it said.

Piggybacking on initiatives like the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, the ministry said it is time for corporates to set the ball in motion.

The Reserve Bank has cumulatively reduced the short-term lending rate (repo) by 100 basis points since February.

With an outlay of Rs 99,446 crore, the ELI scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over a period of 2 years, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

TCS Layoffs: MeitY Monitoring, IT Union Flags Concern To Labour Minister



Press Trus Of India

NEW DELHI- The IT Ministry is keeping a close watch on situation arising out of Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) decision to lay off over 12,000 employees, and is in touch with the Tata Group company, sources said on Monday.

The move comes as India's largest IT services company is preparing to lay off two per cent of its global workforce this year, in what it describes as a broader strategy to become a "future-ready organisation", with focus on investments in technology, AI deployment, market expansion, and workforce realignment.

The bulk of the impact will be felt on middle and senior grades at TCS.

The IT Ministry is keeping a close watch on the entire situation, and is in touch with the tech company, sources said. The ministry is concerned and will go into the underlying causes that has prompted the move.

The blue-chip stock dipped 1.76 per cent closing at Rs 3,079.05 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Monday, as news of layoffs sent fresh tremors in the tech circles.

Meanwhile, the Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) has approached Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya, and urged that the government issue a notice to TCS seeking an explanation. The IT employees' union has termed TCS' latest move as unethical, inhumane, outright illegal.

"The law clearly states that no employee who has served for over a year can be retrenched unless the company provides one month's notice or wages in lieu, pays statutory retrenchment compensation, and notifies the government. TCS has not complied with any of these legal requirements," NITES alleged, terming the move a blatant and wilful violation of the law.

The impact of such action is devastating, NITES said in its letter, adding that thousands of working professionals with families, EMIs, and financial commitments would suddenly lose their livelihood.

The psychological, emotional, and financial trauma of this move is unimaginable, Harpreet Singh Saluja, President of NITES, wrote in the letter.

Gold Declines Rs 500 To Rs 98,020/10 G; Silver Plunges Rs 1,000

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices slid for the fourth consecutive session and ended Rs 500 lower at Rs 98,020 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday due to unabated selling by stockists following a trade deal between the US and the EU, which dampened the safe-haven demand.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity ended at Rs 98,520 per 10 grams, down by Rs 600 on Saturday.

In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity extended its losing run for the fourth straight day, by declining Rs 500 to Rs 97,750 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. It had finished at Rs 98,250 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

In addition, silver prices depreciated Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,13,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. The white metal had closed at Rs 1,14,000 per kg on Saturday.

Meanwhile, spot gold and silver traded flat at USD 3,337.95 and USD 38.17 per ounce, respectively, in the global markets.

"Gold traded in a positive but flat range near USD 3,335 per ounce, as strength in the dollar index limited gains last week," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

FinMin Sees Room For More Rate Cuts As Inflation Remains below RBI's Target

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The finance ministry on Monday said there is room for further easing of interest rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the inflation is comfortably below the central bank's median target of 4 per cent.

Retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), has remained below 4 per cent since February and dipped further to more than six-year-low of 2.82 per cent in May.

"Core inflation remains subdued, and overall inflation is comfortably below the RBI's 4 per cent target, affording room for the easing cycle to be sustained," said the finance ministry's monthly review report.

The central has cumulatively reduced the short-term benchmark lending rate (repo) by 100 basis points since February.

The next meeting of the RBI's rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- during August 4-6.

The RBI has projected headline inflation at 3.4 per cent for the second quarter of the fiscal year, while in the first quarter, actual inflation came below the target of the RBI.

"It appears likely that the full fiscal year inflation rate would undershoot the central bank's expectation of 3.7 per cent," the report said.

'India Must Scale Up Manufacturing Sector, Establish Its Own Robust Supply Chain'

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- A top Ministry of External Affairs official on Monday emphasised the importance of partnerships to accelerate India's economic growth.

India must scale up its manufacturing sector and establish its own robust supply chain, which will subsequently boost exports, the official added.

"India needs to have partners to achieve high rates of growth. The country also needs to create its own supply chain. Global dynamics have now shifted from the Transatlantic to the Indo-Pacific. India needs to grow at a higher rate to meet the target of becoming a developed country by 2047," Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, said.

Speaking at a session organised by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) here, Ravi said the GDP of the country is growing.

"We are USD 4 trillion economy now. The country needs to grow at more than the current average growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum to become a developed economy to meet that target", he added.

He said the country has moved from a command economy to a liberalised economy.

"The openness had brought a boom in the economy. The private sector has leapt forward. The country also needs to do a lot", he added.

Over 150 Indian Investors To Attend UAE Investment Summit On Aug 2

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- More than 150 Indian investors are likely to participate in the UAE private investment summit in Mumbai on August 2, organisers said on Monday.

The summit will bring together over 150 curated attendees, including high networth individuals, Ultra high networth individuals, family offices, VC/PE partners, entrepreneurs, and wealth professionals, for an education-first experience, Manzil Asset Management, which is hosting the event Manzil Majlis, said in a statement.

"Unlike traditional property showcases, Manzil Majlis is structured as a private, non-sales platform offering strategic insights and deep-dive discussions with Dubai policymakers, financial experts, legal specialists, and leading UAE developers," it said.

The summit will discuss returns, rental yields & re-sale cycles in Dubai, golden Visa eligibility & strategic migration planning and legal frameworks, including SPVs for efficient global holdings.

"The idea is to create a trusted entry point for Indian investors," said Saagar Panchal, Founder & CEO of Manzil Asset Management and Hireavilla.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

How Kashmiris Are

In his first years in the metropolitan city, he traversed unfamiliar train lines and spells of loneliness. “You feel invisible,” he says. “Mumbai doesn’t stop for anyone.” Today, he makes sure no one from his community feels that way again. He wants everyone to experience the warmth, respect, and embrace of cosmopolitan Mumbai. Ikram screens every new member, keeps the conversations focused, and fields a constant stream of requests. His phone lights up at all hours. Sometimes a medical SOS at 3 a.m., and sometimes a job lead mid-afternoon. “You have to move with Mumbai’s rhythm,” he says. “I just make sure no one gets lost before they learn the steps.”

A Mumbai Mentor One of the Circle’s key members is Dr. Maroof Bashir, Principal of St. Wilfred’s College of Law in Navi Mumbai. He’s someone many Kashmiri students turn to when they first land in the city, unsure where to begin with college forms, fees, or scholarships. He knows the system well and helps young people find their way. But he also introduces them to a side of Mumbai, away from the film sets and high-rises. “There’s a thoughtful, literary Mumbai,” he says. “You just need someone to point you to it.” Through his college and personal network, Dr. Maroof helps students feel at home. Whether it’s getting them into law school, guiding them on scholarships, or just checking in, he’s become someone they can count on. In a fast and unfamiliar city, it’s this steady support that truly makes a difference for Kashmiris arriving in Mumbai as students, strugglers, artists, or patients.

A Banker’s Blueprint Adil Shah, Vice President at Axis Bank, once ran a branch in Srinagar. After relocating to Mumbai, he began to notice the everyday struggles of young, educated, and overwhelmed Kashmiris. He watched them wrestle with housing agents, freeze at interviews, get lost in hospital corridors. “It wasn’t a lack of talent,” he says. “It was a lack of systems.” Adil began building those systems. He linked renters to fair landlords, verified job offers, and created a thread of practical help that others could follow. He calls it civic duty. “This is infrastructure,” he says. “Built with care, not concrete.” Some members of this Circle are focused on building safety nets and support systems for Kashmiri women. Having once been young and vulnerable themselves, they understand what it’s like to be a working woman in a big city. It’s this understanding that drives women like Anjum Syed.

The Resume Builder A banker, Anjum moved to Mumbai from Delhi in 2002. In the national capital and across North India, she would often see other Kashmiris at cafés, campus events, or just going about daily life. But Mumbai felt different. “You don’t see or hear much about Kashmir here,” she says. “You feel alone.” Then one day, Ikram reached out to her on LinkedIn. She joined the Circle reluctantly. But soon, her inbox filled with résumés, especially from young Kashmiris seeking internships and jobs in the dream city of India. She began editing them, line by line, and coaching young Kashmiris through the hiring process. “Everyone thinks talent is enough,” she says. “Then they meet the walls. I help them knock, professionally.” Anjum says Mumbai tests newcomers early, especially those from small towns like Kashmir. “The first six months decide everything,” she says. “It’s never easy. But if you have a support system, like the one we are building, the city stays with you.” This spirit of compassion is helping create safe spaces for Kashmiris far from home, and people like Jasleen Kaur are leading the way.

Comfort on a Plate Kaur is a Kashmiri Sikh, who runs Folk, a fine-dining restaurant in Kala Ghoda. During the pandemic, she began cooking the food of her childhood: rogan josh, haakh, nadru yakhini. The menu drew others who missed the valley. “Some came for a taste of home, others came in need. Jasleen became one of the Circle’s most active responders. She sends food to patients near hospitals whenever requested and feasible. “Sometimes,” she says, “a warm plate does more than a doctor’s note.”

The Medical Guides Doctors are central to the group’s reach. Dr. Ajaz Ashai is among the most active. He often answers calls late at night, sometimes from families newly arrived at train stations or hospital gates. The questions come quickly: Which hospital? What does this report mean? Who will talk to us? “It’s not just about treatment,” he says. “It’s about making someone feel like they’re not alone in a strange place.” He and others explain diagnoses, arrange second opinions, and guide families through a medical system that can feel unkind to outsiders. What they offer is more clarity than advice.

Names With Weight The Circle is growing in both size and stature. Among its members are Mehtab Jaggi, an IRS officer with Mumbai Income Tax; Dr. Hamid Shah of Tata Hospital, who handles complex medical referrals; Jaan Nissar Lone, a well-known singer and Mir Sarwar, a film actor with roots in the valley. They lend their names, but also their time. Their presence adds weight and reassurance, especially when the person asking for help is young or newly arrived.

Plans in Motion The group is now laying groundwork for the future. Members are drafting proposals for short-stay hostels across Mumbai: safe dormitories where Kashmiris can stay for a few weeks until they stabilize. They’re putting together resource lists, reaching out to NGOs, and looking into scholarships for students from the valley. For many Kashmiri families, the idea of sending their children to big cities like Mumbai still comes with worry. The Circle is trying to ease that fear with structure, support, and a sense of home.

A Different Migration Story For many Kashmiris, the move to a city like Mumbai is still heavy. There’s the culture shock, the identity struggles, the stress of finding a place to stay, and the pressure to figure things out fast. Families back home get anxious. And the ones who’ve just arrived often feel lost. Mumbai may be fast and full of strangers, but for Kashmiris stepping into it now, the place doesn’t feel so unfamiliar anymore. There’s someone to call now. With the JK Mumbai Circle around, the city doesn’t feel so far from home after all.

‘Op Mahadev’ In the Sonamarg Tunnel attack last year – and Hamza Afghani. Additional reinforcements of the Army and other security forces have been rushed as intelligence inputs suggested the presence of another group of terrorists in the area, the officials said. Jibran was allegedly involved in last year’s terror strike at the Sonamarg tunnel project at Gagangir in October

last year. Seven people, including a doctor, were killed in the attack. One M4 carbine rifle, two AK rifles and other munitions were recovered from the site of the encounter. The bodies of the slain terrorists have been handed over to local police, which helped in the identification process, for carrying out legal formalities and final rites as per the standard operating procedure. The officials said that at around 1130 hours, one party comprising personnel from 24 Rashtriya Rifles and 4 Para unit had detected the group of three terrorists. Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Zone) V K Birdi said it was a long-drawn operation which was going on till the last reports. Earlier, Srinagar-based Chinar Corps in a post on X said three terrorists were killed under Operation Mahadev. “Three terrorists have been neutralised in an intense firefight. Operation Continues,” the Chinar Corps of the Army said.

Kinetic Operations police will issue a full statement on it,” Sinha told reporters at a function here. He said that for the past several months, the police, Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have been conducting kinetic operations. “Terrorists have been eliminated in these operations, and the media highlights these events more,” he said. The LG further said that several operations save lives but they often do not come into focus. “I congratulate the Army, police, CRPF and all those who were part of this operation from the core of my heart,” he said. Sinha said that terrorism sponsored by Pakistan has inflicted severe atrocities on this land for a long time, “but now our security forces, Army and police will completely destroy them here until we can breathe freely”.

LG Hands Over

“For decades, countless families and their loved ones lost to Pakistan sponsored terrorism, were reduced to mere statistics, their pain unheard, their tears unwiped. Finally, after all this time, justice has come knocking at their doors. After years of grief and suffering, terror victim families of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban Poonch, Rajouri, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi get Justice. Dharma’s victory over Adharma is inevitable. We are committed to ensuring justice for every terror victim family, making their rehabilitation, jobs, financial assistance, and livelihood opportunities our foremost responsibility. This initial step towards justice has already brought a ray of hope to the terror victim families. It is the beginning of a new era of justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha said the administration is committed to correcting historical injustices. “For too long, Pakistan sponsored terrorists and its supporters, conflict entrepreneurs and separatist ecosystem suppressed the voice of thousands of victim families. The fabricated narratives of separatist elements are now crumbling,” the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said an internal web portal has been launched and a centralized database of terror victim families is being developed to monitor and process all cases. Helplines are now active in every district for victims to register grievances. Further support is available through divisional helplines, staffed by trained employees, at the offices of the Divisional Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners in every district are now receiving a steady flow of applications, which are being thoroughly scrutinized. A mechanism is being integrated into the portal for extending self-employment assistance to members of terror victim families. Appointment letters and other assistance will be handed over to Terror Victim Families in large numbers on 5th August in Srinagar. The process will continue till every terror victim family gets justice. The Lieutenant Governor thanked officials for working with sensitivity and readiness to address the issues of terror victim families. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the incident that occurred in Jammu on 24th July. “Don’t touch the innocent and don’t spare the guilty” is our policy. Police have taken effective action. SIT has been constituted and magisterial investigation has been ordered. Two officials have been suspended. Further action will be taken on the basis of the inquiry report,” he said. The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated the Security Forces, J&K Police and all personnel for eliminating Pakistan sponsored terrorists during the anti-terror operation in Srinagar. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Principal Secretary Home Chandrakar Bharti, Commissioner Secretary GAD M Raju, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy Commissioners of various districts, senior officials and family members of victims of terrorism were present. Chairpersons of District Development Councils, Members of Legislative Assembly, and members of various social organizations were also present.

Era Of Conventional

“It was a major victory for our armed forces and engineers. The operation proved that we must now prepare for future warfare.” He stressed the importance of creating new paradigms in the defence sector and increasing India’s capabilities in emerging technologies like AI warfare and digital security systems. The LG also praised the role of IITs in nation-building and said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is offering better opportunities to IIT graduates than those available abroad. “With your talent and hard work, I am confident that India will become a global hub of innovation,” he said, addressing the students. He encouraged greater participation of IIT graduates in sectors like tech startups, artificial intelligence, automobile, and space, and emphasised that energy and environment will also need strong leadership from young engineers. On the occasion, the LG launched four new programs for BTEch and MTEch students and congratulated the faculty for updating the curriculum to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. He said the new Predictive Analytics program will help forecast future outcomes using data and could benefit sectors like healthcare, governance, and risk management. The Engineering Physics program, he added, will bridge the gap between theoretical and applied sciences. The MTEch courses in Tunnel Engineering and Structural Engineering were highlighted as critical for providing modern solutions to infrastructure challenges, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and other Himalayan regions. Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, gave an overview of the institute’s academic vision. The event was also attended by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, senior officials, faculty, and newly admitted students.

J&K Govt Orders and posted as Director, Commando Training Centre, Lethpora. Randeep Kumar (JKPS, 1999): SSP Security HQ J&K has been transferred and posted as SSP PTWS Jammu. Arun Gupta (JKPS, 2001): SSP SB CID Jammu has been transferred and posted as SSP Ramban vice Kulbir Singh. Liaquat Ali (JKPS, 2001): SO to Commandant General HG/CD/SDRF J&K has been transferred and posted as SSP PTWS Kashmir. Jameel Ahmad (JKPS, 2001): Principal STC Sheeri shall hold additional charge of Commandant IR-13. Mohd. Rafi Giri (JKPS, 2008): Dy. CO 2nd Border Bn has been transferred and posted as SO to Commandant

General HG/CD/SDRF J&K vice Liaquat Ali. Sunil Kumar Kesar (JKPS, 2011): Addl. SP (Ops) Doda has been transferred and posted as Dy. CO IR-15. Zahid Aziz Samoon (JKPS, 2011): Dy. SP (Ops) Pulwama has been transferred and posted as Dy. CO IR-17. Devinder Singh Bandral (JKPS, 2012): Dy. CO IR-1 has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP (Ops) Doda vice Sunil Kumar Kesar. The orders were issued by Chandrakar Bharti (IAS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

CM Eyes Statehood within or outside the Parliament during this period, then we will talk (on the subject),” Abdullah said. Addressing a press conference earlier in the day, J&K Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra said they are intensifying the statehood restoration campaign from August 1 by reaching out to traders, transporters and unorganized sectors followed by a chain hunger strike in district headquarters from August 9 to 21. Karra said the party’s campaign for restoration of statehood is on the right track and both rallies in Srinagar and Jammu on July 19 and 20 followed by the Delhi march two days later proved successful.

“The Congress central leadership is supporting our movement and said it will not stop here (in Delhi). We have also stated that this is just the beginning of our struggle and we are intensifying this further to press for the restoration of statehood to J&K,” he said. As part of the new programme, he said the Congress will conduct an outreach campaign from August 1 to 5 and seek support of traders, transporters, chamber of commerce and unorganized sectors in both Jammu and Srinagar, he said. On August 5, the day when Article 370 was abrogated in 2019, Karra said the party will counter the BJP which is “glorifying the disempowerment of the J&K people” by observing it as “black day” and stage dharna in the twin capitals and all district headquarters. Barring August 15 and August 16 (Janmashtami), the chain hunger strike in all district headquarters including Jammu and Srinagar will start on August 9 and continue till August 21, the PCC chief said, adding they will take a pledge to continue the struggle on the birthday of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi which falls on Aug 20.

He said the next course of action will be announced on August 21. Karra also said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has adopted some children for their education who have lost one or both parents in the devastating shelling from Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in Poonch district in May.

EAM Again Rejects treated as proxies, two -- cross-border terrorism will get an appropriate response, three -- terror and talks are not possible together and there will only be talks on terror, four -- not yielding to nuclear blackmail, and finally -- terror and good neighbourliness cannot co-exist, blood and water cannot flow together. This is our position.” The external affairs minister also called for a united approach within India in dealing with terrorism, saying it was best reflected when parliamentary delegations visited various countries to apprise them of Operation Sindoor and India’s policy on terrorism. Jaishankar pointed out that The Resistance Front (TRF) group had been designated as a global terror organisation by the US due to Indian diplomacy. Narrating the events during the conflict between India and Pakistan, he said that on May 9, US Vice President J D Vance called the PM, warning of Pakistan’s massive attack in the next few hours, he said.

“PM Modi made it very clear that if that happens, it would be met with an appropriate response from our side. That massive attack took place, and it was foiled by our armed forces. “On May 10, we received phone calls sharing the impression of other countries that Pakistan was ready to cease the fighting. Our position was that if Pakistan was ready, we needed to get this as a request from the Pakistani side through the DGMO channel. That is exactly how that request came,” Jaishankar said. “I want to make two things very clear. One, at no stage in any conversation with the US was there any linkage with trade and what was going on. Secondly, there was no call between the prime minister and President Trump from April 22 -- when President Trump called up to convey his sympathy -- till June 17, when he called up the PM who was in Canada to explain why he could not meet,” he said. Talking about the post-Pahalgam actions of the government, Jaishankar said that the Cabinet Committee on Security had decided that the Indus Waters Treaty would be held in abeyance until Pakistan abjures its support for terrorism, along with a host of other steps. “It was very clear that after these steps, India’s response to the Pahalgam attack will not stop there. Our responsibility from a foreign policy approach was to shape the global understanding of the Pahalgam attack,” he said. Jaishankar said that Indian diplomacy then tried to bring out Pakistan’s long-standing support to terrorism and how the Pahalgam attack was targeted at Jammu and Kashmir’s economy and sow communal discord. “Messages were two -- zero tolerance for terrorism and the right to defend our people against terrorists. All diplomatic briefings were aimed at these two objectives,” he said. Jaishankar’s remarks came after Congress’ Deputy Leader in the House Gaurav Gogoi slammed the government over US President Donald Trump’s claim made “26 times” that the US used trade to bring about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said in the Lok Sabha that Operation Sindoor was “paused” as the armed forces had achieved the desired politico-military objectives and asserted that there was “no pressure” to end it. If Pakistan indulges in fresh misadventure, it will resume again, the minister said in his opening remarks on the special debate on Pahalgam terror strikes and Operation Sindoor in the lower house. He said the armed forces are ever vigilant to defend India’s borders and the military operation was an effective and well-coordinated strike against nine terror sites. Seven terror camps were fully destroyed and India has proof of the damage incurred inside PoK and Pakistan, Singh told the House. The entire operation was over in 22 minutes and the Pahalgam killings were avenged. The attacks, he asserted, were non-escalatory in nature. “Before executing Operation Sindoor, our forces studied every aspect and chose the option that would cause maximum damage to terrorists while ensuring no harm to innocent civilians,” Singh said. He underlined that to say or believe that Operation Sindoor was stopped under any pressure is baseless and completely incorrect. It was the director general of Pakistan’s director general of military operation who requested his Indian counterpart to end the strikes. Singh’s statement comes against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump’s ‘ceasefire’ claims. The minister said the objective was not to cross borders or take over territory but to target terrorist camps, their supporters and to destroy them. He asserted that no innocent civilian was targeted in the military strikes. The Congress has been repeatedly attacking the government over Trump’s remarks. Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire after a long night of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim on several occasions that he helped settle the tensions between India and Pakistan.

However, India has been consistently maintaining that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries. Oppn Seeks Answers The Opposition on Monday targeted the government in Lok Sabha on “security lapses” that led to the Pahalgam attack, saying Home Minister Amit Shah must take responsibility for it, and demanded answers on how many Indian jets were downed during Operation Sindoor and why PoK was not taken back. Participating in a special discussion on Operation Sindoor, the Congress MPs questioned the government on the sudden halting of Operation Sindoor and asked “before whom did Prime Minister Narendra Modi surrender”. Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi asked when will India take back its Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and also slammed the government over US President Donald Trump claiming “26 times” that he used trade to bring about a “ceasefire” between India and Pakistan.

“If not today, then when will we take Pakistan-occupied Kashmir back?” Gogoi said. The Congress leader said Prime Minister Modi has been saying since the Uri and Pulwama attacks that “humne ghar mein ghus ke mara”, “we destroyed terror infrastructure” and is making the same remarks even now after the “most horrendous” terror attack. He said the Opposition wants to know from PM Modi that if Pakistan was ready to kneel before India, “why did you stop and before whom did you surrender?” Noting that US President Donald Trump has claimed 26 times that he used the threat of trade to bring about a “ceasefire” between India and Pakistan, he said the American leader has also claimed five to six jets have been downed. “That is why we want to know from the defence minister, the country has the courage to listen to the truth, he must answer as to how many fighter jets were downed,” Gogoi asked. “This information, this truth, is not just for Indian citizens; it is important for soldiers, they are also being lied to,” he added.

Gogoi said there are just “35 Rafale fighter jets in the country” and if some have been downed, “it is a big loss”. He also asked why Defence Minister Rajnath Singh did not name China during his address in the Lok Sabha and said he must disclose how much support that country was providing to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Singh had initiated the discussion in the Lok Sabha on “India’s strong, successful and decisive Operation Sindoor in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam”. The government asserted in the Lower House it can go to any extent to uproot terrorism and warned that Operation Sindoor launched terror sites in Pakistan was on pause as the armed forces had achieved its desired objectives, but could resume in case of any misadventure by Islamabad. It also rejected Trump’s claims on “ceasefire”. Referring to Singh’s speech, Gogoi said he gave a lot of information, but did not say, as the defence minister, how the terrorists came to Pahalgam.

“The country wants to know ... 100 days have passed, but this government has not brought the terrorists to justice,” he said. Taking on the home minister, he said he made claims that the backbone of terrorism has been broken, but the Uri and Pahalgam incidents still happened. “Who will take responsibility, the (Jammu and Kashmir) Lieutenant Governor? It is the home minister who must take responsibility. You cannot hide behind the LG. This government is ... so weak that it blamed even tour operators for the Pahalgam attack,” the Congress leader said.

Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda demanded that India should not play cricket with Pakistan at a time when Operation Sindoor is going on. Hooda also batted for modernisation of Indian defence forces and an increase in the defence budget. He questioned the “silence” of Prime Minister Modi on claims made by US President Trump of brokering peace between India and Pakistan. The government has to decide its relationship with the US, he said, adding that India should ask Trump to stop speaking on India-Pakistan issues. The Rohtak MP added that the government should disclose the “terms of the ceasefire” with Pakistan. Taking on the government for halting Operation Sindoor at a time when India’s security forces had an edge, TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee questioned the announcement of “ceasefire” and likened it to a player “declaring the innings” on the brink of scoring a century. “... Have you ever heard that a player batting at 90 and heading towards a century, declare the innings. Only Modi can do this, no one else... It was a matter of completing 100 runs, ended up being at 90,” he said. He also asked why PM Modi did not “counter” Trump “even once” on his claims made in a social media post on the role of the US in reaching the ceasefire. In a dig at the prime minister, the TMC MP said that in front of the US President, Modi’s stature “gets reduced”, and his “chest shrinks from 56 to 36 inches”.

NCP (SP) member Supriya Sule questioned the government’s handling of Operation Sindoor, saying it cannot be called a success until the terrorists responsible for Pahalgam are caught. Urging External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to reflect on the global calls for de-escalation, she referred to BJP MP Tejasvi Surya’s own question about the objective of the war and highlighted the anguish of victims’ families, with one repeatedly asking her, “When will my father get justice?” Sule said Kashmir, once seen as paradise, had become a nightmare for many and mere compensation without jobs or accountability was not enough. Samajwadi Party MP Ramashankar Rajbhar said the country wanted “Operation Tandoor” after the Pahalgam terror attack to roast the terrorist responsible for it, and not Operation Sindoor. He accused the government of failing to act decisively and questioned the “delay” in the operation, saying that a mission that should have been initiated in three days was carried out after 17 days.

“The country was so angry (over the Pahalgam attack) that by the third day, people wanted not Operation Sindoor, but Operation Tandoor, that is to throw the terrorists into that tandoor. But instead, the operation happened 17 days later.” “Were those who carried out the Pahalgam attack among the 100 terrorists (killed during the operation)? That’s the real question,” he asked while lauding the country for displaying unity and foiling the enemy’s plan of inciting riots. On Trump’s claims of bringing a ceasefire, he said, “The real Vishwaguru was sitting in the White House,” he said. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant said India should refrain from playing cricket with Pakistan in view of the ongoing tension with the neighbouring country. Sawant also wondered why India stopped the war with Pakistan without imposing any conditions when the neighbouring country “was on its knees begging for a ceasefire”.

Comedian Bashir

discharged on Saturday, his condition deteriorated quickly and he passed away on Monday afternoon. A beloved figure in Kashmiri’s entertainment and folk theatre scene, Bashir Kotur was known for his powerful stage presence and sharp wit that delighted audiences

across generations. His performances left an indelible mark on the region’s cultural landscape, earning him admiration not just in the Valley but beyond. Tributes have been pouring in from artists, colleagues, and fans mourning the loss of a cultural legend. His peers in the performing arts community described his passing as an “irreparable loss” and remembered him as someone who kept the spirit of Kashmiri folk comedy alive through decades of dedication. “Bashir Kotur was not just a performer—he was a movement. His ability to bring people together through laughter, especially during difficult times, made him a household name,” said one of his contemporaries in the theatre world. The late comedian was laid to rest in the local graveyard near his residence, where hundreds turned up to pay their final respects. Mourners included fellow artists, admirers, and members of the local community who remembered him for his humble nature and unmatched contribution to the performing arts.

Lambardar Can’t

cannot be made for a period beyond 6 months. “It needs to be noted that a substitute may be appointed by the Tehsildar in place of a Lambardar who is suspended under Rule 8 or 10 of the Rules.” Further, the court said, in case a Lambardar remains, with the permission of Tehsildar, absent by reason of sickness or any other reason for the period exceeding 6 months or is unable to perform the duties imposed upon him under these Rules, a substitute may be appointed in his place for a period not exceeding 6 months. “However, in exceptional cases, the period of 6 months can be extended with the prior approval of the District Collector.” Earlier, in its objections to the petitions, the government submitted that the amendment had been made in order to remove ambiguity in the Rules. The government said as per SRO 412 of 2017, the term of office of the Lambardar has been fixed for 5 years or till he attains the age of 60 years, whichever is earlier. “Due to prevailing conditions, elections could not be held against the post of Lambardar and in some areas due to refusal/resignation etc. of an existing Lambardar, some nominations/appointments have been made against the posts of Lambardar till elections are held,” the government said. The petitioners, the government said, cannot claim that they are entitled to hold the posts of Lambardar till their death, when they have not been elected by the people of the area.

CBI Books DSP

inflicting heavy electric shocks on him, the wife has alleged in her complaint, now part of the FIR. “...finally on February 26, 2023, the private parts of Khursheed were cut off, besides iron rods inserted in his private part continuously for six days. Khursheed was subjected to severe torture and red pepper were inserted in his rectum and also given electric shocks,” the complaint said. The CBI FIR registered on the basis of the complaint filed by Khursheed’s wife, who was running from pillar to post seeking a probe into the alleged atrocities against her husband, alleged that the then SSP, Kupwara on whose requisition the victim was sent from Baramulla to Kupwara for probe in a narcotics case, remained “a mute spectator”. The agency in its FIR has not named the SSP as an accused. Khursheed had approached the Supreme Court with a chilling petition describing his ordeal after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court rejected the plea seeking a CBI probe. Handing over the case to the CBI, the apex court noted that the high court “grossly erred in failing to exercise its constitutional obligation of protecting the fundamental rights of a citizen, his dignity and right to life.” “It failed to consider the gravity of offences committed as well as the influence that could be exerted by accused persons being police officials,” a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said.

The apex court also ordered the payment of Rs 50 lakh in compensation to Khursheed, which shall be recoverable from the officer(s) concerned, against whom a departmental proceeding shall be initiated upon the conclusion of the investigation by the CBI. The Supreme Court outrightly rejected the claims of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that the injuries were the result of a suicide attempt by the victim. “It is admitted that between 20th February and 26th February, 2023, the appellant sustained numerous injuries, including castration of his genital regions and was admitted to SKIMS Hospital at 2:48 pm on 26th February, 2023. It is also undisputed that the dismembered genitalia were brought to the hospital in a separate plastic bag by a sub-inspector, a fact that shocks our conscience,” the court had observed. The police had maintained that Khursheed tried to take his own life during the investigation and that his wounds were self-inflicted. In a scathing judgment, the top court noted that the “unprecedented gravity” of this case involving “brutal and inhuman custodial torture”, characterised by the “complete mutilation” of the appellant’s genitalia, represents one of the “most barbaric instances of police atrocity which the State is trying to defend and cover up with all-pervasive power”.

“The medical evidence conclusively establishes that such injuries are impossible to be self-inflicted. The respondent’s (Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir) theory of suicide attempt crumbles under scrutiny when examined against the timeline and the medical evidence,” it said. It stated that Khursheed was summoned to the Joint Interrogation Centre, Kupwara, on February 17, 2023, via a signal communication, which notably did not refer to any specific FIR. The court noted that according to the police’s claims, he was summoned for questioning in connection with FIR No. 1 of 2023 which is contradicted by the fact he was implicated in FIR No. 17 of 2023, registered six days later on February 23, 2023, and was based on the alleged disclosure made by co-accused Farooq Hussain, who was arrested following the recovery of a narcotic substance. “This temporal anomaly exposes the fabricated nature of the respondent’s case and conclusively establishes illegal detention of the appellant from February 20, 2023, to February 26, 2023,” the court noted. The Supreme Court said the medical evidence decisively rules out the theory of the harm being self-inflicted and demolishes the suicide theory. “The complete surgical removal of both testicles, the extensive injuries to the appellant’s palms and soles, consistent with custodial torture techniques such as falanga, the presence of multiple vegetative particles in the rectum, and bruising on the buttocks extending to the thighs – all point to a pattern of sustained and systematic torture,” it said. It said these injuries are “medically impossible to be self-inflicted” particularly in the absence of fatal hemorrhage or loss of consciousness, as would have occurred had the mutilation been self-administered. “The CBI shall also conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the systemic issues at the Joint Interrogation Centre, Kupwara, including examination of all CCTV systems, interrogation from all personnel present during the relevant period, forensic examination of the premises, and review of all protocols and procedures followed for detention and interrogation of suspects,” the court said.

Unethical Referrals, states that these actions “significantly outweighed their contribution to government service, thereby undermining the objectives of the AB-PMJAY/SEHAT Scheme.”



Ben Stokes Set To Play Oval Test, Says 'Pain Is Just An Emotion'

Press Trust of India

MANCHESTER: England captain Ben Stokes has hinted at his participation in the fifth and final Test against India at Oval despite carrying an injury, saying "pain is just an emotion" but acknowledged the need to rejig their tired bowling attack.

The fourth Test ended in a stalemate after centuries from skipper Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar saw India dominate the final day's play at Old Trafford where drama unfolded in the last hour when Stokes and Co. wanted to call off the match, only to be refused by the visitors who were well within their rights to continue batting.

Stokes, who grimaced throughout while bowling 11 overs on Sunday, said he had been suffering from pain in his right bicep tendon.

"I don't want to eat my words but the likelihood I won't play is very unlikely. I'll always try to

give everything, always try to run through a brick wall for the team," Stokes said when asked about his chances of playing at the Oval in three days' time.

"It's my bicep tendon. It obviously had a lot of workload through it but it didn't get any worse and hopefully it settles down and will be as good as gold for last game. But yeah, (I spent) a lot of time out in the middle doing my job as an all-rounder this week and (it) just got a little bit flared up...

"Bowling, being out on the field it is tough work. I'm feeling pretty sore. I've physically been better. But I'll keep trying, keep going and as I say to all the bowlers: pain is just an emotion."

Stokes has been bowling full throttle in the ongoing series and is currently the leading wicket-taker with 17 scalps. In Manchester, he has also got his first five-wicket haul in eight years before topping it up with a big hundred in England's massive first innings total of 669.

Having toiled through 143 overs in India's second innings at Old Trafford, Stokes indicated that England would need "fresh legs" for the fifth Test starting Thursday.

"If you look at how long we've been out in the field and the overs that we bowled as a bowling unit, everyone is going to be pretty sore and pretty tired going into the last game of the series," Stokes said.

"There will be an assessment of everyone, and hopefully we can use these next two or three days' rest period wisely and then have to make a decision.

"These recovery days are going to be pretty important and we might have to make a few decisions to get some fresh legs in. But that won't be decided until we get closer to the last game."

Stokes has won his second consecutive Player of the Match award on Sunday and 12th overall, which places him second among English players with only teammate Joe Root ahead of him with 13 such honours.

HSS Verinag Wins Anantnag U-19 Kho Kho Girls Tournery



The District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag concluded its District Level Inter School Kho Kho Tournament for U-19 age group girls on Monday. Government Higher Secondary School Verinag clinched the title of the tournament, defeating HSS Dethu in the final.

In the tournament, Kho Kho teams from various Higher Secondary Schools across the district participated. In the competitions, around 232 Kho Kho players showcased their skill and sportsmanship.

The tournament was organised District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag with the aim to promote Kho Kho and foster the Kho Kho talent of U-19 age group female students of the district. The tournament was held at MS Bondailgam, in which field officials of DYSS Anantnag handed over the trophies to both teams. (Observer News Service)

Multiple Zones Of Budgam Buzz With Sporting Energy



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: In a display of youth talent and athletic spirit, Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions are thriving across multiple zones of Budgam under the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone. These events continue to reflect the department's dedication to channelling

student energy into structured and competitive sports activities.

In Zone Nagam, the Department of Youth Services and Sports organized Inter-School Zonal Level Competition-cum-Selection Trials in Basketball (All Age Groups - Boys) at the Synthetic Basketball Court, GMS Dardpora.

The competition witnessed a spirited turnout from both Government and

Private Schools of the zone, with young players showcasing promising skills and teamwork. The event began with inspirational remarks by Convenor Abdul Rashid Bhat, who emphasized the role of sports in personality development and discipline.

Simultaneously, Zone Magam hosted the Inter-School Zonal Level Athletic Meet for Boys Under-14 at the Open Ground, Paripora Magam. The meet was inaugurated by Mohammad Ashraf Ganai (PeM), Overall In-Charge of the event, accompanied by esteemed officials of Zone Magam. A large number of athletes from various High and Higher Secondary Schools of the zone competed in a range of track and field events.

These sporting events not only serve as a foundation for future district-level selections but also aim to promote unity, fitness, and healthy competition among students.

District Level Judo C'ship, UI7 Cricket Held In Ganderbal



Yoonus Paray

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal on Monday organised the Inter School District Level Judo Championship for Boys and Girls at the Indoor Sports Complex Sehpura, Ganderbal.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 student players, including 58 boys and 42 girls, hailing from various schools across the district. The event showcased the spirit, discipline, and determination that define the sport of Judo.

Among the standout performers were Aisha Hassan and Baiza Tariq of Hanfia School Sehpura, who have already made their mark at the National level by securing Silver medals in last year's National Games. Their continued

participation and performance in today's competition served as an inspiration for budding Judokas in the district.

Meanwhile, Zone Ganderbal conducted the Inter School Zonal Level Cricket Competition for Boys U-17 at the Open Ground Fatehpura Ganderbal. The tournament featured several enthusiastic teams from across the zone, culminating in a thrilling final between New Dreamland Educational Institute and Hill Top Educational Institute, Ganderbal.

The final match was a spectacle of sporting excellence as both teams delivered outstanding performances, resulting in a rare tie. The contest proceeded to a Super Over, which again ended in a tie, leading to a Ball-Out decider. In a dramatic finish, New Dreamland Educational Institute emerged victorious in the Ball-Out.

Asmita Khelo India Yogasana City League Concludes In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Asmita Khelo India Yogasana City League 2025-2026 concluded at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar. Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Yogasana Sports Association, affiliated with Yogasana Bharat and recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, the event promoted Yogasana as a competitive sport.

More than 250 athletes from various districts of Kashmir Division participated, showcasing their strength, flexibility and discipline. The event aimed to foster mental and physical well-being while encouraging youth engagement in traditional sports.

Guests of Honour included Maqsood Khan, Venue Manager; Shabir Ahmad



Dar, Senior Yogasana Coach, J&K Sports Council; and Sabiya Qayoom, Principal, GGHS Sonwar. Their presence motivated the young participants.

The organisers thanked all stakeholders athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers for their support, making the event a grand success and highlighting the region's growing enthusiasm for Yogasana.

Kupwara's Uznain Selected For Junior Women's Hockey Nationals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a moment of pride for Kupwara, Uznain Ashraf from Khelo India Hockey Centre, Kulangam Kupwara, has been selected to represent Hockey J&K in the 15th Hockey Junior Women's National Championship, scheduled to be held from August 1 to 12 in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

Uznain is the first girl from Kupwara and the only player from the Kashmir division to achieve this remarkable feat.



Expressing her gratitude, Uznain thanked her coach,

Reebu Hassan, for his unwavering guidance and support, stating that her selection is a result of consistent hard work and dedication.

The Khelo India Hockey Centre and Coach Reebu Hassan extended heartfelt thanks to Nuzhat Gull, Secretary J&K Sports Council, for her constant support and encouragement towards promoting women's hockey in the region.

This achievement marks a historic milestone for Kupwara and a significant boost for women's hockey in Kashmir.

Can Sports Ministry Stop Indo-Pak Asia Cup Clashes? Not Really

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The India-Pakistan cricketing rivalry is set for a brief resumption at next month's Asia Cup but the mere announcement of it has triggered an avalanche of criticism on social media and a question. Can the sports ministry have a say in the matter?

Emotions are still running high after 26 people were gunned down by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's popular tourist hub of Pahalgam in April. The gruesome killings even led to a brief military showdown between the old foes. Months later, the cricket teams of the two nations will clash in the

Asia Cup.

"As of now, the BCCI does not come under the purview of the sports ministry as the National Sports Governance Bill is still to be passed. So, the ministry doesn't have a say, but we will wait and see how the BCCI responds to public sentiment," a sports ministry source told PTI.

Lieutenant General (Retd) KJS Dhillon, who served as the Director General of Defence Intelligence Agency, is among the prominent voices who have called for a boycott of any cricketing ties with Pakistan. However, former BCCI President and captain Sourav Ganguly, while condemning terrorism, has stated that

"sport should go on".

The sports ministry has maintained that any bilateral sporting engagement with Pakistan is "out of question" at this point.

But in multilateral contests, it would go by the Olympic Charter, which prohibits any discrimination based on political issues, which is why the government has stated that it would not stop Pakistan from coming to India for international events.

Adherence to the Charter is crucial to India's ambitious bid to host the 2036 Olympics.

Cricket too is part of the Olympic movement now and is set for a Games debut in 2028 in the T20 format. However, the eight-nation

Asia Cup is not an ICC event and will be conducted by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), which is currently led by Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi.

The tournament features a scheduled India-Pakistan clash on September 14 with the potential of two more clashes later in the tournament. Crores are riding on these games as broadcasters expect high viewership and in turn high advertising rates.

Sony Network has secured the eight-year broadcast rights from the ACC for USD 170 million.

It is reliably learnt, that unless there is mandatory India-Pakistan engagement in the continental showpiece, the channel

would end up incurring heavy losses which also ends up affecting ACC's revenue projections.

The losses, while not hurting the cash-rich BCCI significantly, would have a cascading effect on the revenue of the remaining 24 ACC members, most of whom are developing cricket nations.

What the bill says

The National Sports Governance Bill has a provision for the sports ministry to step in and "impose reasonable restrictions" on the international participation of Indian teams and individual athletes when necessitated by "extraordinary circumstances" and in the "national interest."

President Congratulates Divya Deshmukh For WC Success

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday congratulated chess player Divya Deshmukh for winning the FIDE Women's World Cup in Georgia, saying the youngster's achievement underlines the abundance of talent in the country.

Deshmukh achieved the feat with a tie-break win over seasoned compatriot Koneru Humpy.

"My heartfelt congratulations to Divya Deshmukh who has become the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's World Cup, that too, at a very young age of nineteen.

Koneru Humpy being the runner up, both the finalists of the chess world championship were from India. This underlines the abundance of talent in our country, especially among women," the President wrote on X.

The victory not just earned the 19-year-old the prestigious title, but also made her a Grandmaster, something which looked improbable when she started the tournament.

Murmu conveyed deep appreciation to Humpy for sustaining excellence throughout her illustrious career.

"I am sure that both these women champions will continue to bring greater glories and inspire our youth," she added. (PTI)



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