

India Revives Strategic Chenab Dam Project Amid Indus Water Shift

After more than 60 years of stalled approvals, NHPC floats design tender for Jammu and Kashmir's biggest hydroelectric venture.

PEOPLE HERE HAVE HEARD OF SAWALKOTE FOR AS LONG as I can remember, Now they want to see whether this time something really happens."

■ **GHULAM RASOOL**
A schoolteacher in Ramban district



Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

Srinagar: On the banks of the Chenab River, a project first imagined more than six decades ago is finally preparing to take shape.

The Sawalkot Hydroelectric Power Project, long billed as a potential game-changer for India's energy map, has officially moved to its tender stage,

marking the first real step toward construction since it was conceived in the 1960s.

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the central agency overseeing the project, issued a 200 crore tender on July 29 for the planning, design, and engineering of the 1,856-megawatt facility.

The tender, which covers

"Package 1," is only the beginning. Additional tenders for construction and development will be floated in the coming months.

For Jammu and Kashmir, a region often marked by delayed promises and uncertain timelines, this signals a shift in pace.

Once completed, Sawalkote will be the largest hydroelectric project in the Union Territory,

capable of producing nearly 8,000 million units of electricity annually, enough to power millions of homes across the northern grid.

The scale of the project is matched only by the wait that preceded it.

From the 1960s onward, Sawalkote remained stuck in a cycle of feasibility reports, redesigns, and | [More on P6](#)

Trump's Tariffs & Penalty For 'Friend' India

KO Web Desk

Washington: US President Donald Trump has announced a 25 per cent tariff on India from Aug 1, amid signs of some stalemate in the ongoing negotiations between the two countries on a bilateral trade deal.

Trump, announcing the tariff, listed India's high tariffs, its procurement of "vast majority" of military equipment and energy from Russia as well as "obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers". India will be paying a "tariff of 25 per cent plus a penalty" from August 1, he said, adding "we have a massive trade deficit with India".

The US president, in a social media post, however, described India as a "friend". While India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their



tariffs are far too high, among the "highest" in the world, and they have the "most strenuous and obnoxious" non-monetary trade barriers, he said.

Also, they have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of energy along with China, at a time | [More on P6](#)

Studying Implications, Hopeful Of Trade Pact: Govt

The government on Wednesday said it is studying the implications of US President Donald Trump's announcement to impose 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, along with a penalty from August 1 and it is still hopeful of concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement. | [More on P6](#)

6 ALL THINGS NOT GOOD! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 percent plus a penalty for the above starting on August 1."

'Lavish House, Hotel Ownership' ACB Raids Ex-Cop In Wealth Disproportion Case

Kashmir News Trust

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has launched a formal investigation into allegations of amassing wealth disproportionate to known sources of income by a terminated police official, Selection Grade

Constable Firdous Ahmad.

According to official sources, a secret verification conducted by the ACB revealed that the former cop had allegedly acquired a range of assets—both movable and immovable—either in his own name or that of his close family members, far exceeding | [More on P6](#)

Under Modi Govt, J&K Set To Reclaim Lasting Peace: Shah

Says All 3 Pahalgam Terrorists Were Shot In Head

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted in the Rajya Sabha that Jammu and Kashmir is set to reclaim lasting peace under the Modi-led government and warned that all terror groups operating in the region will be wiped out.

Referring to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 civilians—mostly tourists—Shah said the responsibility was claimed

by The Resistance Front (TRF). "Those behind the attack were tracked and eliminated in two operations — Sindoor and Mahadev," he said. "We shot them in the head," Shah added, dismissing any suggestion of leniency.

He said the terrorists were neutralised before they could cross over to Pakistan. "Forensic tests confirmed the rifles recovered from the slain terrorists matched the ones used in the attack. There is no debate now," he said.

Shah added that



intelligence agencies and local police interrogated 155 people, and those who gave shelter to the attackers have been identified and are under investigation.

The Home Minister thanked the Prime Minister and armed forces for their swift and coordinated action. "We pledged to catch the attackers and prevent their escape. We succeeded on both fronts," Shah said, detailing the counter-terror timeline.

"Operation Mahadev was launched on the same day as the attack. By May 22, their presence was confirmed. A joint strategy | [More on P6](#)

No US Mediation In Indo-Pak Ceasefire: EAM

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday firmly denied any third-party involvement in bringing about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, dismissing US President Donald Trump's suggestion that the halt in hostilities was linked to trade. Speaking during a special discussion in the Rajya Sabha, | [More on P6](#)

CM In Gujarat To Woo Tourists Back Says Centre Must Answer for Security Lapses

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah landed in Gujarat on Wednesday for a high-stakes two-day visit aimed at reassuring travellers and re-establishing Jammu and Kashmir as a safe and welcoming tourist destination. The outreach comes in the wake of a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that led to a steep dip in tourist confidence.

During his visit, Omar Abdullah is expected to visit the Statue of Unity and hold a crucial meeting with Gujarat's leading tour operators in Gandhinagar. On Wednesday evening, he met with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to discuss strengthening tourism ties between the two states.

"Whenever tourism has picked up in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three to four decades, Gujarat,



Maharashtra and West Bengal have consistently been key contributors," Abdullah said in Ahmedabad, expressing confidence that Gujarati tourists will soon return in significant numbers.

Security Lapses
The chief minister also

raised questions over security lapses linked to the recent attack. Speaking to the media, he welcomed the ongoing discussion on Operation Sindoor in Parliament but stressed the need for accountability.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)

Boulder Hits Army Convoy In Ladakh, 2 Soldiers Killed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a tragic incident in the high-altitude region of eastern Ladakh, two Indian Army personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel, lost their lives while three others sustained injuries when a massive boulder fell onto their vehicle during a convoy movement near Charbagh, close to Durbuk in the Galwan sector, officials said on Wednesday.

The accident occurred around 11:30 am during a routine training movement from Durbuk to Chongtash, about 200 kilometers from Leh. The boulder, dislodged from a cliff, came crashing down on one of the Army's SUVs, crushing the vehicle and injuring all five occupants.

The Army identified the deceased as Lieutenant Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh, both from the 14 Sindh Horse

regiment. The injured include Major Mayank Shubham (14 Sindh Horse), Major Amit Dixit, and Captain Gaurav (60 Armoured Regiment), who were promptly evacuated and are currently undergoing treatment.

"The vehicle was badly mangled under the weight and impact of the boulder," an official said, adding that recovery operations were launched swiftly despite the challenging terrain.

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, along with all ranks, paid rich tributes to the fallen soldiers. "Northern Command stands firm with the bereaved families in this hour of grief," the Army's Northern Command posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Earlier, the Fire and Fury Corps, which oversees operations in Ladakh, had confirmed the incident. "A boulder from a cliff fell on one of the vehicles of a military | [More on P6](#)

J&K Amends Jail Rules For Disabled Inmates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development, J&K's Home Department has amended the Union Territory's Prison Manual-2022 to safeguard the rights of prisoners with disabilities.

In a notification, J&K administration has amended the Prison Manual to improve the treatment and care of prisoners with disabilities.

These amendments have been incorporated in the prison manual after J&K LG directed UT's Home department to do so.

According to the notification, prisoners with disabilities should not be discriminated against on the grounds of disability and are entitled to equality, dignity, and respect.

"No prisoner shall be discriminated on grounds of disability. All prisoners | [More on P6](#)

13.6 Mn Mobile Numbers Deactivated In Fraud Crackdown: GoI

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that the Government has disconnected over 1.36 crore mobile numbers as part of a nationwide crackdown on telecom fraud.

Responding to questions in Parliament, Scindia said the government has taken several tech-driven steps to combat cyber threats under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

A key initiative, the Digital Intelligence Platform, integrates 620 institutions—including 570 banks, 36 state police units, telecom



providers, and investigative agencies—to enable real-time coordination against scammers misusing telecom infrastructure.

To increase citizen involvement, the Sanchar Saathi portal, launched in May 2023, has received over 15.5 crore hits, while its mobile app—launched in January 2025—has over 44 lakh downloads. | [More on P6](#)

'Over 1,400 URLs Blocked During Op Sindoor'

The central government blocked more than 1,400 online links

during Operation Sindoor as part of its efforts to contain the spread of fake news and sensitive content in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Responding to a query from MP Tejasvi Surya, Vaishnaw said the blocked content included a range of posts on websites and social media platforms that circulated misinformation and material deemed harmful | [More on P6](#)

Major Doctor Reshuffle On Cards In J&K: Itoo

Agencies

Srinagar: Health Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that a major reshuffle of doctors is on cards in J&K to address long standing issues in the healthcare system.

Itoo expressed concern over the practice of doctors being posted at their preferred locations for decades, which she said hampers the system's progress.

"We are now considering a major reshuffle. It is ironic that doctors have been sitting at the same place for ten years or more. People have told us that such practices—staying in one place for so long—do not help the system. If this continues, the system will not improve," Itoo said.

She emphasized that the government's focus is on ensuring proper patient care, with

a commitment to providing good treatment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "We have also implemented strict vigilance and equipped hospitals with necessary equipment," she added.

Addressing recent complaints, the Minister highlighted issues related to night-duty staffing in hospitals. "There have been many complaints that senior doctors are absent during night shifts. Interns are present, but senior doctors are not on duty. We conducted several visits to hospitals to verify this situation," she said.

Itoo acknowledged that while some hospitals have junior doctors on duty, senior doctors often do not stay through the night. "This issue needs to be taken seriously—senior doctors must be present during night shifts, not just | [More on P6](#)

Govt Makes I-Day Attendance Mandatory For Employees

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued a directive mandating all officers and officials stationed in Srinagar and Jammu to attend the main Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2025, at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar and Maulana Azad Stadium Jammu.

According to a circular issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Independence Day is a significant national event, and it is the duty of every government servant to attend the celebrations.

"All officers/officials stationed at Srinagar/Jammu are enjoined upon to attend the | [More on P6](#)



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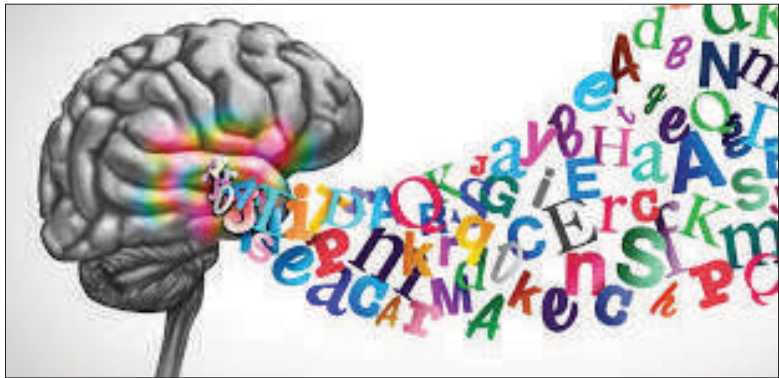
Srinagar | Thursday | 31-07-2025

2

Study Reveals Genes Responsible For Stuttering, Could Be Similar To Those Causing Autism, Depression

Press Trust Of India

An analysis of genetic data of more than a million people has revealed genes responsible for stuttering and could be similar to those causing autism, depression and impaired music abilities. Researchers from universities and '23andMe', a genetics research company, in the US found 57 distinct points on a chromosome -- which carries genes -- that were associated with stuttering, a speech disorder marked by repetition in words and syllables, prolonged sounds and frequent breaks between words. The findings, published in the journal Nature Genetics, could help develop methods for an early identification and treatments for stuttering, the team said. "There have been hundreds of years of misconceptions about what causes stuttering -- from ideas about left-handedness to childhood trauma to overbearing mothers. Rather than being caused by personal or familial failings or intelligence, our study shows that stuttering is influenced by our genes," author Jennifer (Piper) Below, director of the Vanderbilt Genetics Institute at Vanderbilt University, US, said. Stuttering or stammering while speaking is related with a reduced quality of life, affecting one's performance in school and prospects at work, along with mental and social well-being. The researchers added that an improved understanding of causes may



replace outdated perspectives of stuttering that contribute to stigma surrounding the speech disorder. The study analysed data from 99,776 people who either stuttered or stammered and from a million others who did neither. Genome-wide association studies -- a technique to analyse entire genomes of a group of individuals to identify gene variants linked to a specific trait -- "of more than one million individuals (99,776 cases and 1,023,243 controls), (helped in) identifying 57 unique loci," the authors said. "We further show genetic similarity of stuttering with autism, depression and impaired musical rhythm across sexes, with follow-up analyses highlighting potentially causal relationships among these traits," they said. The team added that stuttering can set in during a child's development between ages two and five. However, it is more common among teenage boys and adult men, they said.

The 57 distinct genomic loci uncovered in the study were mapped to 48 genes, associated with stuttering risk. Genetic signatures differed between men and women, which could relate to a persistent stuttering versus recovered stuttering, Below said. This meant that an adult with a stuttered speech could be more likely to reflect current stuttering in a male and recalled stuttering in a female, she explained. The researchers also determined traits previously associated with the genes they identified for stuttering and found links with neurological, obesity or metabolic, cardiac or circulatory traits, among others. Further, the gene 'VRK2' was the "top hit" for genes associated with stuttering in men, which was also the top hit in a study of beat synchronisation (which looked at one's ability to clap to a beat) and that of language decline in people with Alzheimer's disease, Below said.

ASF ENTERPRISES

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Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Manan Firdous Dar D.o. B 10/05/2022 ,Sara Firdous D.o.B 24/09/2019 s/d/o Firdous Ahmad Dar R/o Palpora pattan. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name and My Parentage wrongly mentioned in my Bank Account and Pass Book as Mohd Assadullah Trumboo S/O Gul Mohd Trumboo instead of my Name as Assadullah Wani and my Parentage as Gulle Joo Wani .Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact Manager J&K Bank Branch Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained. ASSADULLAH WANI S/O GULLE JOO WANI R/O KREERI BARAMULLLA fko

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Death of GHULAM NABI BHAT S/O ABDUL GANI BHAT R/O DANDMOHA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of death as 03/02/1995 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing consumer ID No. 0204050008666 & Installation Number. 5183919731 currently registered in the name of Bashir Ahmad Bangoo S/O Abdul Rahim Bangoo R/O Meeraksha Colony, Zakura, Srinagar. Now, I Mohammed Maqsood Sheikh S/O Ghulam Rasool R/O Meeraksha Colony, Zakura, Srinagar, hereby apply for the transfer of the said electricity connection in my favour at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Zakura, Srinagar. If anyone has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may submit the same to the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Zakura, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammed Maqsood Sheikh S/O Ghulam Rasool Sheikh R/O Meeraksha Colony, Zakura, Srinagar. Mobile No.7889564308, 6005800307 inf

NOTICE

I intend to rectify the spelling of my name, my ward's mother's name, and my ward's name in the school records of RP School Nagbal, Ganderbal, where my ward is studying in Class 6th.

The corrections are as follows:

Father's Name: Javiad Ahmad Baba to Javaid Ahmad Baba

Daughter's Name: Raida Javiad to Raida Javaid

Mother's name: Sumreena Javiad to Samreen Javaid.

Anybody having any objection he/she may contact to the Principal of the RP school within one week from the date of this notice.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0119980064643 issued in favour of BASHIR AHMAD BHAT Parentage BAKIR BHAT Whereas an application has been recieved by one BASHIR AHMAD BHAT Parentage BAKIR BHAT wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHD BABAR BHAT Which needs to be changed as BAKIR BHAT.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing consumer ID No. 0204020002358 & Installation Number. 75170 R-1, currently registered in the name of my father namely, Late. Gh. Hussain Bhat S/O Late. Gh. Hussain Bhat R/O Bhat Mohalla Kath Mohalla, Srinagar. Now, I Manzoor Hussain Bhat S/O Late. Gh. Hussain R/O Bhat Mohalla Kath Mohalla, Srinagar, hereby apply for the transfer of the said electricity connection in my favour at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Hawal, Srinagar. If anyone has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may submit the same to the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Hawal, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Hussain Bhat S/O Late. Gh. Hussain Bhat R/O Bhat Mohalla, Kath Mohalla, Srinagar Mobile No. 9797872276 inf

Form No 3 [See Regulation -13(1)(a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/2040/2024

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure)Rules,1993

Exh. No: 29115

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS BILAL AHMAD MIR

To.

(1) Bilal Ahmad Mir S/o: Ghulam Qadir Mir Proprietor M/S Bilal Ahmad Mir R/o: Gogoo Humhama Budgam Near Salsabeel School Budgam , Jammu and Kashmir-190021

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/2040/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 14.07.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 4451526.18/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 28.08.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 17.07.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

اثر نیابت کریری

موضوع: عمل درآمد کے جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ فیسٹ کالس پٹن نیابت نیازی رقیقہ تعادی 01 کنال زیر نمبر نمبرہ 713 من واقع موضع دولت پور تحصیل کریری

استہتار مسرادر حاض و عام

محالہ مندرجہ جنوان الصدور کے نسبت قرار حکم از عدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ فیسٹ کالس پٹن زیر نمبری U.I.D No jk00187 حکم نامہ اجراء ہوئی ہے کہ رقیقہ تعادی 01 کنال زیر نمبر نمبرہ 713 واقع موضع دولت پورہ کریری کی نیازی کرنے مطلب ہے اسطور ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ مطلع کیا جات ہے کہ رقیقہ تعادی 01 کنال زیر نمبر نمبرہ 713 کی بولی مورخہ 07-08-2025 برآمد ہو دار پکاری جائے گی۔ لہذا تمام خواہشمند بولی وحدگان کو بذریعہ استہتار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ بولی دے کے لئے تاریخ مقررہ وقت صبح 11.00 بجے تشریف لائے

no:- 436/NTK/MN/25

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System

ENIT NO. 24 OF R&B /CHADOORA/ 1926-35 of 2025-26 DATED: 28/07/2025
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees}	Earnest Money (In Rupees}	Time of comple- tion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1.	Construction Of Biology, Chemistry and Physics lab at Boys Higher Secondary Sursyar.	54.00	1600.00	108000.00	180	PAB	AAY
2.	Construction of ACR Building at GMS Nowhar.	10.42	600.00	20840.00	30	PAB	B/C/D

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28/07/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28/07//2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	28/07/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	04/08/2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	05/08/2025 at 10.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period is over.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

18. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

19. 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.

20. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 1926-35

DIPK-4514/25

Dated: 30/07/2025

Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

e.mail:- cponfsfmanasbal@g

Ph. NO:- 01954295287

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROJECT OFFICER NATIONAL FISH SEED FARM MANASBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION OF WALNUT CROP

Chief Project Officer, National Fish Seed Farm, Manasbal-Safapora intends to carry out auction of Walnut crop on 7th of August, 2025 at 11:30 A.M at National Fish Seed Farm, Manasbal-Safapora. In this context all the interested persons/parties are informed to ensure their timely participation in the bidding process keeping in mind the following terms and conditions which the interested persons/ parties have to strictly abide.

Terms and condition:-

01. Interested person/party has to deposit earnest money of an amount of Rs.2000/- right on the date of auction well before 11:00 AM in the Office of the undersigned, which will be returned back on-spot to un successful bidders after completion of bid process.

02. The blossom /base price has been fixed as Rs. 15000.

03. The successful bidder has to remit the bid amount in lump sum right on the Spot. Failing which 2nd one shall be given the chance.

04. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject the auction.

05. Other necessary terms and conditions shall be delivered well before the bidding process.

No:- CPO/NFSF/M/25/387

DIPK-4534/25

Datet:- 30-07-2025

Chief Project Officer, National Fish Seed Farm, Manasbal.

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Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary BJP called on LG Manoj Sinha on Wednesday. He was accompanied by leaders Sunil Sharma and Sat Sharma.

SKUAST Stakeholders Meet To Strengthen Science & Technology

Observer News Service

Srinagar : In a significant stride towards advancing the science, technology, and innovation (STI) landscape in Jammu & Kashmir, a high-impact Stakeholders Meet was successfully held today at SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar. The event was organized by the Northern Region S&T Cluster - PI-RAHI (PU-IIT Ropar Regional Accelerator for Holistic Innovations Foundation) in collaboration with J&K Science & Technology Council, SKUAST Kashmir and IIT Jammu.

The meeting witnessed the presence of eminent dignitaries, government representatives, academic leaders, and innovators from across the region. The Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology, IT, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Shri Satish Sharma, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Shahid Choudary, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, joined as the Guest of Honor. Four start-ups incubated and mentored at SKUAST Kashmir's SKIEE

Center were also launched during the event

In his address, Shri Sharma highlighted the region's potential to emerge as a hub of innovation and technological excellence and praised the efforts of PI Rahi and SKUAST Kashmir in this direction.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Nasir Shah, Additional Director, J&K S&T Council, followed by addresses from Neha Arora, COO, PI-RAHI, and Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora, Advisor, PI-RAHI, who shared the vision and scope of the regional innovation cluster.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, emphasized the critical role of research institutions in nurturing innovations and ensuring technology reach for the farming community and highlighted the role that SKUAST Kashmir is playing in this direction. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to Government, S&T Department also delivered insightful addresses outlining the state's commitment to research-led development.

'Burn Fat, Not Fuel' Public Bicycles Remain Unused In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The much-hyped Srinagar Smart City Limited's public bicycle-sharing initiative, once launched under the catchy slogan 'Burn Fat, Not Fuel', has seemingly collapsed under the weight of poor planning, lack of infrastructure, and dismal public engagement.

Designed to promote eco-friendly commuting and healthy lifestyles, the initiative installed cycle docks at various prominent locations in the city. Today, however, rows of green-colored bicycles lie idle, untouched and gathering dust, as citizens increasingly view the project as a symbol of wasted potential.

While the vision was ambitious, to weave cycling into Srinagar's daily urban life, the execution, locals say, has been uninspiring at best. "The cycles are there, but no one uses them. Why would anyone, when there's no safe space to ride

them?" questioned a shopkeeper near Lal Chowk.

Absence of dedicated, uninterrupted cycling tracks has emerged as the primary concern. Where tracks do exist, residents complain they are either incomplete or encroached by roadside vendors, robbing cyclists of any sense of safety. "Cycling amidst honking cars and encroachments is more stressful than convenient," a college student said.

Moreover, the requirement of installing an app-based registration system to unlock the bikes has also discouraged many, particularly the elderly and those with limited digital literacy. "It's not user-friendly. Why can't it be simpler?" asked a commuter who once tried the service but never returned to it.

Adding to the project's woes is the lack of any awareness campaign or on-ground promotional drive from the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL). Residents say the initiative was launched with flair but forgot-

ten soon after. "There has been no motivation, no follow-up, no cycling events, not even posters. How do you expect people to adopt something they barely know about?" said a school teacher from Rajbagh.

According to KNT, citizens and civic groups now urge a critical reassessment of the project. "This initiative had promise, it could have helped reduce traffic congestion, cut down emissions, and promoted health. But it turned into a stillborn idea due to official indifference," remarked a local environmental activist.

Ironically, what was meant to encourage citizens to burn fat instead of fuel, has ended up burning public funds, with little to show in return.

Urban mobility experts believe that without dedicated lanes, easier access systems, community engagement, and a sustained promotional effort, such initiatives are bound to fail, no matter how noble the intent.


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- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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 - QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 05 Safar 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4: 04
	ZUHR	12:37
	ASR	5: 32
	Magrib	7:36
	ISHA	9: 09

This Day In History

- 30 BC - Battle of Alexandria: Mark Antony achieves minor victory over Octavian, but most of his army subsequently deserts, leading to Octavian's invasion of Egypt
- 432 - St Sixtus III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 781 - The oldest recorded eruption of Mt. Fuji (Traditional Japanese date: July 6, 781)
- 1291 - Egyptian Mamelukken occupies Akko, crusaders driven out of Palestine
- 1423 - Hundred Years' War: Battle of Cravant - the French army is defeated by the English on the banks of the river Yonne in Burgundy
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus discovers the island of Trinidad on his third voyage
- 1655 - Russo-Polish War (1654-1667): the Russian army enters the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Vilnius, which it holds for six years

Stray Dog Menace Sparks Fear In Jawahar Nagar Locality


Observer News Service

Srinagar: A growing stray dog menace has left residents of Srinagar's upscale Jawahar Nagar area in a state of distress, with the worst-affected zone being the vicinity of the DAV School and its adjoining interiors.

Locals say that packs

of stray dogs have overrun the streets, lanes, and bylanes, creating a hostile environment especially for school-going children and the elderly. "It has become impossible to step out early in the morning or late in the evening. School going children are constantly at risk," a resident told KNT.

The situation has reportedly worsened in recent weeks, with dogs frequently seen fighting, chasing pedestrians, and rummaging through overflowing garbage bins. The absence of an effective and sustained sterilization or relocation drive by municipal authorities has compounded the problem.



SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Abdul Ahad Bhat, S/o Mohammad Sabir Bhat, R/o Ratnipora, Pulwama — an Educationist — who passed away on 30th July 2025 after a brief illness.

All are requested to pray for the departed soul.

BEREAVED FAMILY
Prof. Mohd Yaqub Bhat (Son)
Nazir Ahmad Bhat (Son)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No. IIND SRINAGAR.

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058

email : exdrainage@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE No:- 09 /E-Tendering OF 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e- tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose Registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Depttl. materials (Amount in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan) (Rs.)	Head of Account
01.	Construction of drain including manholes at New Colony Mughal Mohalla Chattabal from Darasgah Sharif upto H/o Ab. Ahad Bhat	Rs.2.38	Rs.4760/-	CEE	10 Days	Rs.150/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (City Grants)
02.	Construction of CC drain incl. manholes at Baghinundsingh Chattabal Srinagar phase 2nd	Rs.39.75	Rs. 79,500/-	AAY/BEE	30 Days	Rs.2000/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
03.	Construction of Drain by way of interconnections of lateral drains at Bakshi lane Chattabal near chinar tree	Rs.31.95	Rs. 63,900/-	AAY/BEE	30 Days	Rs.1600/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
04.	Re-construction / upgradation of drain at SK Colony Sector I to Standard School Arampora Qamarwar Phase Ist	Rs.29.88	Rs. 59760/-	AAY/BEE	30 Days	Rs.1500/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
05.	Construction of concrete drain including manholes from H/o Ayoub Ahmad Zaroo upto outfall nallah in Sector-A1 Mohalla Bilalia, Hamdaniya Colony Bemina	Rs.9.94	Rs. 19,880/-	CEE/DEE	20 Days	Rs.500/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
06.	Clearance of drain, insertion of manhole covers & laying of Iron Trash in Hilal Colony S.D Colony Batamaloo Srinagar	Rs.7.61	Rs.15,200/-	CEE/DEE	15 Days	Rs.400/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
07.	Construction of Drain near Masjid Sharief Abu-Bakar (RA) from auto stand to chicken Poultry Shop at Lachmanpora Batamaloo W-23	Rs.14.66	Rs. 29,320/-	BEE/CEE/DEE	20 Days	Rs.750/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
08.	Construction of drain from Karra lane to Doodganga outfall	Rs.8.83	Rs. 17,660/-	CEE/DEE	15 Days	Rs.450/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)

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/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	26-07-2025
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	28-07-2025 from 11:00 A.M. to 16-08-2025 upto 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	28-07-2025 from 11:30 AM
04.	Bid Submission end Date	16-08-2025 upto 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	18-08-2025 at 11.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Daresh Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with Sl. No. of NIT/ work Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR (Earnest Money) Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity, verification Cell No. and e-mail address NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by bidder BOQ

I. In case the bids are found unbalanced, the Successful bidder has to produce/ deposit additional performance security in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids, as per below break-ups. The additional performance security shall be released after the successful report of the AEE concerned.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid Viz, Advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security to be deposited of the Contract cost
01	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
02	Greater than 15% & upto 20% below	5.00%
03	Greater than 20% & upto 25% below	10.00%
04	Greater than 25% & upto 30% below	15.00%
05	Greater than 30% below	20.00%

II. In addition to above the successful bidder has to produce/ deposit Performance security i.e., 05% (Five Percent) of the value of contract in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids. The performance security shall be released after the Defective Liability (DLP) period of the work

III. In case of the bids the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the L1 based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to be present

IV. The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.

V. Bidders are advised to read the NIT carefully before participate in the Bidding process.

VI. Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e., between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date.

VII. The Contract shall be awarded only after obtaining Administrative Approval from Competent Authority and release of funds on BEAMS portal by the Finance Department.

NO.S&D-II/ 1266
DIPK-4515/25

Dated:- 30.07.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
S&D Division IInd, Sgr.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Build On The Stability

Home Minister Amit Shah’s statement in Parliament that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has dropped by nearly 80 per cent in the past decade is significant. He said the union territory has witnessed a steep fall in terror incidents, civilian casualties, and attacks on security forces, a reality borne out by the data. According to figures he shared, while 7,217 incidents occurred between 2004 and 2014, the number fell to 2,150 from 2015 to 2025. Civilian deaths came down from 1,770 to 357 and security personnel deaths from 1,060 to 542.

Shah credited this change to the Centre’s post-2019 policies, especially the revocation of Article 370. The abrogation remains contentious in the Valley, but the government believes it allowed for tighter administrative and security control, resulting in what it calls the “destruction of terror infrastructure.” The Home Minister also praised Operation Mahadev, a recent offensive said to have wiped out lingering terror cells, and claimed that not a single terrorist in the region today is of Indian origin, a bold assertion that shows a shift in both the geography and psychology of militancy in the region.

However, this security narrative needs to be examined alongside other ground realities. The revival of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir is a key marker. Over the past two years, the region has seen a dramatic uptick in tourist footfall. From the Dal Lake to the meadows of Gulmarg and the spiritual routes of Vaishno Devi, the numbers have soared. Hotels are running at full capacity during the summer months, and new routes, including homestays in offbeat locations like Bungus Valley and Doodhpathri, are gaining popularity. This is a silent but powerful vote of confidence in the improving security situation.

Yet, J&K has still some way to go. The path ahead can be complex and fraught. More time is needed for the stability to culminate into a long-term peace. Nevertheless, an 80 per cent decline in terror is no small feat. It is a rare moment of optimism in a region longmarred by violence and despair. What we need to for this stability to sustainis for this to be matched with political outreach and sustained economic growth. The progress tourism needs to be backed up with investment in the economy and job creation. This can give the youth a stake in the altered state of affairs.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

The Ethics of Everyday

Legal awareness, self-respect, and responsibility can reshape Kashmir, if we make them part of everyday life.

Irshad Mushtaq

Real change in Kashmir will come when we take charge of how we live, treat others, and understand the systems that govern us. That starts with three things: knowing the law, building self-respect, and taking responsibility. Too often, we wait for institutions to fix themselves. We forget that a healthy society begins with informed citizens. When people understand their rights, and their duties, they are harder to fool, quicker to act, and stronger in the face of injustice.

Accountability isn’t just for those in power. It belongs in homes, schools, and workplaces. When people are held responsible for their words and actions, trust grows. Systems work better. And leadership starts to mean something.

Kashmir also needs a revival of self-respect. That doesn’t mean pride. It means living with integrity, doing honest work, and choosing the harder right over the easier wrong.

Discipline matters too. Without it, good intentions collapse. Discipline is what pushes someone to finish school, stay out of trouble, and keep going when things are tough. It turns dreams into action.

And there’s power in being financially aware. When young Kashmiris learn to manage money, they protect themselves. They also gain the freedom to build lives with less fear, more focus, and real stability.

This isn’t theory, it’s a path, a practical one. One person starts, others follow. And slowly, a stronger Kashmir begins to form from the ground up.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

As July 2025 marks five years since the ratification of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, India stands at a pivotal point in its education reform journey.

Designed as a sweeping roadmap to reshape the nation’s learning landscape, this policy lays out a vision for an inclusive, flexible, and skill-oriented education system.

It imagines a country where learning is deeply grounded in India’s cultural ethos, and where students develop strong cognitive abilities, critical thinking skills, and a deep sense of ethical and social responsibility.

At its core, NEP 2020 is a deliberate move to reconnect India’s education system with its rich intellectual and cultural roots.

By promoting indigenous knowledge traditions that were long overlooked or marginalized, the policy does more than set academic goals. It seeks to restore a sense of intellectual independence.

Its success, therefore, must be measured not just in test scores or literacy rates, but in how effectively it reclaims and integrates India’s civilizational heritage into modern learning.

Among the most significant shifts NEP 2020 introduced is its strong emphasis on multilingual education and mother tongue-based instruction.

The policy recommends that children receive instruction in their mother tongue or local language at least through Grade 5, and preferably until Grade 8. This departure from previous policy frameworks marks a new clarity of purpose and direction.

Over the past five years, meaningful strides have been made toward promoting linguistic inclusion.

According to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020–21, instruction for Grades 1 to 5 is now delivered in 28 Indian languages. This reflects a conscious recognition of the country’s linguistic diversity.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has approved the use of local languages for technical education, with 19 institutions in 10 states already implementing this change.

National-level entrance exams such as the JEE and NEET are now offered in 13 Indian languages, broadening access for students across the country.

The DIKSHA portal supports these efforts by providing textbooks and teaching resources in 33 Indian languages, including Indian Sign Language, for Grades 1 through 12.

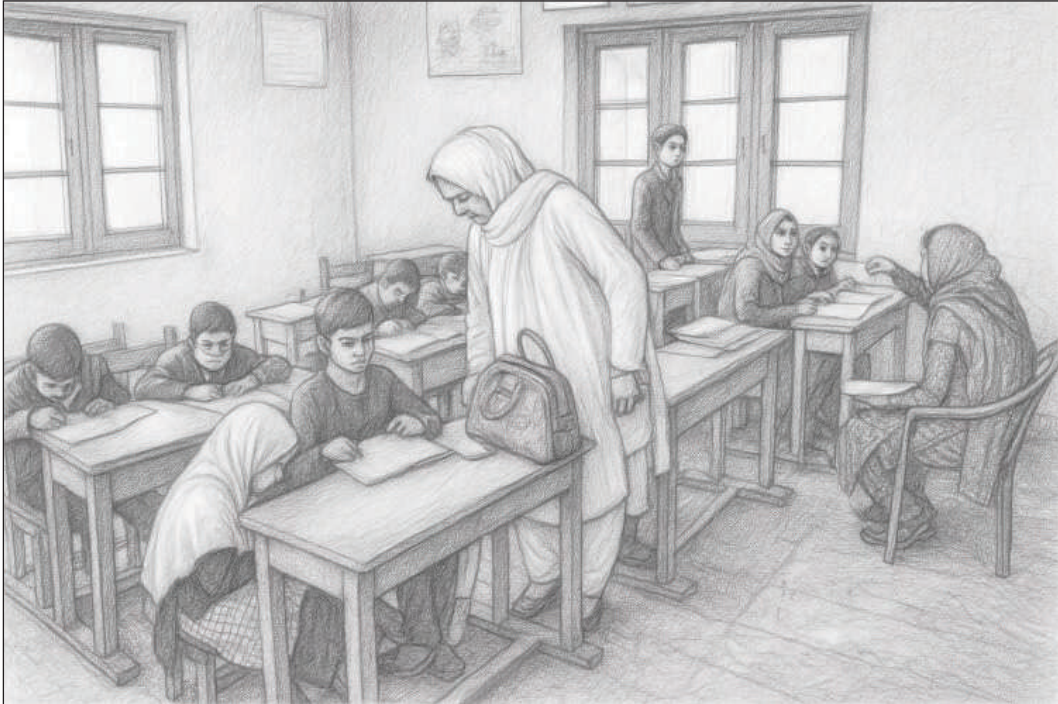
Early indicators suggest these initiatives are beginning to yield results.

The ASER 2024 report notes gains in foundational reading and arithmetic skills, particularly in government schools. These improvements point to the benefits of instruction in familiar languages, helping children grasp concepts more confidently and retain knowledge more effectively.

The NEP also reaffirms the three-language formula, giving priority to the mother tongue

India’s New Education Vision

Five years after NEP 2020, the shift to local languages and indigenous knowledge is reshaping how young Indians learn.



Five years into its journey, NEP 2020 has established itself as a bold and necessary roadmap for reimagining education in India.

or regional language, alongside Hindi and English. This model aims to build linguistic versatility, encouraging both cultural rootedness and global competence.

Still, implementing this approach has been far from simple.

Some states, such as Tamil Nadu, remain firm in their preference for a two-language model, reflecting deeper political and cultural concerns.

Moreover, the All India School Education Survey (AISES) reveals a declining trend in mother tongue education in urban schools, where English is often perceived as a more valuable tool for upward mobility.

These tensions underscore the challenges of balancing educational best practices with societal aspirations and perceptions.

Another central aim of NEP 2020 is to bring India’s civilizational knowledge into the mainstream, particularly through the structured integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). This effort seeks to harmonize traditional wisdom with contemporary learning to address current societal needs while nurturing moral, humanistic, and constitutional values.

Implementing IKS involves significant curriculum reforms led by institutions such as NCERT and SCERTs. The goal is to include age-appropriate and relevant content rooted in India’s knowledge traditions.

The teaching methods being promoted emphasize hands-on, project-based, and inquiry-driven learning instead of rote memorization.

For instance, new Class 6 science textbooks now include Sanskrit shlokas, traditional units like angula (a unit based on finger width), and local stories about celestial bodies, clear examples of how ancient knowledge is being made relevant to today’s learners.

In higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has mandated that at least 5 percent of academic credits in undergraduate and postgraduate programs be dedicated to IKS-related coursework.

The creation of dedicated IKS Research Centers and Teacher Training Centers is underway, and digital platforms such as DIK-

SHA and SWAYAM are being leveraged to make open educational resources available on IKS themes.

These are foundational steps toward building an education system that respects and reflects India’s unique knowledge ecosystem.

Still, the path to full implementation remains complex.

Teacher shortages, especially in regional and classical languages, persist, and many educators lack specialized training in multilingual instruction or in teaching IKS effectively.

The success of both these initiatives depends heavily on building a professional, well-resourced, and motivated teaching workforce.

The government remains committed to realizing the NEP’s full potential by 2030–40, in alignment with the broader “Viksit Bharat 2047” vision for national development.

This long-term goal places education reform at the heart of India’s future, emphasizing that investing in knowledge, values, and skills is fundamental to becoming a truly developed nation.

Five years into its journey, NEP 2020 has established itself as a bold and necessary roadmap for reimagining education in India. It provides a forward-looking framework to equip the country’s youth with the tools they need to navigate an ever-changing world, while staying connected to their cultural inheritance.

The road ahead will require steady resolve, sustained cooperation among stakeholders at every level, and flexible strategies that adapt to the needs of learners and communities.

Yet the promise is clear: to build an education system that is fair, inclusive, and truly empowering, one that prepares every learner to contribute meaningfully to both national development and global progress.

The author is the Vice Chancellor of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur. He brings decades of experience in academia and educational leadership, and is known for championing educational reforms.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir’s Fragile Landscapes Are Falling Apart

From the alpine meadows of Sonamarg to the shimmering waters of Dal and Wular, the valley’s beauty carries generations of meaning. But all of it is now under growing threat.

In places like Gulmarg, Dachigam National Park, Hokersar, and Haigam, the signs are clear: forests are thinning, wetlands are vanishing, glaciers are retreating. And with every passing season, the changes feel more permanent.

In Sopore, where I grew up, elders still talk about the wetlands as if they are alive. Today, many of those wetlands have shrunk or disappeared altogether.

A scientist at the University of Kashmir put it plainly: in just two decades, half of our wetlands have been lost. Forest cover is declining. Glaciers are melting faster. These are the daily reality in the region.

The causes are many, and they

all point to us. Tourism has exploded without much planning. There’s no serious waste management in high-altitude tourist zones. Forest land is being encroached upon, sometimes illegally and sometimes by design. Sewage flows unchecked into rivers and lakes. And urban expansion, especially around Srinagar, is swallowing up green zones.

Then there is the changing climate. Snowfall patterns have become unpredictable. Glaciers no longer behave the way older generations remember. Weather is erratic, and so are the rivers that depend on it.

We saw what that meant in 2014, when the valley experienced one of its worst floods. Entire neighbourhoods were washed away. Thousands were displaced. Experts later said the damage could have been reduced if wetlands had not been encroached upon. But here we are, nearly a decade later, and the story is repeating

itself, just in slower motion.

The impact is everywhere. Farmers are facing erratic seasons. Apple orchards are flowering too early or too late. Saffron fields are drying out. Rice paddies don’t get enough water. Water sources are polluted, and that has led to a rise in disease.

And there’s more at stake than just livelihoods. Kashmir’s economy depends on tourism, and tourism depends on nature. If the snow thins out in Gulmarg or the Dal loses its sparkle, visitors will stop coming. That would be devastating.

Nature is livelihood as well as identity in Kashmir. This land is part of who we are. The forests, lakes, and rivers carry our memories. Our songs, crafts, and customs are tied to them. To lose the environment is to lose something far deeper than scenic beauty.

So what can be done?
Experts say we need clear rules

for tourism, especially in mountain zones. Footfall should be limited. There must be strict checks on construction and pollution. Wetlands should be revived, not drained. Forests should be replanted. The laws for protecting land and water already exist. They just need to be enforced.

And without local communities involved, none of this will last. People must be part of the solution, through awareness campaigns, village-level conservation work, and schools that teach children how to care for their own surroundings.

Right now, Kashmir is at a tipping point. If these trends continue, the land will not be able to recover. The beauty that brings poets to write and tourists to marvel could soon turn into memory.

And once it’s gone, it won’t come back.

Sincerely

Rameez Rashid Bhat
Bomai Zaingeer, Sopore

The Old Guards Kashmir Needs Today

As rural Kashmir battles addiction and administrative disorder, it's time to revive the overlooked power of traditional village sentinels.

Mohammad Amin Mir

I grew up in a south Kashmir village where everyone knew everyone. If a stranger passed by or a dispute flared up over land boundaries, it was the lumberdar or chowkidar who stepped in. They didn't wear uniforms or hold degrees, but they carried something rarer: the village's trust.

Today, I rarely hear their names mentioned in serious conversations about rural policy or reform. Their duties have become symbolic, their roles reduced to lines in revenue files.

And yet, the village is hurting again, just in newer, more complicated ways.

Across Jammu & Kashmir, especially in rural districts, heroin, opioids, and synthetic drugs have begun to hollow out communities. Young men who once helped harvest apples or attend college now loiter, lost and restless.

Families stay silent out of shame. Villagers whisper but don't report. Local police are stretched thin. The social fabric is tearing apart, and we are running out of hands to hold it together.

This is where I believe we must return to the idea of the lumberdar and chowkidar.

Historically, lumberdars were village-level heads who collected revenue, mediated conflicts, and kept the government informed about life in the village. Chowkidars acted as watchmen who reported unnatural deaths, crimes, or sudden disturbances.

These weren't high-profile positions. They were embedded in the everyday rhythms of rural life.

Though their legal status still exists in parts of J&K, their salaries, often just honorariums, and official roles have withered. Their local wisdom, however, remains alive. They know who owns what, who recently returned from jail, whose sons dropped out of school, and which panchayat decision stirred tension.

This knowledge can be transformative if we dare to use it again.

The fight against drugs in Kashmiri villages needs more than police raids and awareness camps. It needs eyes on the ground, people



Kashmiri old man smoking a traditional hookah pipe.

Representational Photo.

who notice when a new vehicle starts coming around at night or when a teenager's routine suddenly changes.

Lumberdars and chowkidars can help track suspicious activity, alert families early, and support rehabilitation efforts. With training and a legal mandate, they can become partners in prevention.

Imagine a village cell, headed by the lumberdar, assisted by the chowkidar, filing a monthly report to the block officer. They note signs of drug circulation, changes in school attendance, and new outsiders moving in. It sounds basic, but it's the sort of low-cost, community-led monitoring we're missing.

Apart from drug crisis, they can help in land reforms.

Digitizing land records was a much-needed reform, and J&K has made notable progress with its JAMABANDI and GIS-linked

databases. But many records still contain errors. Oral partitions are missing, names of deceased owners linger, and encroachments go unreported.

Patwaris alone cannot verify everything on the ground. Chowkidars and lumberdars, with their local memory and deep village ties, are best placed to cross-check documents with reality. They can flag inaccuracies, explain disputes, and even help settle longstanding confusion between families.

If we ignore them, digital land

records risk becoming neat lies in a neat system.

To make this work, we need more than goodwill. We need policy.

Start by offering proper salaries: ₹10,000 a month would recognize their time and dignity. Train them in digital tools. Give them identity cards and mandate their involvement in Panchayat planning. Let them learn to send geo-tagged photos, access WhatsApp coordination groups with revenue and police officials, and submit basic monthly reports.

We should not fear giving them power. We should fear what happens when no one is watching.

Some may argue they are too old or uneducated. That's true in some cases. So let them nominate younger assistants. Let them remain as advisors. Let the system evolve, not be discarded.

There's also the risk of misuse: reporting rivals or shielding culprits. But performance reviews, community feedback, and grievance mechanisms can reduce this. Every system has faults. The solution is to



IN PUNJAB, SOME BORDER VILLAGES USE CHOWKIDARS AS OFFICIAL INFORMANTS IN ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGNS, rewarding credible tips. In Himachal Pradesh, they help monitor illegal logging. Bangladesh uses village police in land disputes and flood warnings. Even Estonia and Rwanda have models where village-level workers validate digital land records.

fix them, not abandon the idea.

In Punjab, some border villages use chowkidars as official informants in anti-drug campaigns, rewarding credible tips. In Himachal Pradesh, they help monitor illegal logging. Bangladesh uses village police in land disputes and flood warnings. Even Estonia and Rwanda have models where village-level workers validate digital land records.

Why can't J&K build its own?

Start with 40 villages: 20 facing drug challenges, 20 with known land disputes. Monitor outcomes for six months. Let policy evolve from the ground up, like it should.

There is still something sacred about the person who lives among us, yet holds responsibility for the village's wellbeing. That's what the lumberdar and chowkidar once stood for. They don't belong in dusty files. They belong in active governance.

At a time when rural Kashmir faces both invisible threats and digital transitions, we need them as guardians of a new kind.

Let us bring them back: trained, trusted, and transformed. The village has always needed someone to look out for it. That someone is still here. We only have to knock.

The author is a policy commentator and legal researcher based in Jammu & Kashmir. He writes on land governance, rural administration, and social justice.

OPD Cover in Health Insurance in India

As more Indians turn to regular care outside hospitals, OPD Cover is becoming a vital shield for everyday health expenses.

Bhaskar Nerurkar

A typical Indian family doesn't visit the hospital every year. But most of them visit a doctor.

They pick up prescribed medicines, undergo diagnostic tests, and go for preventive check-ups. These expenses are routine, frequent, and expensive.

Yet for years, health insurance in India has turned away from them.

The focus has remained on in-patient hospitalisation. Only if you're admitted - say for a surgery, accident, or serious illness - does your insurance step in. For everything else, from a sore throat to blood pressure checks to recurring medication, you pay out of pocket.

This gap is no longer sustainable.

Outpatient Department (OPD) coverage is emerging as an essential solution. It helps cover medical expenses that don't require hospitalisation. Doctor consultations, diagnostic tests, prescribed medicines, preventive care, and even minor procedures are done in clinics.

The OPD cover offers support where most Indians actually spend their healthcare money.

The numbers speak for themselves. Over 60 percent of all healthcare spending in India is borne directly by individuals. A large chunk of that spending happens outside hospitals.

For a family managing diabetes, asthma, or thyroid issues, or caring for young children or elderly parents, the visits to doctors and pharmacies never stop. These aren't emergencies. They



are part of daily life.

That's exactly why OPD cover is gaining momentum.

An OPD-enabled policy allows you to claim the costs of doctor visits and tests or access cashless services at partnered clinics and labs. It turns insurance into a tool for everyday health needs, not just rare emergencies. It helps families make timely decisions, without waiting for a problem to grow serious enough to warrant hospitalisation.

Take diagnostic tests. Doctors now routinely ask for blood panels, lipid profiles, X-rays,

and scans, even during general check-ups. These aren't cheap, especially in private facilities.

In urban centres, a full-body test package can cost more than a week's salary for many workers. OPD cover offsets these expenses and gives people access to necessary care without delay.

Medicines are another significant cost. From antibiotics for seasonal illnesses to lifelong medication for chronic diseases, pharmacy bills pile up quickly. A family managing hypertension and diabetes may spend thousands each month on prescriptions alone. Some OPD policies



Insurance is supposed to offer peace of mind. That can't happen if it stays locked behind the hospital gate.

now cover these bills, reducing financial stress on households and ensuring continued care.

Preventive care is finally gaining recognition in India. More people are asking for annual health check-ups. They want to catch signs early, before they become problems. OPD cover supports this shift. It allows insured individuals to track their health regularly, instead of only reacting when something goes wrong.

Minor surgeries and daycare treatments are also evolving. Procedures like mole removal, cyst drainage, or small infections no longer need hospital beds. They can be handled in clinics. These procedures may

seem routine, but they still carry costs. An OPD policy that includes daycare coverage ensures people don't delay necessary treatment.

Several trends are driving this demand.

Healthcare costs are climbing steadily. A consultation with a specialist can cost between ₹800 and ₹2,000 in most metro cities. Add the price of a test or two, and you're suddenly spending a sizeable part of your income. For most Indians, this is a serious burden.

Lifestyles are changing too. Stress, diet, and pollution have led to a rise in non-communicable diseases. Conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and joint pain don't always need hospitalisation, but they need life-long monitoring. OPD coverage supports people in this middle space, where you aren't severely sick, but you need care often.

Medical science has also changed. Earlier, some illnesses required days of hospital stay. Now, many of them are managed on an outpatient basis. Technology has made diagnoses faster and treatment shorter. The insurance model must match this reality.

More people are now aware of what they need from health insurance. The old idea of coverage, paying only when you're in a hospital bed, is losing ground. Policyholders want health plans that match the way they use care: frequent, local, preventive.

Insurers have started to adapt. Several plans now offer OPD benefits, either bundled into the policy or as an optional

add-on. These plans may have slightly higher premiums, but the coverage they offer in day-to-day expense management more than makes up for the cost. They help families seek care when they need it, not when they can afford it.

From an industry perspective, this shift is healthy. When patients receive early attention, diseases are detected earlier. This leads to fewer complications, better outcomes, and lower hospitalisation rates. OPD coverage isn't just good for individuals. It's good for the system.

The next phase in India's health insurance evolution lies in bridging the gap between emergencies and everyday health. OPD cover is that bridge.

It encourages people to go to the doctor early. It gives parents the confidence to act on a child's fever. It supports the elderly in getting regular check-ups. It helps working professionals manage stress-related symptoms before they become full-blown conditions.

Insurance is supposed to offer peace of mind. That can't happen if it stays locked behind the hospital gate.

For India's growing, ageing, and health-conscious population, OPD cover is a necessity.

It's time we stop treating it as an add-on and start seeing it for what it really is: an essential part of everyday healthcare.

-The author heads the Health Administration Team at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. This article has been edited for clarity and precision.

CUKashmir starts VBYCP activities with ‘Open Mic Talk’

Observer News Service

Ganderbal, July 30: Central University of Kashmir's (CUK) Dean Students Welfare (DSW) Wednesday kickstarted its week-long series of youth-centric events under the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYCP), "Fostering Engagement and Leadership in the Developmental Transformation of India," with an Open Mic Talk themed "Viksit Bharat@2047: Voice of Youth".

Speaking on the occasion, the event in charge, Dr. Himabindu, emphasized the importance of young voices in shaping policies, technologies, and ideologies that will define India's progress by 2047 – the centenary of its independence. She said the Open Mic talk provided an inclusive platform for students to express their aspirations, creative ideas, and policy suggestions. She further said the upcoming events including debates, essay and poster competitions, and other activities—each aligned with the idea of empowering Yuva Shakti (youth power) in the making



of a developed and self-reliant India.

In his speech, Dr. Harpal Singh, said, the Open Mic format encourages spontaneity, creativity, and confidence, allowing students to deliver speeches, and reflections on what Viksit Bharat means to them personally and collectively. He praised the students for their conviction.

Dr. Sumreena Geelani, who conducted the programme proceedings, said the event demonstrated that the classroom

is not the only space where learning thrives. "Platforms like the Open Mic cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and civic consciousness—skills that are indispensable for the builders of Viksit Bharat."

Nodal Officer-Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, Dr. Adil Amin Nazki, in his address said, "This event is not just about words—it's about forging a national narrative driven by the aspirations of our youth." "By encouraging dialogue, leadership, and active civic

participation, the programme seeks to place the youth at the heart of India's developmental journey over the next two decades," he added.

Thereafter the students from various departments touched on a wide range of topics—from gender equity and digital empowerment to innovation, and social justice and inclusion. Some emphasized the importance of ethical governance and inclusive growth. Dr. Harpal Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

BIS J&K Branch Laboratory Hosts Stakeholder Consultation Seminar With Academia & Laboratories

Observer News Service

Jammu: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Laboratory, organized a dedicated stakeholder consultation seminar under the theme "BIS-ACADEMIA-LABORATORIES: Harnessing Accredited Testing Infrastructure to Enhance the Quality, Credibility, and Reach of BIS Standards."

The seminar was graced by the presence of Nishat S Haque, Scientist G and Deputy Director General (Lab), as the Chief Guest. Also present were Ajay Tiwari, Head of LPPD; Rajat Gupta, Scientist D; and Partha Sarthi Mondal, Head of NRL. All dignitaries delivered insightful speeches, elaborating on the objectives of the stakeholder consultation and underlining the importance of robust testing infrastructure in upholding BIS standards.

During the seminar, the speakers highlighted both the upcoming and ongoing Quality Control Orders (QCOs), and emphasized the need for greater collaboration between



academia, government laboratories, and BIS. The representatives urged academia and government labs to get empanelled with BIS for the testing of products as per relevant Indian Standards (IS), outlining the significance and benefits of such partnerships. Laboratories with adequate testing facilities were encouraged to associate

with BIS and contribute to the enhanced credibility and reach of BIS standards by participating in sample testing.

This stakeholder consultation marks a significant step toward strengthening collaborations, enhancing product quality, and ensuring the wider implementation of BIS standards across Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

India Revives Strategic

paperwork. At various points, it ran into resistance from environmental groups, legal petitions, and uneasy residents in nearby villages.

Some feared the loss of land, others worried about the impact on the local ecology. And the fact that the project lies in a seismically active zone added another layer of hesitation.

Plans were drawn, scrapped, and reworked. In its earlier avatar, the project was much smaller. Over time, however, it was scaled up to include nine turbines and an underground power station.

The reservoir alone is expected to store over 500 million cubic meters of water, roughly a fifth of the capacity of Delhi's Bhakra Dam.

Even as engineers refined the technical details, the cost estimates ballooned. From an initial plan that hovered around 8,000 crore, the price tag now stands at over 22,000 crore. With inflation, delay penalties, and logistical uncertainties, experts suggest that the final figure could cross 30,000 crore if the pace slows again.

The breakthrough came in June 2025, when the central government classified Sawalkote as a project of "national importance."

The tag is expected to cut through red tape, fast-track clearances, and give NHPC greater freedom in appointing contractors.

The move also fits into a wider strategic framework.

India has been re-evaluating its use of rivers allocated under the Indus Waters Treaty, especially the Chenab. After suspending implementation of the treaty earlier this year, the government has shifted focus toward maximizing the potential of its western rivers.

In this context, Sawalkote is also a statement of intent.

Energy analysts say the project could become a cornerstone in India's push toward cleaner and more reliable sources of electricity.

Jammu and Kashmir currently imports a large share of its power during winters, when local generation drops and demand peaks. A functioning Sawalkote station could ease that gap and also supply surplus electricity to the national grid.

Still, the road ahead is steep. Previous projects in the region have faced backlash when environmental safeguards were overlooked.

In nearby Kishtwar, flash floods have grown more frequent, raising questions about the impact of large reservoirs on local ecosystems. Engineers working on Sawalkote say newer safety and seismic guidelines are being followed, but local trust remains fragile.

"People here have heard of Sawalkote for as long as I can remember," said Ghulam Rasool, a schoolteacher in Ramban district. "Now they want to see whether this time something really happens."

For now, the machines have yet to arrive. The river still flows untouched. But with a formal tender now in place, Sawalkote is finally moving beyond blueprints.

Trump's Tariffs

when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine, he said.

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 percent plus a penalty for the above starting on August 1," the US president said.

There is no immediate reaction from India on Trump's announcement.

A team from the US is scheduled to visit India next month for the next round of negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

India and the US teams concluded the fifth round of talks for the agreement last week in Washington.

India's chief negotiator and special secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch held the deliberations.

Studying Implications

The government, an official statement said, will take all necessary steps to secure the country's national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements, including the

latest with the UK.

Trump announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India, plus an unspecified penalty for buying military equipment and crude oil from Russia.

"The Government has taken note of a statement by the US President on bilateral trade. The Government is studying its implications," the statement said.

It added that India and the US have been engaged in negotiations on concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement over the last few months.

"We remain committed to that objective," the statement said.

"The government attaches the utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of farmers, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs. The Government will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements, including the latest comprehensive economic and trade agreement with the UK," it added.

The two countries are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) from March with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade in goods and services to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion. So far five rounds of talks have been completed.

For the sixth round of talks, the US team is visiting India from August 25.

They are aiming to conclude the first phase of the agreement by fall (September-October) this year. The two sides are also looking at an interim trade deal before the BTA.

Under Modi Govt

involving J&K Police, CRPF, and 4 Para was prepared and executed with precision," he said.

Responding to criticism over the timing of the operation coinciding with the start of the Parliament session, Shah said, "Had it been possible, I'd have ordered it within a minute of the attack. These aren't planned events. They depend on intelligence, precision, and timing."

Calling Operation Sindoor and Mahadev India's strongest-ever reply to terrorism, Shah added, "Har Har Mahadev was once Shivaji Maharaj's call to action. Today, it symbolizes India's resolve."

Taking a sharp dig at the Congress, he said, "PoK was lost under your rule. It is the BJP that will bring it back." He also slammed opposition interruptions during his speech. "Who were you trying to save? Lashkar-e-Taiba?" Shah asked, adding that P. Chidambaram's remarks had "exposed the Congress before the nation."

No US Mediation

Jaishankar clarified that no phone calls took place between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump between April 22, the day of the Pahalgam terror attack, and June 16. "There was no mediation, no pressure. The decision was India's alone," he said.

The Opposition had earlier seized on Trump's comments, alleging that Washington had mediated a ceasefire using trade leverage. Jaishankar dismissed this, reiterating India's policy of zero tolerance towards cross-border terrorism.

Calling the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack "absolutely unacceptable," he said Pakistan had "crossed a red line," and that accountability was non-negotiable. "Blood and water will not flow together," he added, referencing India's decision to suspend the Indus Water Treaty, originally signed by Jawaharlal Nehru, which he said was an act of appeasement, not peace.

Jaishankar said India acted decisively through Operation Sindoor, striking terror infrastructure in Pakistan, including Bahawalpur and Muridke. He emphasized that India will continue to respond to terrorism in the same firm manner going forward.

He credited the Modi government's efforts for putting terrorism high on the global agenda, noting that despite not being a UN Security Council member, India succeeded in getting The Resistance Front (TRF)—a proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba—designated as a terror group.

Detailing the government's timeline of response, Jaishankar said the Cabinet Committee on Security met on April 23, a day after the

attack, to authorise immediate action. He also revealed that US Vice President J.D. Vance had informed PM Modi on May 9 of a possible large-scale Pakistani strike. Modi responded that India would deliver an appropriate answer. "And we did," Jaishankar told the House.

He also rebutted opposition criticism of the operation. "Those who mock our actions should watch videos of the funerals of terrorists and damaged Pakistani airfields," he said. Operation Sindoor, he added, has now become the foundation of a new strategic doctrine.

Addressing questions about his recent visit to China, the Minister said it focused on terrorism, de-escalation, and trade. "There was no secret meeting," he added, in a veiled jab at Congress leadership.

He concluded by thanking the multi-party parliamentary delegation that visited foreign capitals post-Operation Sindoor, calling their effort "great national service."

2 Killed In Poonch

terrorists in the area," a defence spokesperson said.

"Acting swiftly on the inputs, the security forces laid coordinated ambushes on the possible infiltration routes. A fierce gunfight ensued between the security forces and terrorists along the Line of Control, leading to the neutralisation of two terrorists and recovery of large quantities of war-like stores," he said.

According to the spokesperson, swift, co-ordinated and decisive action by the security forces prevented any collateral damage and ensured the safety of the local population.

The recovered war-like stores include two assault rifles with ammunition, one pistol with ammunition, hand grenades, two improvised explosive devices, medicines, communication device and other logistic stores, the spokesperson said.

He said the huge recovery of war-like and logistics stores indicates that the terrorists were well-prepared for prolonged engagement.

"This operation highlights a high level of synergy, coordination and commitment on the part of the Indian Army and other security agencies towards maintaining peace and security in the region. Search operation is in progress in the surrounding areas to rule out the presence of any more terrorists in the area," the Army said.

The officials said troops on ambush duty, following information about possible attempts by LeT terrorists to sneak into this side, saw the movement of infiltrating terrorists in the Maldivan area of Degwar sector on the intervening night of July 29 and 30.

The terrorists opened fire on the ambush party and in the ensuing encounter, which lasted several hours, two terrorists were hit. A search operation was launched with the first light of the day and both the terrorists were confirmed dead in the encounter, they said.

ACB Raids Ex-Cop

his legitimate earnings as a public servant.

Among the properties unearthed during the verification is a two-storied residential house built on ancestral land at Hugam in Srigufwara area of Anantnag, a lavish mansion on a 1 kanal 10 marla plot at Machbhawan Mattan, and a one-third ownership share in Hotel Grand Lords in Movora, Pahalgam. Additionally, a double-storied house at Tawi Vihar in Sidra, Jammu, was also identified as part of the suspect wealth.

The ACB subsequently registered FIR No. 03/2025 under sections 13(1)(b) read with 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 at Police Station ACB Anantnag. Following this, search warrants were obtained from the Hon'ble Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court, Anantnag.

Raids were carried out simultaneously at multiple locations, including Hugam, Mattan, Pahalgam, Sidra Jammu, and a government-allotted police quarter in Bemina Srinagar, which was also under the occupation of the accused.

Sources said the raids were still underway at the time of filing this report. The ACB teams are closely examining financial documents, property papers, and other key evidence to trace the source of the assets and assess their market

value.

CM In Gujarat To

Governor himself admitted it was an intelligence and security failure in Pahalgam. If that's the case, someone must be held accountable," Abdullah said. "While three Pakistani terrorists have been neutralised, no action has been taken against those responsible for the lapses."

He also took aim at the Centre's long-standing claim that the abrogation of Article 370 would curb terrorism in the region. "It's been six years since Article 370 was removed. Terrorism has not ended," he said.

Despite the sharp criticism, the focus of Abdullah's Gujarat visit remained on rebuilding confidence and bringing back tourists. At a promotional event in Ahmedabad, he said, "We are here to promote J&K tourism and hope to welcome even more visitors from Gujarat in the future."

Boulder Hits Army

convoy in Ladakh around 1130h on 30 July 2025. Recovery action is in progress," it stated.

The Galwan sector is known for its unforgiving terrain and weather-induced hazards. Army convoys navigating these high-altitude passes frequently face natural challenges like landslides and rockfalls, especially during the monsoon season.

The mortal remains of the deceased soldiers are being transported with full military honors. The Army has initiated formal inquiries and necessary administrative actions following the incident.

Govt Makes

main function of Independence Day Celebrations, 2025, as part of their official duty. Any absence shall only be permissible with prior permission from their immediate superior," the circular reads.

The government has instructed all Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, and Managing Directors of PSUs, Corporations, and Boards to ensure strict compliance and attendance of their subordinates at the respective venues.

Major Doctor

junior staff," she said.

The Minister admitted that the healthcare system inherited a shortage of doctors, but pointed out that the present dispensation led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is working on it. "Several senior doctors—five or six—were appointed, and many consultants, previously removed, were posted in remote areas," she said.

She said, "Yes, there is a shortage, but alongside this, some doctors give more time to private practice instead of fulfilling their hospital duties—coming on time and attending to patients properly."

"During recent hospital inspections, many of these concerns were found to be valid. As a result, the government has decided to take strict action because here, emergencies are closed, OPDs are shut, and hospitals are left without proper services," she said.

The Minister also announced new measures to improve accountability and patient care. "Doctors should be available promptly when patients arrive. It is also necessary for doctors to wear nameplates with their names on their uniforms, so patients can easily identify their doctors, whether they are orthopedic specialists or from other departments," she said. (KNO)

13.6 Mn Mobile

Through this platform, the DoT has blocked 5.5 lakh handsets, deactivated 20,000 bulk SMS senders, and disconnected nearly 24 lakh WhatsApp accounts used in suspicious activities.

The Know Your Mobile Connections feature helped citizens identify and report unauthorized SIMs, resulting in 1.36 crore disconnections. Additionally, the ASTR AI system was used to detect fake mobile numbers, leading to 82 lakh more disconnections.

To curb international spoof calls, the DoT introduced a software solution that blocked 1.35

crore calls on day one, reducing such incidents by 97%. Now, only 3 lakh spoof calls are detected daily. Telecom companies are now required to flag these with "International Call" labels.

The government also deployed the Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) system to categorize user risk levels based on financial behavior. Shared with banks in real-time, the system has flagged 3.7 lakh users, blocked 3.04 lakh suspicious transactions, and frozen 1.55 lakh bank accounts. The RBI has mandated all banks to integrate FRI into their systems.

In a crackdown on Indian SIMs misused from Southeast Asia, 26 lakh roaming SIMs were disconnected and 1.3 lakh devices blocked.

BSNL Revival and 4G Push

Scindia also reported a rise in BSNL's subscriber base—from 8.55 crore to 9.1 crore—thanks to a 3.22 lakh crore revival package. A new decentralised strategy now mandates each telecom circle to draft its own business plan. A landmark 12-hour strategy session was recently held with all Chief General Managers.

On the technology front, India has successfully developed an indigenous 4G stack. C-DoT built the core software, Tejas Networks produced the hardware, and TCS is handling system integration. Of 95,000 sanctioned towers, 75,000 are operational, with 20,000 crore already spent. BSNL's 4G services are now live, with a 5G rollout in the pipeline. (inputs from KNO)

‘Over 1,400 URLs

to national interests.

"Many of these handles were operated from outside the country and were found actively involved in sharing false, anti-India narratives," the Minister said in a written reply.

The government took action under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which allows blocking of digital content in cases involving national security, public order, or the sovereignty of India.

According to the Minister, the URLs flagged during this period contained misleading content, provocative material targeting the armed forces and posts with communal overtones, largely traced to Pakistan-based accounts.

To monitor and respond in real time, the government established a centralised control unit, which remained operational round-the-clock. This unit, jointly managed by defence personnel, information agencies and the Press Information Bureau (PIB), functioned as a central command for identifying and countering online threats during the operation.

Vaishnav noted that the PIB's fact-checking team was actively involved in tracking false narratives and issuing timely clarifications. Verified information was shared with the public, and action was taken against posts found to be spreading disinformation.

He also informed the House that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued an advisory to media outlets on April 26. The advisory instructed news platforms to avoid live telecasts of defence activities or troop movements in order to protect operational details and public safety.

J&K Amends

with disability shall be entitled to equality, dignity and respect for their integrity on an equal basis with others," reads the notification.

The amendments provide that all prison infrastructure should be made accessible to prisoners with disabilities, in accordance with the Accessibility Standards and Guidelines notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

"Prisoners with disabilities should be provided with appropriate healthcare services, including psychiatric and psychological services, as well as access to rehabilitation programs and therapies," it states.

As per the amendments, all incoming prisoners shall be screened for disabilities at the time of admission.

"Relevant prison records should reflect their specific needs to ensure suitable accommodations and assistance," the notification adds.

It further states that prison staff should undergo regular training to sensitize them to the needs of prisoners with disabilities and to handle them appropriately.

LG Sinha Mourns Death Of Teacher In Road Accident

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: LG Manoj Sinha expressed deep sorrow over a tragic road accident in Behnipo-ra area of Handwara, in which a government school teacher, Irshad Ahmed Lone, lost his life and several others were injured.

"I am deeply grieved by the tragic road accident in Handwara. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the family of Shri Irshad Ahmed Lone who lost his life. I pray for the early recovery of those injured in this accident," the LG said in a condolence message.

Driving Skill Tests Postponed in Anantnag Due To Rain

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Anantnag, has postponed the driving skill test scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, 2025, due to inclement weather and intermittent rains across the region.

According to an official notice issued by ARTO Anantnag, the test will now be conducted on Wednesday, August 6, 2025.

The department cited safety concerns and unfavorable weather conditions as the reason for the rescheduling.

"Due to inclement weather and intermittent rains, the driving skill test scheduled for today stands postponed and has been rescheduled for August 6. The same has been conveyed through SMS as well," read the official notice issued by the ARTO office. (KNC)

ACB Probes Ex-Cop For Amassing Disproportionate Wealth

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has initiated a formal probe into allegations of amassing wealth disproportionate to known sources of income by a terminated police official, Selection Grade Constable Firdous Ahmad.

A secret verification by ACB into the conduct of the accused revealed that he had allegedly acquired a range of substantial assets, both movable and immovable, in his own name and those of his close family members, far exceeding his known income as a public servant.

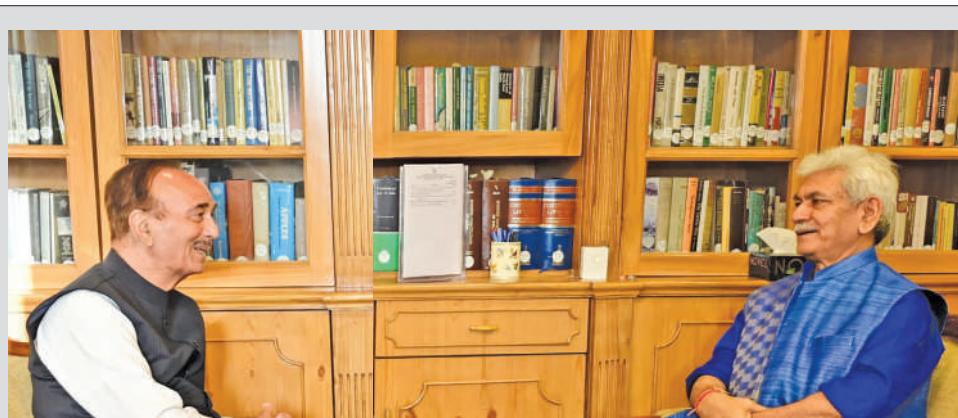
The properties unearthed during verification include a two-storied residential house built by the accused on ancestral land at Hugam in Srigufwara area of Anantnag district, a luxurious mansion on a 1 kanal 10 marla plot in the prime estate of Machbhawan Mattan, and a one-third ownership share in Hotel Grand Lords located at Movora, Tehsil Salar, Pahalgam. In addition, a double-storied house at Tawi Vihar, Sidra in Jammu was also identified as part of the suspected disproportionate wealth.

Subsequently, the ACB registered a case under FIR No. 03/2025 U/S 13(1)(b) read with 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 at Police Station ACB Anantnag against the terminated official.

Following registration of the FIR, the ACB obtained search warrants from the Hon'ble Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Anantnag to conduct raids at all the listed properties. During the course of searches, officials also discovered that Firdous Ahmad had been allotted a government police quarter at Police Housing Colony Bemina in Srinagar. This location was also searched under the authorization of SSP ACB Anantnag.

Simultaneous searches at all locations, Hugam, Mattan, Pahalgam, Sidra Jammu, and Bemina Srinagar, were launched by ACB teams, and according to officials, the raids were still ongoing at the time of filing this report.

Further investigation into the matter is in full swing, as the ACB continues to examine financial records, property documents, and other crucial evidence to determine the full extent of the assets and the sources behind their acquisition.



Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chief Minister of J&K and Chairman, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) called on LG Manoj Sinha on Wednesday. Azad discussed various important matters pertaining to the development of Jammu Kashmir.

Chouhan Reviews Preparations for PM-Kisan 20th Installment Event

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The next installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme will be released on August 2. A high-level meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, to review the preparations for the event, which will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi, and to ensure that the benefit reaches the maximum number of farmers.

Directors, Vice Chancellors, and heads of 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and agricultural universities virtually attended today's meeting.

The Union Minister instructed officials to connect farmers at national, state, district, and village levels with the programme, and called for organising the event as a nationwide campaign.

While giving directions to KVKs, Chouhan emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, ₹6,000 is being transferred to farmers in three installments, with each installment issued every four months. KVKs play a vital role in this



process. He called for early preparations and stated that the programme should be celebrated as both a festival and a mission, as it ensures Direct Benefit Transfer and serves as a public awareness campaign.

The Union Minister also urged farmers to actively participate in the August 2 event, stating that it is an opportunity to benefit from the scheme and also stay informed about agricultural development programmes.

Chouhan instructed officials to use grassroots workers such as Krishi Sakhis, Drone Didis, Bank Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis, Bima Sakhis, and Gram Panchayat Sarpanches to widely disseminate information about the event. He added that interaction with

farmers about Kharif crops during this time would be highly effective in building engagement.

Chouhan affirmed that, under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, the programme would be implemented with full participation and commitment to reach the maximum number of farmers.

Since the launch of the scheme in 2019, ₹3.69 lakh crore has been transferred to farmers' accounts through 19 installments. In the 20th installment, ₹20,500 crore will be transferred to 9.7 crore farmers.

Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi, ICAR Director General Dr. ML Jat, and other senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture attended the meeting.

RAIN HAVOC IN J&K

2 Dead, Schools Shut, Amarnath Yatra Halted

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two government school teachers tragically lost their lives after being swept away by a flash flood in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, as torrential rains disrupted life across the region on Tuesday.

closure of all educational institutions—government and private, including CBSE schools—on July 31. The decision was issued by the Chief Education Officer following directions from the Deputy Commissioner as a precautionary step. Any failure to comply with the directive will be viewed seriously,



Identified as Jagdev Singh (37) and Sanjay Kumar (39), both residents of Ghordi village in Udhampur, the teachers were travelling on a motorcycle near Nathatop when they were caught in a surging mountain stream. The duo had travelled to Kud to attend a three-day training course at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET). After attending the first session, they set off for home in the evening amid heavy downpours but never made it.

Their bodies were recovered nearly 300 metres downstream on Wednesday morning after a villager spotted their motorcycle abandoned on the roadside near Jalebi Morh, prompting an immediate rescue operation.

In the wake of continued inclement weather, authorities in Udhampur have ordered the

the CEO warned.

Meanwhile, the Amarnath Yatra has been suspended from both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes due to persistent heavy rainfall in the Kashmir valley. The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K, announced the suspension on Wednesday, citing safety concerns.

"No convoy movement will be allowed from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, to the base camps on July 31," said Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri. His Jammu counterpart, Ramesh Kumar, also confirmed the halting of the yatra as a precautionary measure.

With flash floods, school shutdowns, and pilgrimage disruptions, the region continues to grapple with the aftermath of relentless monsoon rains.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PR. DISTRICT JUDGE PULWAMA

1. Masroora Akhter V/S Public at large
D/O Wali Mohd Malik R/O Nawa Pulwama
2. Kumail Abbas S/O Mohd Abbas Malik R/O Gangoo Pulwama
(Caveators/applicants) (Caveatee/non-applicant)

In the matter of: Caveat application on behalf of caveators for affording an opportunity of being heard to the caveators before passing any order in favour of caveatee/non-applicant. May it please your Honour
The caveator submits as under:-

- That the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has invited applications for installation of a petrol pump at Gudooru Pulwama (within 02 kms from District Court Pulwama towards Nawa on NH-444) and besides the other candidates the caveators have also submitted the application form for allotment of the said petrol pump and the caveators were declared as successful candidates at the time of draw of lots and accordingly LOI has been issued by the said oil company in favour of the caveators.
- That the caveators have apprehension that the candidates who have been not allotted the said petrol pump or any other person will institute a suit against the caveators with respect to the allotment of said petrol pump on the basis of wrong facts.

In the premises it is as such prayed that in case any suit relating to the above mentioned petrol pump is instituted by any person, the caveators may be given an opportunity of being heard before passing any order against the caveators in the interest of justice.

CAVEATORS
FKO 1. Masroora Akhter 2. Kumail Abbas

IUST Signs MoU With Ministry Of Education To Implement NATS

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in the presence of the Union Minister of Education and senior officials, including the Secretary, Higher Education, Government of India. This MoU was signed during Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2025 in New Delhi which was yesterday inaugurated by the Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, to commemorate 5 years of NEP 2020 and aims to facilitate the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) at IUST in J&K.

NATS is a flagship initiative of the Government of India designed to provide structured on-the-job training to graduates and diploma holders, bridging

the gap between academic learning and industrial requirements. The MoU focuses on providing structured apprenticeship opportunities for IUST students, fostering industry-academia collaboration to ensure real-world exposure and skill enhancement, and aligning academic programs with the goals of NEP 2020 by incorporating apprenticeships and internships as an integral part of holistic education.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of IUST, emphasized that this MoU marks a significant step toward realizing the vision of NEP 2020 in J&K, which places a strong emphasis on experiential learning through apprenticeships, internships, and hands-on training. He stated that by integrating NATS into the university's academic framework, IUST aims to create a seamless transition for students from classrooms to workplaces. He added that the collaboration will enhance the employability of students

IUST Concludes Hands-on Workshop on Molecular Biology

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine (WCCMM), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), concluded an intensive one-week hands-on training program titled "Molecular Biology Techniques for Chronic Disease Research". The workshop was supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govern-

ment of India.

Designed to strengthen regional capacity in biomedical research, the workshop brought together early-career faculty, research scholars, clinicians, and postgraduate students from institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. The program aimed to provide both conceptual and technical training essential for tackling chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and infectious diseases through translational research.

DC Shopian Inspects Macadamisation Work On Shopian Aglar Road

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner, Shishir Gupta on Wednesday conducted an inspection of Shopian Aglar macadamisation work being executed by the PMGSY Shopian.

The DC was accompanied by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz and SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad and other officers where he inspected macadamisation works at Pahnoo, Trenz, Heff and Aglar to ascertain the onspot condition of the road and quality of work.

The DC directed for executing the works as per the timelines of the project and maintaining the quality. Drainage and sanitation works along the road was also emphasized upon and directions issued to improve visibility and safety along the road.

At Pahnoo, the DC interacted with locals who apprised him of development of link road and the repair of drainage work. The DC sought the status of the road and assured for its early provision for development and macadamisation. He directed for preventing water logging in Pahnoo where he directed for drainage improvements.

The 22.5 Km Shopian Aglar road, is being developed through Renewal cost in patches under Incentive Fund of PMGSY with an allotted cost of 381.16 lakhs. The road shall be renewed during this season and shall remain under maintenance for 5 years, the concerned engineer apprised.

Mechanic Killed In Tyre Explosion At Workshop

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: A tragic accident at an automobile workshop in south Kashmir's Kulgam district claimed the life of a young mechanic on Tuesday.

The victim, identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Najar, son of Ghulam Rasool Najar and a resident of Bozgam village, was working at 'Shahid Motors'—a workshop run by his maternal uncle in the Devsar area—when the incident occurred.

Eyewitnesses said Imtiyaz was repairing a heavy vehicle when a tyre suddenly burst with great force, inflicting fatal injuries to his head. The impact was so severe that he died on the spot.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area, as locals mourned the untimely death of the young man.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA



NOTICE INVITING TENDER
GIST of e-NIT No.: 18 of 2025-26 Dated: 29/07/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "(Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-Mechanical equipments at water supply scheme New Logripora including construction of New clear water sump of 10,000 Gallons capacity at Resh Kulbal Stage-2nd)". The bidding process shall be accompanied online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on percentage basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-Mechanical equipments at water supply scheme New Logripora including construction of New clear water sump of 10,000 Gallons capacity at Resh-kulbal Stage-2nd under District Capex.	Work/Scheme wise details given in Form-I of Tender Document	Rs. 500/-	02% of the estimated cost of each work	120 days	As indicate against in Form-I of Tender Document

Programme/Position of funds: Approved Under DISTRICT CAPEX Budget.
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
The awarding authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

CRITICAL DATES:

I	Publish Date on Tender Portal	29-07-2025 (04:00 pm)
II	Document Download/sale start Date	29-07-2025 (04:00 pm)
III	Bid submission start Date	29-07-2025 (04:00 pm)
IV	Document Download/sale end Date	07-08-2025 (06:00 pm)
V	Bid submission end Date	07-08-2025 (06:00 pm)
VI	Date and time of Bid opening	08-08-2025 (12:00 pm)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
- a. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work.
- b. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bid.
- c. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e Challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
7. Queries by email if any should be made at semechsouthsgr111@gmail.com/ xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com.

No: MDSA/2425-27
Dated: 29/07/2025
DIPK-4522-25
DT: 30/07/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Division,
South Awantipora.

5th Test: Chance For India To Land Knockout Punch On England

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India's prospects of signing off the UK tour with some serious bragging rights brightened by a few notches on the eve of fifth Test with England's talismanic skipper Ben Stokes and pacer Jofra Archer rendered unavailable for the game starting Thursday.

Stokes, the inspirational skipper who pushed the limits of his body while bowling in the last two Tests, was ruled out with a muscle tear on his right shoulder while comeback man Archer was rested after the workload of playing in back-to-back matches. Pacer Brydon Carse and left-arm spinner Liam Dawson have also been rested.



There are players whose mere presence makes a difference and the England skipper, a world class all-rounder with 304 runs and 17 wickets in the series, is one such character.

What the English team will miss most at The Oval is his inspirational presence when the chips are down and showing the way how it is done.

Stand-in captain Ollie Pope will have his task cut out as the Indian team, even without Jasprit Bumrah, is expected to go for the kill.

The series, played in front of packed crowds, has also been a perfect advert for Test cricket with all four games stretching to the final session on day five.

Not to forget the skirmishes along the way that have spiced it up enough for the fans of the game's traditional format.

From Shubman Gill's tirade against Zak Crawley for "deliberately" wasting time at Lord's to Ravindra Jadeja refusing to call off proceedings on the final day at Old Trafford, things couldn't have gotten hotter before the series entered the final phase in sweltering London.

Gautam Gambhir, who is always up for a scrap, has only intensified it with his altercation with Oval curator Lee Fortis two days before the game.

In this backdrop, expect the series finale to go down to the wire as India under the ever-improving Gill has a chance to land a killer blow on an English team whose bowling attack will undergo a sea-change with no specialist spinner in the playing XI.

Gus Atkinson and Jamie Overton, the two Surrey players, who know The Oval track like the back of their palms, will be joining forces with Chris Woakes and Josh Tongue to make it a four-pronged attack.

DPS Srinagar Wins U19 Inter-School Basketball Tourney



Delhi Public School Srinagar emerged victorious at the Inter-School Boys Under-19 Basketball Tournament organised on Wednesday by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh. Competing against three other prominent valley schools, DPS Srinagar secured the championship through commanding performances.

The team delivered a decisive 39-17 victory against Green Valley Educational Institute in their opening match. They continued their dominant form in the second game, overpowering Old Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar, with a 27-7 scoreline. Vijay Dhar, Chairman of DPS Srinagar, and Principal Shafaq Afshan celebrated the achievement. (Observer News Service)

Inter-District & Zonal Level Championships Held Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Inter District Provincial Level Football Championship for Girls U-14, hosted by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at GCOPE Gadoora, delivered another day of electrifying action as budding footballers from across Kashmir Division showcased their talent in high-octane matches.

With the league phase concluded, four powerhouse teams Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, and Bandipora advanced to the semi-finals. Srinagar stormed past Budgam with a stunning 6-1 victory on Wednesday, while hosts Ganderbal dominated Bandipora 6-0, setting up a thrilling final showdown on Thursday.

"The passion and skill displayed by these young athletes are truly inspiring," said Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Department of Youth Services and Sports. "These championships are not just about competition; they are about empowering our girls, fostering teamwork, and building a brighter future for sports in J&K."

Meanwhile, at Zone Tullamulla, the Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Competition for Boys and Girls U-14 was held at BHSS Wakura, Ganderbal. Young shuttlers battled it out in singles and doubles matches, with winners receiving medals in recognition of their talent.

In Anantnag, the Inter Zonal District Level Kho-Kho Tournament for Boys U-14 and U-17 concluded. Zone Achabal clinched the U-14 title after a thrilling final against Zone Srigufwara, while Zone Vailoo dominated the U-17 category, overpowering Zone Anantnag to lift the trophy.

Simultaneously in Reasi's Zone Arnas Inter-School Zonal Level Competition for Girls U-19 saw 77 athletes competing in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Badminton, Yoga and Volleyball. GHSS Arnas emerged Kho-Kho champions, while wrestling and badminton stars like Simple Thakur and Nazia Kousar stole the spotlight.



District Level Cricket & Fencing Events For Girls Held In Budgam

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: Under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone, the Department of Youth Services and Sports successfully organized Inter-Zonal District Level Cricket (U-19) for Girls and Fencing Competition for Girls (All Age Groups) in Budgam.

The cricket matches were held at the Sports Stadium Budgam, while the fencing competition took place at the Indoor Sports Stadium Budgam. A large number of students from all 12 zones of the district participated in both events with remarkable enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

The event was officially inaugurated by Ghulam Hassan Khan-day, Activity Incharge DYSSO Budgam, in the esteemed presence of Mohammad Ayoub Khan, Senior PEM.

"These inter-zonal competitions aim to foster athletic talent among girls and promote the values of discipline, teamwork, and physical fitness across the district," the department said in a press release.



Ganderbal U14 Baseball Team Shines In Provincial C'ship

Younis Paray

PULWAMA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal's team in the Inter District Provincial Level Boys U14 Baseball Team secured second position in the ongoing Provincial Level Baseball Championship held at Kupwara.

In a nail-biting final against host district Kupwara, the match ended in a dramatic tie with both teams scoring 4 home runs each. The championship winner was eventually decided through a tie-breaker, based on the total number of home runs scored across all matches in the tournament. Ganderbal registered an impressive total of 16 home runs, just narrowly edged out by Kupwara's 17 home runs.

Despite the narrow margin, the Ganderbal team exhibited exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Their spirited performance and strategic gameplay have earned them the well-deserved Runner-Up title. The Department of YSS Ganderbal extends congratulations to all the young athletes and the escort teachers who guided and motivated the team during the competition.

6th Yogasana Sports C'ship 2025-2026 Concludes

The 6th District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Championship 2025-2026 concluded at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex (SKISC), Srinagar, on Wednesday. The championship was organised by the District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Association, affiliated with the J&K Yogasana Sports Association and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

The closing ceremony was graced by Maqsood Ahmad, Manager, SKISC, as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Shabir Ahmad Dar, Senior Yogasana Coach, J&K Sports Council; Aadil Khan Bollywood actor, Basit Nabi, Secretary, District Budgam Yogasana Sports Association; Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Member, JKYS; and Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, President, District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Association.

Tameem Tariq was declared the Best Male Player of the championship, while Hurrabah Ashai was named the Best Female Player, celebrating excellence and commitment in Yogasana sports. (Observer News Service)

Bayern Munich Signs Liverpool Forward Luis Diaz

Bayern Munich signed Liverpool winger Luis Diaz to a four-year contract on Wednesday in the German champion's biggest deal of the offseason so far. The move balances out Liverpool's heavy spending with a fee reported at 75 million euros (\$87 million) by German media, while Bayern dips into the millions it earned at the Club World Cup, a competition Liverpool didn't qualify for. (AP)



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