

Day 6 Of Rescue Operations

Kishtwar Cloudburst: A Widow's Agonizing Wait For Missing Son

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Six days after a cloudburst devastated the remote village of Chisoti in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, rescue teams are still combing through mud and debris for dozens reported missing. For one widow, the wait has become unbearable as she clings to hope of seeing her only son, daughter-in-law and young grandson alive.

The tragedy struck on August 14, when flash floods triggered by the cloudburst swept through Chisoti, the last motorable village on the route to the Machail Mata shrine. So far, 65 people have been confirmed dead and 167 rescued. At least 39 others are still missing.

At her modest home in Digiana, on the outskirts of Jammu city—nearly 300 km away from the disaster site—the elderly woman sits surrounded by her four daughters, her eyes fixed on the door with an unspoken prayer on her lips.



She has refused food for days, waiting for news about her son Sahil Sharma (33), his wife Lovely (32) and their 11-year-old son, Raghav.

"My mother is not in a position to speak to anyone. She keeps praying and hasn't eaten. We still believe they will return," said Suman, one of her daughters.

Suman recalled how her younger brother had left for the yatra with his family despite

her concerns over the weather. "Why was the pilgrimage not stopped, knowing the forecast? We lost our father just a year and a half ago. Now this..." she said, breaking down.

She remembered her last conversation with Sahil on the eve of Raksha Bandhan. "I told him I wouldn't visit because of my mother-in-law's death. Instead, I promised to come on Janmashtami. I never imagined those would be | [More on P10](#)

Rescue Almost Impossible, Focus On Recovery: CM

Says Govt To Form Expert Team To Identify Vulnerable Areas'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that chances of retrieving the 70 missing persons alive from the Chisoti cloudburst site in Kishtwar appear bleak, as search operations continue in the devastated

village. He announced that a team of experts will be constituted to identify vulnerable areas in order to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Talking to reporters, the Chief Minister said, "The situation in Kishtwar is known to all and day-by-day, it is | [More on P10](#)

WHEN WE WEREN'T ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC, they accused us of inaction. Now that we're reaching out, they have a problem with that too. Their role is to oppose and ours is to act"

2 Bodies Recovered in Rajouri

The bodies of an eight-year-old girl and a 20-year-old man, who were swept away in flash floods on Monday, were recovered in Jammu and Kashmir's twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, officials said.

Massive operations were launched by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and locals to trace the minor girl and the man who were washed away in the rising waters of Suran River and Mubarakhpura Nallah in Poonch and Rajouri districts, they said.

The body of 20-year-old Atif Shah was recovered on Tuesday from Munawar Tawi at Kalhar-Dalagra, around 15 km downstream from the incident site, officials said. | [More on P10](#)

Death Toll Rises To 65

Two bodies were recovered in this cloudburst-hit village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Tuesday, taking the toll to 65, officials said, as the search operation was extended to cover a larger area on the sixth day.

The day started with the recovery of a mutilated body of a woman downstream, while sniffer dogs also helped trace a lower body part of another victim under the debris of a collapsed house, they said.

Officials said that one more body and two body parts were recovered from different locations during the day.

However, the officials said the | [More on P10](#)

Is J&K Statehood On The Cards?

J&K Reorganisation Bill To Be Introduced In LS



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government is likely to introduce the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha today, reviving speculation about the possible restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

According to a communication issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, The Bill is slated for introduction on August 20 during the ongoing monsoon session.

While several reports indicated it could address the long-pending demand for statehood, officials have not issued any confirmation on the actual scope of the legislation.

The development comes six years after the statehood of J&K was annulled on August 5, 2019, after the abrogation of Article 370, resulting in J&K and Ladakh becoming separate union territories.

During the hearing on

petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that it would restore statehood to J&K.

Incidentally, the Supreme Court on August 14 had asked the Centre to respond to petitions seeking directions to the Centre to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, even as it noted that the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack — in which 26 people were killed — can't be ignored.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai observed that the ground situation, including the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack which killed 26 people, could not be ignored while considering the matter.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the apex court that there were "several considerations which go into the decision-making process".

"We assured statehood after elections. There is a peculiar position in | [More on P10](#)

Govt Schools Must Become First Choice For Parents: CM

Calls for Actionable Roadmap Under NEP-2020

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stressed the need to upgrade government schools in Jammu and Kashmir so that they become the first choice for parents, rather than being seen as a last resort.

"Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world, and if we want real change in J&K, we must strengthen our government schools. They should not be looked at as fallback options but as institutions parents prefer for quality," Omar said while addressing the 'National Education Meet' at SKICC.

The CM said both education and healthcare form the core

of development, and called on officials to ensure tangible improvements in facilities. He added that the government has rolled out several schemes under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and would continue to invest in upgrading schools with modern infrastructure.

Highlighting the need for hybrid learning, Omar announced that new learning centres equipped with digital facilities would be set up in remote and hilly areas to reduce the urban-rural divide. "This will ensure that students in far-off villages get the same access to resources as those in cities," he said.

On the occasion, the CM e-inaugurated | [More on P10](#)

PM Modi Set For China Visit Amid Thaw In Ties

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi and confirmed his participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit scheduled to take place in Tianjin on August 31 and September 1. Modi said that India-China relations have made "steady progress" since his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Kazan last year, and stressed that "stable, constructive and predictable" ties between the two Asian



neighbours will contribute to regional and global peace.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of strains in

India's ties with the US following President Donald Trump doubling tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent.

EAM Embarks on Russia Visit

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday embarked on a three-day visit to Moscow to further strengthen the "time-tested" India-Russia partnership.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announcing Jaishankar's trip, said he will co-chair the 26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological

and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) to be held on Wednesday. The external affairs minister and Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov are set to | [More on P10](#)

SMVDU Makes Mark Among India's Top 100 Universities: LG

Announces Regularisation of Non-Teaching Staff

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday congratulated the management, faculty, staff and students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for making its mark among the top 100 universities in the country, in a short span of time.

"It is inspiring to see the university's transformation into a multi-disciplinary institution, in line with the National Education Policy. The increasing enrolment in programs like Design Your Own Degree, B.Tech-Robotics, Artificial



Intelligence, and MSc Data Science is also impressive," Sinha said.

Sinha delivered the inaugural address at 22nd Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University through video conference.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant | [More on P10](#)

Meets Khelo India Water Sports Festival Mascot

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Tuesday met the Mascot of Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025. The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), J&K Sports Council, and all the participating players and officials of the 3-day Khelo India Water Sports Festival, scheduled to be held from August 21 to 23 | [More on P10](#)

HC Upholds Forfeiture Of Contractor's Security Deposit

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday held that forfeiture of the security deposit cannot be construed as a penalty but a legitimate and agreed contractual consequence of non-performance.

Dismissing a petition filed by a contractor providing security services, a Bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal underlined that the forfeiture aligns with the established legal principles that "when a party to a tender fails to meet essential terms such as the number of manpower or timelines, the

contract may be terminated, and any security deposit may be forfeited as per the agreed terms."

"Having considered the facts in detail and legal principles involved, this Court holds that the forfeiture of the security deposit cannot be construed as a penalty but is a legitimate and agreed contractual consequence of non-performance," the court said, "The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in catena of judgments has consistently affirmed that where essential tender obligations such as manpower deployment or | [More on P10](#)



Elder Sister Booked For Teen's Murder In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

Ganderbal – Police in Central Kashmir district of Ganderbal has cracked a shocking murder case with the arrest of the victim's elder sister, who has been named the prime accused in the killing of the minor girl.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal, addressing a press conference on Tuesday, said the 14 year old girl's body



was recovered from the fields in Shepora area on Sunday,

sparking outrage and protests in the locality.

From Suspicion to Confession

Initially, it was suspected that both sisters had gone missing and may have been kidnapped. However, investigators, aided by technical surveillance and CCTV footage, ruled out abduction. "Based on human and technical intelligence, we zeroed in on the elder sister of the deceased. Though she initially tried to mislead the investigators by naming another person, the evidence did not support

her claim," SSP Poswal said.

He added that during sustained questioning, the elder sister confessed to the crime. On the day of the incident, the two had gone to their family's fields to look for a missing wristwatch belonging to their mother. An argument broke out between them, turning violent. The accused struck her younger sibling on the head with a rod, killing her on the spot.

"The confession, | [More on P10](#)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that Mr. Adnan, son of Shri Muzzafar Ahmad Padroo, resident of Village kanihama, Tehsil Magam, District budgam, has applied for issuance of an Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Certificate.

If anyone has any objection to the issuance of this certificate, they may file the same with the Tehsildar, Magam, within seven (7) days of this publication. Otherwise, the certificate shall be issued in due course.

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . As per my school records my DOB is 05-05-2013. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Sumbal Sonawari within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shagufta Ali D/o Ali Mohammad Dar
R/o Sarai Dangerpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . As per my school records my DOB is 06-01-2013. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Sumbal Sonawari within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Amina Ajaz
D/o Ajaz Ahmad Wani
R/o Sarai Dangerpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name . Date of Birth and redence in her Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 6581 4320 2091 has been wrongly mentioned as Aiman Jaan DOB 21.07.2018 .R/O.Wajhama instead of Ayman Shahzad. D/O.Shahzad Ahmad Dar .(DOB) Date of Birth 01.01.2018.and Redence Guloor . Now I am applying for its Correction as per her DOB Cretificate and School recard . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Shahzad Ahmad Dar
F/O. Ayman Shahzad
R/O :- Guloor .Tehsil :- Langate . Dist : Kupwara .
Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that i intend to change the name on my aadhaar card bearing no 625669385351 from RAMEEZA AKHTER to ROOMEZA AKHTER D/O GHULAM AHMAD TEELI R/O NASIRULLAH PORA BUDGAM PIN CODE 191111. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/ she may file the same which concerned Aadhaar Department within a period of 7 days from the date of publications of this notice.No objection will be entertained afterwards

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in School records the fathers name of my daughter NABEELAH FAISAL is entered as FAISAL MANZOOR while actual name is FAISAL MANZOOR WANI. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact PRINCIPAL NEW AREA SCHOOL RAJBAGH SRINGAR with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

FAISAL MANZOOR WANI
F/o NABEELAH FAISAL
CLASS 2ND CELL: 700691771

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Faisal Sabzar Bhat while my correct name is Faisal Sabzar. Now I have applied for he correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern aadhar centre Jammu / Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Faisal Sabzar
S/o Sabzar Ahmad Bhat
R/o Muradpora Distt Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct my name in the records of University of Kashmir B.Ed bearing registration (Regd.No.273_CCS-2022) where it has been wrongly written as Syed Nimra Bashir instead of Nimra Bashir D/o Syed Bashir Ahmad. In this regard, if anybody having any objection he/she may contact the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the leading daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Nimra Bashir
D/o Syed Bashir Ahmad
Contact: 8899465471

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hilal Ahmad Bhat, S/O Ghulam Nabi Bhat, R/O Baba Pora, Nowshera, Srinagar, holder of Drwing License No. JK0120190000994, D.O.B: 15/11/1973, intend to rectify my particulars as follows:

From:
Name: Hilal Ahmad Bhat
S/O: Ghulam Nabi Bhat
D.O.B: 15/11/1973
R/O: Baba Pora, Nowshera, Srinagar

To:
Name: Hilal Ahmad Wani
S/O: Ghulam Nabi Wani
D.O.B: 01/01/1974
R/O: Al Hamza Colony, Ellahibagh, Buchpora, Srinagar

The correction is as per the details recorded in my Aadhaar Card.If any person has any objection to the proposed correction, they may file the same in writing to the office of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Media Line Ad

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سبیل احمد دار ولد عبدالرشید ڈار ساکن شہر اللہ پورہ ہڈام

فون۔ 9103065114

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract for the year 2025-26 w.e.f. 01-09-2025 to 31-08-2026 for a period of 365 days.

AUCTION NOTICE.

E-NIT No: MC/BUD/2025-26/ 05 of 2025
Dated:18/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons/parties for Auction of Adda/Entry Fee / Terminal Tax of Municipal Council Budgam, for the year 2025-26 w.e.f. 01-09-2025 to 31-08-2026 for a period of 365 days. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed for Rs. 74,75,000/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lacs and Seventy Five Thousand Only). The Tax/rate schedule of the vehicles is as under and the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the same schedule.

| S.No | Name of Vehicle | Rates |
|------|--|----------------|
| 01 | Government vehicles, security forces vehicles, and vehicles engaged by the State or Central Government for the development of Ring Roads and other public/Govt infrastructure projects shall be exempted from all applicable charges, or levies. | Exempted |
| 02 | All Private Light vehicles | Exempted |
| 03 | Tipper | Rs:30 Per Trip |
| 04 | Dumper/Double Ducker | Rs:40 Per Trip |
| 05 | Bus/Tata bus 407 | Rs:30 Per Day |
| 06 | Taxi/Sumu/Tavera | Rs:30 Per Day |
| 07 | Auto /Load Carrier | Rs:20 Per Day |
| 08 | Tata Mobile, Load Carrier / Jeep /Winger Cab/ Tempo Travelers | Rs:30 Per Day |
| 09 | Tractor | Rs:20 Per Trip |
| 10 | Truck | Rs:40 Per Trip |
| 11 | School Bus | Rs:20 Per Day |
| 12 | Trolley 10 to 14 tyres | Rs:50 Per Trip |
| 13 | Recovery/Hydra Van (6, Wheel) | Rs:40 Per Trip |
| 14 | Recovery/Hydra Van (4, Wheel) | Rs:40 Per Trip |
| 15 | Recovery/Hydra Van (4, Wheel) | Rs:40 Per Trip |
| 16 | Tourist Buses | Rs:50 Per Trip |

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) 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 below:

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Date of issue of Tender Notice | 18-08-2025 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 18-08-2025 to 27-08-2025 |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 18-08-2025 from 03.00 PM |
| 4 | Bid submission End Date | 27-08-2025 upto 10.00 AM |
| 5 | Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online) | 27-08-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam. |
| 6 | Submission of Performance Security (PS) | The highest bidder, has to deposit 10% of contact value cost, on spot at the declaration of highest bidder and same will be forfeited if terms and conditions shall be breached. 10% token money on spot after evaluation of successful bidder (Technical/ Financial Evaluation) 65% to be deposited on the time of possession of posts. 25% after three months from date of possession, for which successful bidder shall submit the irrevocable bank guarantee from any nationalized bank within seven days from the date of possession, failing which the contract shall be cancelled, without any intimation. |
| 08 | Mode of Payment | Cash deposit Rs.150000/- pledged to Accounts officer MC Budgam at the time of opening of bid (CDR) in original |

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 0078040500018986 Accounts Officer, Municipal Council Budgam amounting to Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousand Only).
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam.
- The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- BID SECURITY.
- a) Bid Security Declaration: If the successful bidder fails to sign the contract or to submit the performance security before the deadline defined in the request for the bid documents, the bidder will be suspended for the participation in the tendering process for the works / tenders for a period of one year from the bid due date of this Auction.
- Any bid not accompanied by the BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non-responsive.
- Every bid shall be accompanied with a CDR of Rs. 150000/- from a Nationalized Bank, pledged to Accounts Officer Municipal Council Budgam, without which the bid shall not be entertained.
- The contract of collection of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax shall be for the year 2025-26 w.e.f. 01-09-2025 to 31-08-2026 and no claim for extension on any pretext will be entertained beyond the allotted period.
- The successful bidder in case fails to deposit 10% or first installment (65%) of the bid amount, the CDR/10% bid amount as the case, shall be forfeited and the bidder shall be black listed for future participation/ auctions and in case the allottee fails to deposit the 2nd installment of the bid amount, the Municipal Council Budgam shall take over the possession of the collections posts and go for fresh auction viz-a-viz recovery of the defaulted amount as per norms.
- That, the successful bidder has to execute an agreement with the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam within the seven days after taking possession.
- The successful Bidder shall be bound to effect recovery of Entry Fees as per approved schedule of MC Budgam, which is available with this office as mention above. In case of any violation to the approved schedule, legal action against the contractor / allottee will be initiated.
- The successful bidder shall pay the electric/ Water tax to the concerned quarter well in advance and shall be responsible for operational maintenance of the Toll posts.
- The Successful bidder shall have to maintain the infrastructure (Collections posts) at his own by way of displaying the rate schedules as well as paint to the Collections posts twice during the contract.
- The receipt books to be used by the contractor at the entry fee posts shall be got authenticated by the Chief Executive Officer concerned.
- The successful bidder shall be solely responsible for arranging and bearing the cost of manpower, stationery, furniture, sanitation, toll posts (wherever required), and any other resources necessary for the execution of the contract. No claim for compensation or reimbursement in this regard shall be entertained by the office of the undersigned.
- The highest bidder shall be deemed to have quoted the rates inclusive of all applicable taxes, duties, and levies. No additional charges shall be entertained beyond the quoted amount.
- After expiry of the contract i.e. on 31-08-2026, the successful bidder shall hand over the possession of the Entry posts to the MC Budgam in its original position without any damage.
- That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee on the following toll Posts only: 01. Srinagar Toll Post. 2. DC office Toll Post 3. Ichgam Toll Post. 4. Mamat Shogipora Road Toll Post 5.Narkara Toll Post.
- That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee strictly in accordance with the approved schedule of rates issued by this institution. The collection process shall be carried out in a public-friendly manner, ensuring no inconvenience is caused to visitors. Additionally, the approved rate schedule shall be prominently displayed at each toll post within the town.
- The contractor shall be responsible to maintain entry fee collection posts with special care to sanitation / hygiene of the environment and surroundings.
- That All vehicles that fall under the category of exemption—including but not limited to Government vehicles, vehicles belonging to security forces, and vehicles deployed by State or Central Government agencies for developmental activities such as the construction of Ring Roads and other public infrastructure—shall be fully exempted from the payment of any levies, toll charges, or entry fee at all designated toll posts. Under no circumstances shall the contractor collect any fee from such exempted vehicles. Any violation of this clause shall be treated as a serious breach of contract and shall attract strict penal action, including immediate termination of the contract and forfeiture of the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) without any prior notice. The successful bidder shall collect the entry fee from all other vehicles and machinery strictly as per the approved schedule of rates. Any deviation, unauthorized collection, or overcharging shall similarly lead to the termination of the contract and forfeiture of the CDR.
- That, the Authority (Chief Executive Officer MC Budgam) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason therefor;
- In case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect to any of the conditions as laid down herein above or any ambiguity will be referred to arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator, Director Urban Local Bodies shall be final and binding upon the parties.
- That the successful bidder shall not charge the entry fee in respect of the empty commercial vehicles.
- The Tender of the bidder shall not be entertained who has been defaulter from any of the Municipal Institution.
- That the allottee shall be bound to adhere to all Government orders, statutory rules, and instructions issued or to be issued from time to time in this regard. All such directions shall be applicable and enforceable as per prevailing Government norms, and the bidder shall be obligated to ensure full compliance. No claim for compensation or relaxation shall be entertained on account of any such Government directives.
- That, the successful bidder shall have to note that no compensation/ relaxation/ extension/ relief/ concession/ rebate will be given to him in case of any-un-towards situation like Hartals/ Civil Curfew/ Govt Restrictions/ Flood/ Covid-19 / Curfew/ natural Disaster/ Calamity etc will happen during his contract period.
- Instructions to the Bidders regarding E- Tendering process:
- a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.
- e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- f) The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- g) Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ challan in favour of Accounts Officer, Municipal Council Budgam and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
- h) The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/ Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-
 - Valid original Bank Challan/ Receipt & CDR
 - BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
 - Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
- i) The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory).
- m) Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including
- n) BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has / have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- o) The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tendering portal before issuance of Allotment.
- p) GST Registration Mandatory.
- q) Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies Annual Turn Over and Income Tax return (latest).

No: MC/BUD/ 2025-26/ 8114-18

DIPK-NB-1684/25

Dated: 19/08/2025

Sd/

Chief Executive Officer

Municipal Council Budgam.

OpenAI Launches ₹399/Month ‘ChatGPT Go’ Plan in India

Press Trust Of India

OpenAI has announced ChatGPT Go, a new subscription plan priced at Rs 399 a month that packs in increased message limits, image generation and file uploads for users in India, a market ChatGPT counts as its second-largest and among the fastest growing. The company also announced that all ChatGPT subscriptions can be paid through UPI, a move that will make it easier for users across India to access OpenAI's advanced AI tools. "OpenAI is today introducing ChatGPT Go, a new subscription plan designed to make advanced AI tools more accessible and affordable to users throughout India, as the adoption of OpenAI's tools grows rapidly across the country," according to a release.

ChatGPT Go offers users in India more access to popular features, including higher message limits, image generation, file uploads and memory, powered by GPT-5 with enhanced Indic language support. Compared to the free plan, ChatGPT Go would offer 10 times higher message limits, image generation, and file or image uploads with GPT-5. "ChatGPT Go is designed for people in India who want greater access to ChatGPT's advanced capabilities at a more affordable price," the release said.

The new plan is in addition to existing subscription tiers, including ChatGPT Plus (Rs 1,999 per month), which offers priority access, faster performance, and higher usage limits for heavy users. For professionals and enterprises who need the highest scale, customisation, and access to the most advanced models, OpenAI has ChatGPT Pro (at Rs 19,900 per month). India is ChatGPT's second-largest and one of its fastest-growing markets, with millions of users, including students, professionals, developers, entrepreneurs and creators.

Nick Turley, Vice President and Head of ChatGPT, said OpenAI has been inspired by how millions of people in India use ChatGPT daily for learning, work, creativity, and problem-solving. Turley added: "With ChatGPT Go, we're excited to make these capabilities even more accessible and easier to pay for through UPI." India, currently OpenAI's second-largest market, could soon become its largest globally, CEO Sam Altman said earlier this month as the company rolled out its next-generation model, GPT-5. Describing India as an "incredibly fast-growing" market, Altman noted the remarkable pace at which Indian citizens and businesses are adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI). "India is our second-largest market in the world after the US, and it may well become our largest market. It's incredibly fast-growing, but what users are doing with AI, what citizens of India are doing with AI, is really quite remarkable," Altman had said.

Fax @ 01951-275340

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BEERWAH

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract for the year 2025-26 and 2026-27.

AUCTION NOTICE.

E - NIT No: MC/Bru/2025/05
Dated:14-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, the e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax of Municipal Committee Beerwah, for the year 2025-26, and 2026-27 w.e.f 01-09-2025 to 31-03-2027. (One year and seven months) The Minimum reserved bid after 4% increase of last year bid stands worked out as **Rs. 2523000/- (Rupees Twenty five lacs and twenty three thousands only)** the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the following rate schedule.

| S. No | Nature of vehicle | Rate |
|-------|---|-------------------|
| 01 | Govt. vehicles/Security forces vehicles | Exempted |
| 02 | All private light vehicles | Exempted |
| 03 | Mini tippers loaded/unloaded | Rs. 40 Per trip |
| 04 | All loaded trucks | Rs. 60/- Per trip |
| 05 | Tipppers (Loaded bricks, sand, mud and Bajri etc) | Rs. 40/- Per Trip |
| 06 | Maladors/Tata mini bus | Rs. 20/per day |
| 07 | Tractor | Rs. 20/per day |
| 08 | Sumo/Scorpio/ Tavera/Toyota etc commercial | Rs. 20/per day |
| 09 | Passenger tempo/Auto | Rs. 20/per day |
| 10 | Passenger vehicle for picnic | Rs. 40/per day |
| 11 | JCB/Crane/Road Roller | Rs. 40/per trip |
| 12 | Pejo auto /Mini Load Carrier/ Auto load carrier | Rs. 15/- Per Day |
| 13 | Private school buses | Rs 20/- Per Day |

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) 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 below:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of issue of Tender Notice | 14-08-2025 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 14-08-2025 to 23-08-2025 |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 14-08-2025 from 02:00 Pm |
| 4 | Bid submission End Date | 23-08-2025 upto 04:00 Pm |
| 5 | Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online) | 25-08-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah |
| 6 | Submission of CDR. | The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bids offers with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs.50460/- (Rupees Fifty thousand four hundred and sixty only) of the Minimum Reserve Bid drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 7 | Mode of Payment | the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah, (without which offers shall be liable for rejection) 10% of the total bid amount as token amount on spot. 65% to be deposited before taking possession. Balance 25% amount shall be deposited within three months from the date of taking possession for which irrevocable bank guarantee from nationalized bank shall be appended. |
|---|-----------------|---|

Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 036040500020632 maintained with Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: Beerwah in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah amounting to Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousand Only) and Bid securing Declaration as per format Annexure - 1, below on stamp paper duly attested by Notary in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah, failing which tender will be rejected.

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah.

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

BID SECURITY.

a) Bid Security Declaration: The bid security declaration shall be submitted as per the Format Annexure - 2 (format for the bid security declaration).

b) Any bid not accompanied by the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) and BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non responsive.

The contract of collection of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax shall be for the year 2025-26 w.e.f. 01-09-2025 to 31-03-2027 (One year and Seven months), and no claim for extension on any pretext will be entertained beyond the allotted period.

That, the successful bidder has to execute an agreement duly registered in the Hon'ble court of law with the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah before issuance of allotment and taking over the possession of the collection posts and no permission shall be granted for recovery fees until agreement / allotment is made in favour of successful contractor.

The successful Bidder shall be bound to effect recovery of Entry Fees as per approved schedule of MC Beerwah, which is available with this office as mention above. In case of any violation to the approved schedule, legal action against the contractor / allottee will be initiated.

That, the successful bidder shall have to bear / provide/ arrange Manpower, Stationary, furniture, Sanitation, Toll posts etc without claiming any compensation thereof, from the office of the undersigned.

The Highest Bid offered shall be exclusive of all applicable taxes (Income Tax, CGST & SGST etc) as such the successful bidder shall be bound to bear all kinds of taxes like Income Tax/ CGST, SGST, which shall be payable by the bidder in addition to bid amount;

After expiry of the contract i.e. on 31-03-2027, the successful bidder shall hand over the possession of the Entry posts to the Municipal Committee Beerwah in its original position without any damage.

That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee on the following toll Posts only:

01 • DIET Beerwah 02. Near Ashadpora Beerwah 03. Sodipora Beerwah 4 • Chewdarah Road as per the approved schedule of this institution and the realization of the entry fee / terminal tax shall be in a public friendly manner without causing any inconvenience to visitors, and also the display of schedule of rates shall be visible at each Post in the Town.

The contractor shall be responsible to maintain entry fee collection posts with special care to sanitation / hygiene of the environment and surroundings.

That, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason therefor;

In case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect to any of the conditions as laid down herein above or any ambiguity will be referred to arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator, Director Urban Local Bodies shall be final and binding upon the parties.

No: MC/Bru/2025/680-84

DIPK-NB-1682/25

Dated: 19-08-2025

Sd/

Executive Officer

Municipal Committee

Beerwah

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Sgr Police Attach Property Under UAPA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards dismantling terror networks and their support structures, Srinagar Police on Tuesday said to have attached orchard land measuring 3 kanals and 18 marlas, valued at approximately Rs 1 crore, belonging to designated terrorist Asif Maqbool Dar, son of Mohd. Maqbool Dar, who is presently operating from across the border.

The property is located at Bandi Payeen, District Baramulla, police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

"This action has been taken in connection with FIR No. 107/2020, registered at Police Station Parimpora, under Sections 124A, 153A, 295A IPC and Sections 13, 18 & 38 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act - UAPA. Proceedings were initiated under Section 25 of the UAPA, which empowers authorities to attach property used or intended to be used for terrorist activities. The attachment was carried out in the presence of the concerned Executive Magistrate," police said.

"Although the property is formally held in the name of his father, Mohd. Maqbool Dar (resident of Bandi Payeen, Baramulla / presently residing at HIG Colony, Bemina), investigations have established that Asif Maqbool Dar is an active stakeholder. He has been involved in facilitating terrorism, spreading anti-national propaganda, and inciting disaffection against the Government through various social media platforms for several years," the statement reads.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has already designated Asif Maqbool Dar as a terrorist. The attachment of his property is part of a larger and ongoing strategy aimed at disrupting the financial, logistical, and operational ecosystem of terror networks and their cross-border sponsors.

This decisive action by Srinagar Police is intended to send a clear and strong message: those engaged in anti-national and terror-related activities will face strict legal consequences, including forfeiture of their assets, police said.

Labour Deptt Conducts Inspection Of Placement Agencies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir, office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Srinagar, conducted inspections of various placement agencies operating within the district.

During the inspections, officials examined Form C Registers, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISM) Licenses, data/records of workers engaged through the agencies, and other statutory registers and compliance-related documents. Wherever discrepancies were observed, inspection notes were served upon the concerned agencies with instructions to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of

labour laws and rules in force.

The agencies were categorically advised to comply with the provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, particularly Section 7 - Valid licensing, Section 12 - Maintenance of prescribed registers, and Section 13 - Payment of displacement and journey allowances.

Labour department reiterated that all placement agencies are under obligation to function in a lawful, transparent, and accountable manner so as to safeguard the rights and welfare of the workforce. Any deviation or violation of statutory requirements shall invite strict legal action under the relevant provisions of law.

Urs of Hazrat Makhdoom Sahib (RA) Observed With Devotion

'Thousands Of Devotees Throng Shrine; Spiritual Atmosphere Marks Urs Mubarak'



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The annual Urs of revered Sufi saint, Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom Sahib (RA), was observed with immense devotion in Srinagar on Tuesday, as thousands of devotees from across the Valley gathered at the historic shrine located on the beautiful Hari Parbat.

Throughout the night, the shrine reverberated with soulful recitation of the Holy Quran, Naats, and special prayers. The shrine of Makhdoom Sahib was illuminated by floodlights, with the chants of "Ameen" echoing through the night, creating a scene of deep spiritual fervor.

According to details, devotees in large numbers including men, women, elderly and children, thronged the shrine since last evening for the "Shab Khawani," while the main Urs day today witnessed

THOUSANDS COME HERE, BUT EVERY INDIVIDUAL FEELS the saint's presence in their own heart. It is love and devotion that bring us together,"

an even larger gathering, with people offering prayers and participating in spiritual discourses.

For many, the occasion was more than a ritual; it was a night of divine connection. "Last night was filled with peace and light. The entire Makhdoom Sahab area felt alive with prayers," Ghulam Nabi, a devotee from Srinagar, adding "today, being here for the Urs fills our hearts with blessings."

Zainab, a female, who had travelled from Budgam, said the Urs is a reminder of Kashmir's deep-rooted spiritual traditions. "Thousands come here, but every individual feels the saint's presence in their own heart. It is

love and devotion that bring us together," she said.

Meanwhile, the authorities had made elaborate arrangements for the Urs, with security and volunteer staff ensuring smooth conduct of prayers and rituals. Local vendors, meanwhile, set up stalls around the shrine, adding to the traditional atmosphere of festivity.

As the day progressed, waves of devotees continued to pour in, bowing their heads in reverence, paying homage to the saint fondly remembered as 'Sultan-ul-Arifeen.' The Urs once again reaffirmed the spiritual unity of Kashmir, keeping alive the centuries-old Sufi heritage of the Valley—(KNO)

DLSA Organizes Awareness Prog. At Gund Hassi Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to sensitize students about Free Legal Aid & Rights of Transgender Children and harmful effects of drug abuse, sexual abuse and trafficking, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organised an awareness programme in collaboration with School Education department at Higher Secondary School Gund Hassi Bhat.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

Students, faculty members, and legal experts ensured their participation in the programme, which aimed to equip students with knowledge about the psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel emphasized the importance of early intervention and peer support in curbing addiction and



promoting a safe and respectful school environment.

Panel Lawyer sensitized the participants about the availability of free legal aid services under section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act 1987 and also made them aware of the 15100 NALSA Helpline for immediate legal assistance. She also delivered lecture on Sexual abuse, trafficking and issues faced by Transgender

Children, explaining the legal provisions and role of DLSA in extending protection and rehabilitation.

Principal of the school appreciated the efforts of DLSA Srinagar in educating students and expressed hope that such initiatives would bring about positive behavioral change.

Similar programme was held at GHSS Kothibagh.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
25 Safar
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR 4:24
ZUHR 12:35
ASR 5:20
Magrib 7:18
ISHA 8:44

This Day In History

- 2- Venus and Jupiter in conjunction - possible astrological explanation for Star of Bethlehem
- 1391- Konrad von Wallenrode becomes the 24th Hochmeister of the Teutonic Order.
- 636 - Battle at Yarmuk: Muslims beat Byzantines
- 1641 - England & Scotland sign Treaty of Pacification
- 1828 - Hindi reform movement Brahmo Samaj founded by Ram Mohan Roy and Dwarkanath Tagore in Calcutta
- 1864 - 8th/last day of battle at Deep Bottom Run Va (about 3,900 casualties)
- 1900 - Great Britain beats France by 158 runs in Paris; cricket's only appearance at an Olympic Games
- 1905- Sun Yat-sen, Chinese revolutionary, forms the first chapter of Tung Meng Hui, a union of all secret societies determined to bringing down the Manchus
- 1914 - Battle at Gumbinnen, East-Prussia: Russians beat Germans
- 1914 - Battle at Morhange: German troops chase French, killing thousands
- 1914 - Bavarian troops kill 50 inhabitants of Nomeny, France
- , Ed Klepfer & \$31,500; Jackson involved in 'Black Sox Scandal' 1919
- 1918 - WWI: Britain opens offensive on Western front
- invasion in Mongolia
- 1940 - 1st Polish squadrons fight along allies in the Battle of Britain
- 1944 - Soviet offensive at Jassy & Kisjinev
- 1944 - US & British forces destroy German 7th Army at Falaise-Argentan Gap
- 1953 - General Fazlollah Zahedi arrests Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh in a CIA supported coup d'état
- 1960 - USSR recovers 2 dogs, 1st living organisms to return from space

1st Death Anniversary

Khawaja Ali Mohammad Bhat

(Founder of Helping Hands Care Foundation, J&K)

Date: Wednesday, 20th August 2025

Venue: Harwan, Srinagar

On the 1st death anniversary of our beloved founder and great social worker, a special commemoration will be held. The program will include Quran Khawani, Fateh Khawani, and heartfelt tributes. We humbly request all friends, relatives, and social activists to join us in paying homage and to recite Surah Al-Fatiha for Eesal-e-Sawab to this noble soul.

— Nasir Hussain
President, Helping Hands Care Foundation

عادل حبیب کی

1998-2021

آج ہی کی تاریخ تھی یعنی 20 اگست جب 4 سال قبل ہم سے ہمارا نہایت عزیز، ساتھی اور دوست بچھڑ گیا۔

زمانہ کتنی ہی کروٹیں بدلے لیکن اسے عادل ہم تمہیں کبھی بھول نہیں سکتے۔ تم ہمیشہ ہماری یادوں میں خوشی اور غم کے لمحات میں اور زندگی کی ہر ساعت میں ہمارے ساتھ رہو گے۔

اللہ تعالیٰ آپ کی قبر کو نور سے بھر دے۔ آمین

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What Astronaut Shubhanshu Told PM About Gaganyaan

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that there is a lot of interest about India's Gaganyaan mission around the world and scientists were keen to be part of it.

In an interaction with the prime minister on Monday

wanted to know about the launch," Shukla said.

"Many of my crew mates even took signed declarations from me that they would be invited for the launch of Gaganyaan mission. They wanted to travel in our vehicle," Shukla said.

Modi said there was a need to have a pool of 40-50



evening, Shukla also shared his experiences about his space journey to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 mission, adjusting to micro-gravity conditions, and the experiments he carried out on the orbital lab.

The video of Shukla's interaction with the prime minister was shared on Tuesday. "People are very excited about India's Gaganyaan mission. Many of my crew mates (of the Axiom-4 mission)

astronauts ready for India's future space missions.

"I had said that your mission is the first step," Modi said, referring to India's ambitions in the space sector.

Modi told Shukla that his mission to the ISS will be helpful in India's space ambitions.

India plans to undertake its first human spaceflight in 2027 and build its own space station by 2035. India also has plans to land its own astronaut on the moon by 2040.

Mumbai Reels Under Torrential Rain

Air, Road And Rail Services Hit

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: Heavy rains battered Mumbai for the second day on Tuesday, flooding streets, severely disrupting road and rail traffic and also affecting flight services, officials said.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde reviewed the situation and said the civic chief told him the city received nearly 200 mm rainfall in just six hours.

Nearly 350 persons from Kurla area were shifted to safer locations as the Mithi river, which runs through the city, swelled after torrential rains, Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office said.

Schools, colleges, government and semi-government offices remained shut and the Bombay High Court functioned only till 12.30 pm due to the incessant rains which crippled normal life.

At least eight flights were diverted and many were delayed at the airport here.

Airlines informed passengers about flight delays due to persistent rain, and low-visibility procedures were put in place intermittently.

According to sources, six flights of IndiGo airlines and one each of SpiceJet and Air India were diverted to nearby airports, including Surat, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

The Mumbai Police and civic authorities appealed to residents to step out of homes only if necessary and also requested the private sector to allow work from home.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a 'red alert' for Konkan region, including Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Palghar districts and adjoining ghat areas of central Maharashtra, warning of extremely heavy rainfall till Wednesday.

The IMD said widespread rainfall was very likely over Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra's ghat regions, with heavy to very heavy showers at several places and isolated extremely heavy rainfall.



Several people died after a massive cloudburst struck Chashoti village in J&K's Kishtwar

Why North India, Pakistan Are Being Hit So Badly by Cloudbursts

Reuters

New Delhi: Massive, sudden downpours of rain known as cloudbursts have struck India and Pakistan during this monsoon season, killing hundreds of people in the flash floods and landslides they have triggered.

What Are Cloudbursts And Why Do They Occur?

By a widely accepted definition, a cloudburst means more than 100 mm (4 inches) of rainfall in one hour, over a small area.

This year, the monsoon, which originates in the Bay of Bengal and then sweeps westwards across northern India to Pakistan every summer, has brought deadly cloudbursts.

Weather studies say cloudbursts typically occur in South Asia when warm, monsoon winds, laden with moisture, meet the cold mountain air in the north of India and Pakistan, causing condensation. With a warming planet, the monsoon has hotter air, which can carry more moisture.

Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows cloudbursts are most common in the Himalayan regions of Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Fahad Saeed, a senior climate scientist at Berlin-based Climate Analytics, said that in the mountains of northern Pakistan, the warm monsoon system coming from the east was meeting colder air coming

from the west, from the subtropical jet stream - a high-altitude weather system that originates in the Mediterranean.

Global warming is pushing this jet stream further south in summer, he said, where it can now combine with the lower-level clouds of the monsoon in Pakistan, forming a tower of clouds which then generates intense rain.

Similar intense rainfall, though triggered by different local factors, takes place around the world, such as the floods in Texas in July, when more than 300 mm of rain fell in less than an hour, sending a wall of water down the Guadalupe River.

Why Is The Region Being Hit So Badly By Cloudbursts?

This monsoon season has so far seen at least four major deadly cloudbursts, including in Uttarakhand where video captured the moment when village buildings were swept down a mountain, and in Pakistan's Buner, situated in the Hindu Kush mountain range, where more than 200 people died after at least 150 mm of rain fell within an hour.

SD Sanap, a scientist with the IMD's Pune office, said such cloudburst events were becoming more frequent in the western Himalayas, which run across India and into Pakistan, but pinning the rise on a single cause was not easy.

The cloudburst events on both sides of the border were triggered the same way: very

moist monsoon air, upslope winds, and storms that stalled over valleys, said Moetasim Ashfaq, a weather expert based in the US.

If a cloudburst happens over flat land, the rainfall spreads over a wide area, so the impact is less severe, said Pradeep Dangol, a senior hydrology research associate at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, based in Nepal.

But in steep mountain valleys, the rain is concentrated into narrow streams and slopes, with the potential to trigger flash floods and landslides, he said.

Can Cloudbursts Be Predicted?

Forecasting such events days in advance is nearly impossible, though radars can track the build-up of dense cloud formations and give short-term warnings of intense downpours, Sanap said.

To strengthen monitoring, the India Meteorological Department has installed new radars across the Himalayas and set up observatories aimed at improving early warnings and understanding of these extreme weather events.

Syed Muhammad Tayyab Shah, who leads risk assessment at Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, part of the government, said that it was possible to warn about the general area but not possible to pinpoint the exact location in advance where a cloudburst will happen.

Reddy Versus Radhakrishnan in September 9 VP election

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy, the joint opposition nominee, will take on NDA candidate C P Radhakrishnan in the September 9 vice-presidential election, a contest billed as an ideological battle by the INDIA bloc, as numbers favour the ruling BJP-led alliance.

The vice-presidential election has emerged as a "south versus south" contest as the opposition has fielded Reddy, who hails from Telangana, against



Radhakrishnan, described as a "Pachai Tamizh" (true-blue Tamil) by well wishers.

Maharashtra Governor Radhakrishnan (67) is a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader who served as a two-term member of the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore during the tenure of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and later, went on to lead the

party in Tamil Nadu.

Reddy (79), who retired from the apex court in July 2011, is a veteran jurist known for several landmark judgments criticising the then Union government for showing slackness in probing black-money cases. He had also declared Salwa Judum, appointed by the Chhattisgarh government, unconstitutional.

As a Supreme Court judge, Reddy had ordered the constitution of a special investigation team to take all steps for bringing back unaccounted monies unlawfully kept in bank accounts abroad.

Israel Hits Shelters to Drive Palestinians South

Trans Asia News

Gaza City: Since announcing plans to invade northern Gaza and expel Palestinians again to the south, Israel has attacked displacement shelters in the Gaza City neighbourhood of Zeitoun, according to an investigation by Sanad, Al Jazeera's verification unit.

Since August 13, Sanad has found that Israel stepped up the bombardment and shelling of Zeitoun, and often directly hit displacement shelters.

The siege and ongoing violence have compelled thousands of Palestinians to close

Gaza amounts to genocide. Israel's Western allies – who have long defended it from criticism by claiming it has the "right to defend itself" – are becoming increasingly alarmed at the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the enclave.

Many are calling on Israel to end the war and warning that its plan to seize northern Gaza could further exacerbate the suffering of civilians. The mass displacement and bombardment of Zeitoun encapsulate the atrocities resulting from Israel's invasion.

Attacking shelters There are about 11 displacement shelters in



their tents in the camps and flee further south, according to satellite imagery obtained by Sanad.

The indiscriminate bombardment of civilian homes and displacement shelters is part of a broad pattern of Israeli war tactics that make no distinction between civilians and fighters.

Human rights groups, United Nations experts and numerous legal scholars believe Israel's nearly two-year war on

Zeitoun, each sheltering 4,000 to 4,500 besieged and hungry Palestinians.

Most live on just 3.2sq km (1.2sq miles), which makes up just 32 percent of the pre-war size of Zeitoun.

At the start of the war, Israel dug trenches in and around the neighbourhood, claiming it was creating a 'buffer zone', and built the Netzarim Corridor, which has split Gaza into two zones.

Assam Police Summon Journalists Varadarajan, Karan Thapar

Press Trust Of India

Guwahati : The Guwahati Police has summoned senior journalists Siddharth Varadarajan and Karan Thapar in connection with a case registered on sedition charges, according to the notices.

The two journalists have been asked to appear before the Crime Branch of Guwahati Police on August 22.

The identical summonses, a copy of which is with PTI, stated, "It is revealed that there are reasonable grounds to question you to ascertain the facts and circumstances from you, in relation to the present investigation."

The police have not shared any information about the case. Repeated calls made to senior police officials to know about the case remained unanswered.

While Varadarajan's summons was received on August 14, Thapar got it on Monday. "Failure to attend/comply with the terms of this notice can render you liable for arrest," the summonses added.

The summonses were

“It is revealed that there are reasonable grounds to question you to ascertain the facts and circumstances from you, in relation to the present investigation

issued by Crime Branch Inspector Soumarjyoti Ray, and he referred to an FIR (No.: 03/2025) registered at the Crime Branch under sections 152, 196, 197(1)(D)/3(6), 353, 45 and 61 of the BNS.

Section 152 of BNS addresses acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India. It effectively replaced Section 124A of the IPC, which was put on hold by the Supreme Court in May 2022.

NEWS MAKERS

'Thank You, Mr President': Zelenskyy Thanks Trump 9 Times in First Minute

Associated Press

Washington: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wasn't going to risk being accused of being ungrateful this time.

With peace talks on the table and a chance to rebound from his disastrous White House scolding six months ago, Zelenskyy made sure to show his gratitude to US President Donald Trump during Monday's meeting in the Oval Office.

In fact, he thanked Trump nine times in the first minute of their brief public meeting that preceded a short news conference.

"Thanks so much, Mr President," he said. "First of all, thank you for the invitation and thank you very much for



your efforts, personal efforts to stop killings and stop this war. Thank you."

In February, Zelenskyy's meet-

ing with Trump quickly spiralled into a public relations disaster when Vice President JD Vance berated him for not being

sufficiently thankful.

"You should be thanking the President for trying to bring an end to this conflict," Vance said in a moment that caught Zelenskyy off guard. "Have you said thank you once? In this entire meeting? No, in this entire meeting, have you said thank you?"

Zelenskyy tried to defend himself, saying he had always expressed his appreciation to the US for the military and financial support it provided after Russia invaded it in 2022. But the damage was done.

World leaders took their cue and learned that flattery is the way to winning over the unpredictable Trump.

With a chance to make a second impression in the same setting,

gratitude diplomacy was front and centre for Zelenskyy and his peers.

He went on to extend his thanks to Melania Trump for personally writing to Russian President Vladimir Putin to think about the Ukrainian children and urge peace.

And he thanked his European allies who had arrived as reinforcements in Washington to present a unified front to push for a ceasefire and security guarantees if there is a peace deal with Russia.

In a second meeting with top leaders from Europe, Zelenskyy expressed his thanks at least seven times, including two mentions of a map Trump had presented him.

Case Filed Against Agnihotri

Indo Asian News Service

Kolkata: Fresh trouble seems to be brewing for 'The Bengal Files' Director Vivek Agnihotri, as a new FIR has been registered against him on charges of "wrongfully" describing freedom fighter Gopal Mukherjee a.k.a Gopal Patha "as a butcher", in the movie, the trailer of which has been released recently.

Gopal Mukherjee's grandson, Santana Mukherjee, who has registered the fresh FIR, said they have taken exception to portraying his grandfather in the movie without the prior permission of the family members.

"Secondly, we take strong objection to describing our grandfather as 'a butcher' in the movie. Besides being a part of the freedom-fighters' group, 'Anushil Samity', my grandfather owned two goat-meat shops. He was a wrestler. He took to arms to protect people from the communal violence unleashed by the Muslim League in Kolkata in 1946," Santana Mukherjee said.

On July 31, Agnihotri and his wife Pallavi Joshi approached a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court seeking dismissal of two other FIRs filed against 'The Bengal Files'.

Executive Director AIIMS Calls On CM Omar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora, Sachidananda Mohanty on Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and apprised him of the progress on the premier health institute. Mohanty briefed the Chief

Minister about the work accomplished so far on the project and the roadmap for its completion. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the need to expedite the pace of work to ensure that the institute is completed at the earliest and dedicated to the people of the Kashmir Valley.

Work On Ticket Counter Stalled At District Hospital Shopian

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Patients visiting the District Hospital Shopian are facing severe hardships due to the absence of a proper ticket counter, as the ongoing construction work on the facility remains stalled for months.

Locals and attendants said the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department started the construction of a ticket counter in December 2024, but the work was abruptly halted without any explanation, leaving people to suffer.

"Every day we are forced to stand outside in long queues to collect tickets. When it rains, we get drenched as there is no shelter, and in a heatwave, we also face problems," said Ghulam Ahmad, an attendant from Harmain.

He said the authorities started the work with much fanfare, but left it midway, adding, "This is sheer negligence".

Another patient, Rafiqi Begum, waiting for her turn at the OPD, expressed her anger: "We

are already unwell and weak. Standing outside in scorching heat or heavy rain makes our condition worse. The government must complete the counter at the earliest."

Other patients and attendants echoed the same concerns, saying the incomplete facility is creating chaos during peak hours. "A proper ticket counter would streamline the process and reduce crowding. Right now, patients have no option but to stand outside in all weather conditions," they said.

Locals urged the authorities to immediately resume and complete the work. "This is a district hospital catering to thousands of patients every month. The ticket counter is a basic requirement, yet it has been left abandoned. We request higher authorities to intervene," said Mohammad Yusuf, another attendant.

Patients and attendants have sought intervention from MLA Shopian, DC Shopian and DHSK in this regard—(KNO)

Patwari Nabbed In Multi-Crore Land Scam: CBK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) Tuesday arrested Khurshed Ahmad Bhat (Pathwari) S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat, resident of Fatehpura, Ganderbal, in connection with a land fraud case.

"The accused, a serving Patwari, is the prime accused in a case involving fraudulent sale of land measuring 7 kanals and 2 marlas in Mouza Nuner, Ganderbal. Investigations reveal that Bhat, along with others, falsely posed as landowners and executed a fake sale agreement. The land was actually owned by a migrant Kashmiri Pandit and held under power of attorney by a third party," a spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

The complainant had already paid Rs 1.19 crore out of the agreed Rs 2.76 crore before discovering the fraud. Preliminary investigation has established a criminal conspiracy involving impersonation and forged documents, the statement said, adding that a case has been registered

under Sections 420, 468, 471, and 120-B of IPC at the Police Station, Economic Offences Wing. "Further investigation is in progress," the statement reads.

The accused have been identified as Khurshid Ahmad Bhat (Patwari) S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat, R/o Fatehpura Ganderbal, Ghulam Nabi Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat, R/o Fatehpura Ganderbal, Abdul Rashid Parray S/o Abdul Gani Parray, R/o Pandach Ganderbal and Sajid Rashid Parray S/o Abdul Rashid Parray, R/o Pandach Ganderbal.

The case was registered following a written complaint wherein the complainant alleged that the accused, led by Khurshid Ahmad Bhat, a serving Patwari fraudulently posed as landowners and entered into an agreement for sale of land measuring 7 kanals and 2 marlas in Mouza Nuner, Ganderbal.

The land was falsely represented as belonging to the accused, whereas it was later discovered to be owned by a migrant Kashmiri Pandit and held under power of attorney by a third party.

RPO Conducts Inspection Of Post Office Passport Seva Kendra



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar, B. S. Rawat conducted a surprise inspection of the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK), Anantnag on Tuesday. The objective of the visit was to review the functioning of the Kendra and to further streamline services being provided to citizens.

During the inspection, Shri Rawat interacted with appli-

cants present at the Kendra and sought their feedback and suggestions regarding the facilities and services. He also issued necessary guidance to the staff for ensuring quick, efficient, and hassle-free delivery of passport services.

The Regional Passport Officer emphasized that the passport issuance process must remain transparent, citizen-friendly, and time-bound in order to fulfill the objectives of the Passport Seva Programme.

Sakeena Assesses Medical Care Facilities At Govt. Hospital Gandhinagar

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday visited Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar to assess the medical care facilities available for the public there.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa; Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Director AYUSH, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah; Chief Medical Officer and other senior officers of the health department.

During the visit, the Minister held detailed inspection of the hospital and visited Emergency Wing, Inpatient Department (IPD) Block, General wards, Blood Bank and other sections of the hospital.

On the occasion, the Minister also interacted with the on duty doctors and other medical staff to gain first-hand feedback about the availability of medicines, diagnostic support and overall patient care available at the hospital.

During the interaction, the Minister emphasized on the importance of strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring timely medical attention to those in need. She urged the hospital administration to focus on cleanliness, patient comfort and effective healthcare services.

During the visit, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, Dr. Narinder Singh Bhatial, apprised the Minister of the current functioning and overall



SAKEENA ALSO INTERACTED WITH THE ON DUTY DOCTORS and other medical staff to gain first-hand feedback about the availability of medicines, diagnostic support and overall patient care available at the hospital.

performance of the hospital.

The Minister, on the occasion, also interacted with patients, their attendants and general public to gather feedback from them about the services being provided at the hospital. She assured the public that the medical infrastructure will be upgraded at the hospital as per the needs of common people.

During the visit, MLA, Vikram Randhawa also raised concerns regarding the under-utilized 200-bedded Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block with the Minister.

Responding to this, the Health Minister instructed the Director Health Services, Jammu, to submit a formal pro-

posal for optimal utilization of the MCH building.

Earlier, Sakeena Itoo also visited the GB Pant Hospital Jammu and reviewed the health-care care facilities available at the facility. She took note of various concerns highlighted by staff as well as patients and general public at the hospital. She assured them that issues will be addressed promptly.

The Minister reiterated the commitment of Government towards improving the health-care services across Jammu & Kashmir. She highlighted that accessible and affordable healthcare is the right of every citizen and Government is committed to fulfil the health-care needs of general public.

Northern Railway Enhances Passenger Safety With Emergency Medical Rooms

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: In its ongoing efforts to enhance passenger facilities and provide medical care, Northern Railway have established Emergency Medical Rooms (EMRs) at major stations. This development emphasize the railway's commitment to ensuring the safety of its passengers.

The Lucknow division of Northern Railway has taken the lead in implementing this initiative and launched EMRs at Varanasi and Lucknow-Charbagh Stations. These facilities are equipped to offer round-the-clock medical assistance, ensuring the well-being of passengers.

The Emergency Medical Room (EMR) at Varanasi Junction, inaugurated on 13.12.2024, has been success-

fully providing essential medical services to passengers in need. Staffed with registered medical practitioners and trained paramedical personnel, the EMR offers free first aid medical assistance to injured railway passengers and round-the-clock emergency medical services. It is also equipped with a small pharmacy and laboratory facility, where services

are available at CGHS (Non-NABH) rates applicable to the city. In addition to assisting passengers, the EMR provides private consultancy services to other injured or sick persons within the railway premises and ensures timely arrangements for shifting patients to government hospitals

or trauma centers whenever required.

The introduction of EMRs at major Northern Railway stations marks a significant

step towards enhancing passenger safety and care. With EMRs already operational at Varanasi and Lucknow-Charbagh, and in similar pattern EMRs are being initiated at Ayodhya Cantt. Jn. and Ayodhya Dham Jn. railway Stations,

Northern Railway is committed to providing emergency medical facilities to its passengers. The EMR at Lucknow-Charbagh has already attended to 41 bonafide railway beneficiaries and 18 other patients, demonstrating its effectiveness in providing emergency medical services.



Principal Secretary Home Visits Chashoti Kishtwar

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: On the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti visited Chashoti village in Kishtwar to assess the ongoing rescue and relief operations following the recent devastating cloudburst.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by DIG Shridhar Patil; Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma; SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh; CEO Emergency Relief Organisation (ERO), Dr. Amir Hussain; ACR Kishtwar Idrees lone and other senior officers.

During the visit, the Principal Secretary undertook a comprehensive assessment of the ground situation, engaged with local residents, and held detailed interactions with res-



cue personnel and civil administration teams.

He also evaluated the immediate requirements of the affected families to ensure timely delivery of relief and rehabilitation measures. The Princi-

pal Secretary underscored the need for a swift, coordinated, and sustained response from all concerned departments and agencies to maximize rescue outcomes and accelerate relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Immovable Property Of Active Terrorist Attached: Police

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Police in Anantnag on Tuesday said to have attached an immovable property belonging to an active terrorist under relevant provisions of law.

"The land falling under Khasra No. 165 MIN, situated at Guree, Bijbehara and owned by Adil Hussain Thoker son

of Wali Mohammed Thoker resident of Guree, Bijbehara, an active terrorist, has been attached under Section 83 of CrPC," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

The action has been taken in connection with FIR No. 11/2023 registered under Sections 20, 38 of the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Sections 2/3 of the EIMCO Act, the statement said, adding that this attachment is part of lawful measures aimed at dismantling the support structure of terrorism. "Such actions will continue against individuals found aiding or involved in unlawful and anti-national activities," police said.

CS Favours Adoption Of Online Systems For RR Updation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is set to introduce a major governance reform aimed at digitizing and streamlining the updation of Recruitment Rules (RRs) and the timely conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) across all government departments.

The initiative took shape during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and attended by Administrative Secretaries of major departments, including the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary emphasized that addressing human resource (HR) issues of employees is as critical as other administrative priorities. He observed that neglecting matters such as promotions and recruitment rules negatively impacts employee morale and overall departmental performance.

Highlighting the role of technology in governance, he underscored the need for an IT-based mechanism to make these processes transparent, efficient, and time-bound. He

urged BISAG-N to develop a dedicated portal for both RR updation and DPCs, which would allow for smooth, exclusive, and real-time online operations, ensuring better monitoring and accountability.

To take the reform forward, the Chief Secretary directed for constitution of a committee chaired by the Principal Secretary, PWD, with Commissioner Secretary, GAD, and Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings as members. The Committee has been tasked with working out the modalities for early implementation of the system.

He also directed the ARI & Trainings Department to build the capacity of officers by organizing training programmes once the system is rolled out. The aim should be to create a system that is not only efficient and transparent but employee-friendly too, he noted.

Principal Secretary, PWD, Anil Kumar Singh, while outlining the proposed arrangements, stated that the upcoming online system is anticipated to enhance transparency, improve efficiency, and provide a time-bound framework for these crucial administrative processes.



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/1435/2024

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: 29440

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
VS
GOWHAR AHMAD MIR**

To.

(1) **Mr. Syed Suhail Bazaz
S/o Syed Farooq Bazaz (A.K.A Farooq Ahmad Bazaz) R/o: Sat Booni Lal Bazar
Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir-190023
Also at:
Near Masjid Rehmat Lal Bazar
Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir-190023**

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/1435/2024 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 17488074/- (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 19.09.2025 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 : 31.07.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

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KO VIEW

Solution To
Dog Problem

On August 11, India’s Supreme Court issued a landmark order for Delhi-NCR: remove stray dogs from public spaces within eight weeks, place them in government shelters, sterilise, vaccinate, and monitor them, all under CCTV. The order deftly balanced public safety with animal welfare.

Jammu & Kashmir must pay close attention. The region is facing an escalating crisis. As pointed out by a report in this paper, in 2025 alone, there were 55,312 dog-bite cases, an eight percent jump over last year. That’s 425 bites per 100,000 people, far higher than Delhi’s 160 or Uttar Pradesh’s 90. Srinagar’s Anti-Rabies Clinic treated more than 14,000 bite victims in a single year. In Jammu, rabies has killed 16 people since 2019, seven in just the first half of this year. These are not statistics. They are lives shattered, and families scarred.

The causes are clear. Open garbage dumps sustain aggressive packs. Municipal bodies are ill-equipped, waste management is weak, and stray control programs limp along without funding or coordination.

The Supreme Court order for Delhi offers Kashmir a ready-made blueprint. It combines compassion with common sense: capture, sterilise, vaccinate, shelter, instead of random culling or hopeless inaction. It also demands accountability: CCTV monitoring to ensure dogs are not dumped back onto the streets.

But good orders die on paper if political will is absent. Jammu and Kashmir must move quickly, conduct a dog census, train municipal teams, build shelters, and launch public education campaigns. Waste management must improve, or any dog-control drive will collapse under its own contradictions.

This is not just an animal issue. It is a public health emergency, and a social hazard. When children fear walking to school, when elderly hesitate to go for their morning and evening walks, when rabies stalks neighbourhoods, it is a public emergency which can’t and shouldn’t be ignored.

There is still room to act, humanely, effectively, and with resolve. The government must scale up sterilisation efforts significantly. In the past, such efforts haven’t been adequate enough to reign in the dog population. Authorities need to see whether this is because of the lax implementation or whether the scale of the problem has outgrown the existing means to address it.

There is no shortage of local expertise. NGOs, veterinarians, and civic volunteers have long called for exactly this kind of coordinated action. Now there is a legal mandate to act. What’s needed is speed, resources, and above all, the resolve to see it through.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

When Rivers Stopped Trading

The valley’s shift from craft and river trade to urban sprawl holds lessons for its future.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir’s economy has always mirrored the life of its people. Once, the heart of Srinagar beat along the Jhelum, where artisans and traders built an economy out of water, craft, and community.

The hanjikas—markets of weavers, woodcarvers, and papier-mâché masters—were the valley’s identity, humming with work and pride. Barges floated down the river carrying finished goods to traders beyond, while rural farmers and orchardists fed the rhythm from outside the city.

This balance began to fracture in the late 1970s. Families left the old quarters for Srinagar’s fringes, drawn by the “new colonies” sprouting on cheap land. Roads replaced waterways, and houses multiplied across once fertile fields.

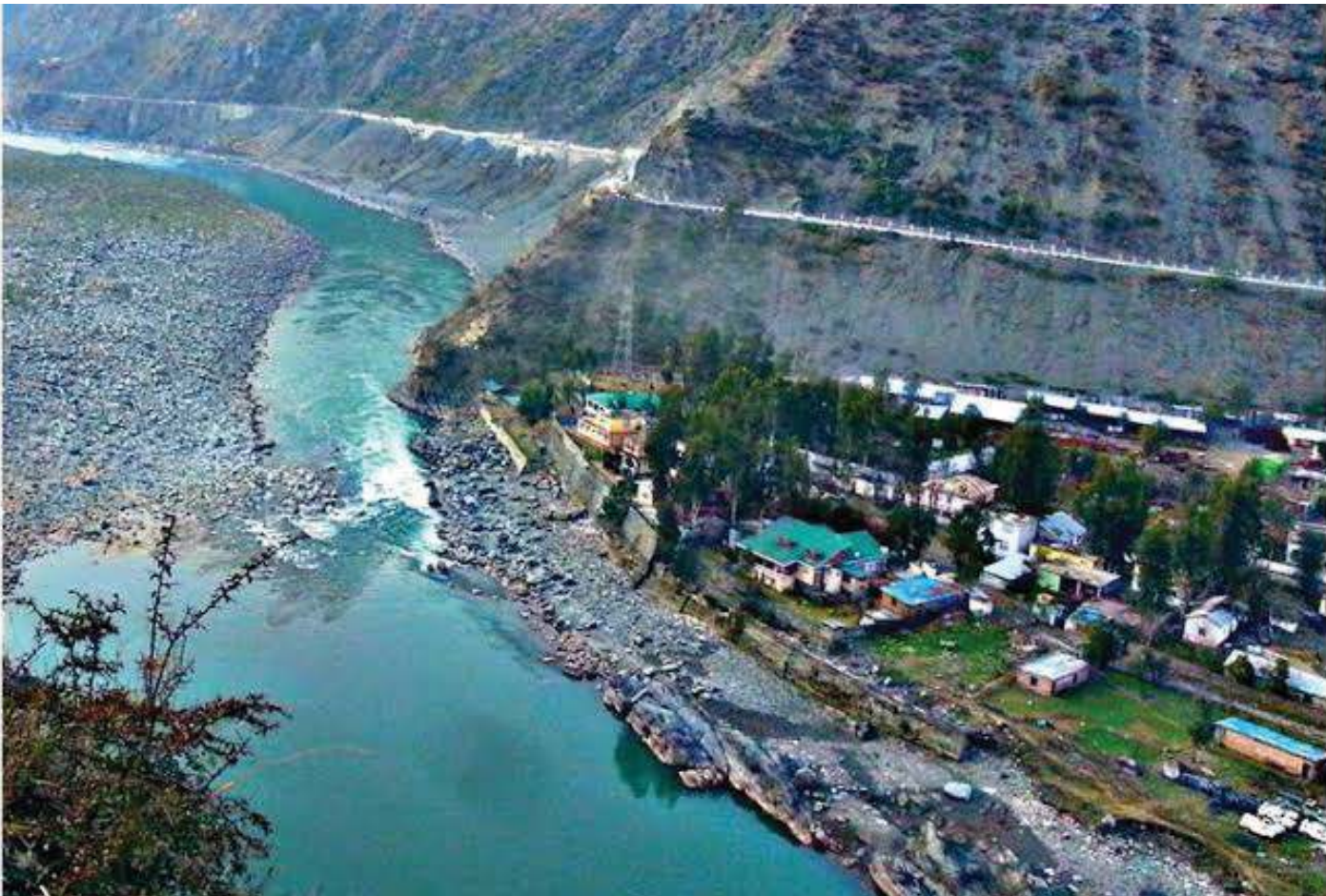
Over four decades, land that sold for Rs 10,000 a kanal now fetches more than Rs 2 crore. The growth rate rivals the fastest urban booms in India, yet the gains feel uneven.

The sprawl came without planning. Roads remain narrow, traffic immovable, and the once-celebrated crafts now fade into memory. Young men and women, lacking marketable skills, face limited options. Construction dominates the skyline, but the economy beneath it feels thin.

Where then does Kashmir go? The answer may lie in what once sustained it: agriculture, horticulture, and skilled work. These sectors, modernized and paired with education, can still anchor the economy.

Training young Kashmiris to add value, whether through high-tech orcharding or design-driven handicrafts, would honor the past while building the future.

— The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Chenab Beyond Calamities

Nature’s fury brings momentary attention, but Chenab Valley’s real story lies in the silence of neglect, deferred hopes, and a dignity long denied.

Ayaan Saroori

The Chenab Valley comes into sight only when the skies break open.

A sudden cloudburst carries away homes, or a landslide swallows a road. In those hours of disaster, cameras arrive and the valley appears on the nation’s maps.

Then the attention fades, like rain clouds drifting over the mountains.

What remains is a longer story, less dramatic but more painful: slow erosion of promises, struggle for recognition, and weariness of a people left waiting.

The river that gives the valley its name runs restless and blue, cutting deep through the Lesser Himalayas. Along its banks lie the districts of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban, townships where languages braid into one another, where Kashmiri mingles with Urdu and local dialects, and where feasts resemble the valley’s traditions but in humbler form.

The Chenab flows steadily, carrying histories across ridges, but the people who live with it remain caught in a pause. They belong neither fully to Jammu, nor fully to Kashmir.

In that in-between space, their demands are spoken and forgotten, year after year.

The idea of a separate divisional status for Chenab Valley is not new. It has flickered through political speeches since the nineties, each time offering hope before fading again.

Reports have been written, committees formed, and funds announced. In 2015, the Chenab Valley Development Fund was declared with great ceremony, promising schools, hospitals, and roads. Hydroelectric companies, whose dams reshape Kishtwar’s landscape and light up faraway cities, were asked to contribute.

For a brief moment, people believed change was coming. Then the initiative disappeared, folded into the long archive of unkept pledges.

This cycle has repeated often. A Hill Development Council was promised once, regional autonomy another time, and divisional status in yet another season of elections.

Yet the valley still leans on unfinished roads, understaffed hospitals, and schools where the absence of teachers is a routine.

Natural disasters may be sudden, but neglect here is slow, like a mountain eroding



The way forward is neither radical nor impossible. A divisional administration rooted in Chenab Valley would bring decisions closer to its people. It would mean better planning for a fragile ecology, more care in hydroelectric projects, and deliberate investment in education and health.

grain by grain.

For residents, this absence is intimate. Anzer Ayoub, a journalist from Thathri, speaks of it as if speaking of a wound. He calls himself a “Chenabi Kashmiri,” his identity shaped by the river he grew up beside.

For him, divisional status is not a matter of pride but of survival. “Our Commissioner sits in Jammu,” he says. “He cannot see the roads that vanish in a single rain, or the children walking miles to reach schools without teachers.”

He points to Ladakh, which was granted

divisional status in 2019, and wonders why Chenab Valley must continue waiting.

This longing has given rise to the term “Chenabi,” a name meant to weave together the valley’s many tongues and traditions, like Kishtwari, Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, and Pogli, into a single fabric.

Critics worry that the word might dissolve what makes each group distinct. Its defenders reply that “Chenabi” is not a replacement but an umbrella, like the river itself: carrying different streams without blending them away.

In the face of neglect, the name has become a shield, a reminder that the valley’s people are bound by common struggle.

The neglect is sharpest in the politics of reservation.

Across Jammu and Kashmir, debates rage over quotas and categories, but Chenab Valley often stands outside these benefits. Its poverty, backwardness, and fragile terrain find little reflection in policy.

When jobs are scarce and schools remain thinly staffed, the absence of special measures deepens the sense of abandonment.

For many here, divisional status is a way of saying: we exist, we matter, and we too deserve to be seen in the structure of governance.

In 2019, when Ladakh was lifted into a separate division, the valley watched with a mixture of hope and bitterness. Leaders spoke briefly about Chenab’s claim, then moved on. Protests rose in Doda and Kishtwar, though they barely registered beyond local papers.

Each passing year pushes the valley deeper into the background, even as its rivers supply electricity and its mountains bear the risks of dams and landslides.

The way forward is neither radical nor impossible. A divisional administration rooted in Chenab Valley would bring decisions closer to its people. It would mean better planning for a fragile ecology, more care in hydroelectric projects, and deliberate investment in education and health.

It would mean accepting that the Chenab Valley is not a corridor between regions but a place with its own pulse, and dignity.

The author is a student and columnist based in Jammu and Kashmir. Views expressed in this article are author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy.



Letter to Editor

When Public Service Turns Casual in Kashmir

One afternoon in Srinagar, I left my office early to send a book by speed post. I drove fast, eager to reach the post office before it closed. Inside, I found a scene that left me unsettled.

The office did not look like a place of service. A few young men lounged around a table, laughing loudly with the postal worker behind the counter. He, a bespectacled youngster with messy hair, sat cross-legged in his chair, glued to his phone.

When I asked about the speed post procedure, he barely looked up. My words received half-hearted nods, as his eyes were fixed on the glowing screen. To get his attention, I had to raise my voice. His friends went on chatting, their laughter echoing in

the room.

That day reminded me of how much we have lost in our public institutions. There was a time when a government office carried an air of seriousness. Clerks focused on their desks, files moved from one table to another, and there was an understanding that people came seeking help. Today, many of these spaces feel like drawing rooms or street corners.

Government employees are not private shopkeepers. Their salaries come from taxpayers. They are entrusted with a simple duty: to serve. For citizens, especially in Kashmir where government offices are often the only lifeline, indifference is more than inconvenience. A distracted clerk can mean a delayed scholar-

ship, a missed deadline, or a wasted trip for someone who traveled hours from a village.

Technology has begun to ease some of this burden. Online forms, e-payments, and digital portals have reduced the need for endless visits to offices. They save time and spare citizens humiliation. Yet machines cannot replace every task. For many services, people still depend on the attention and empathy of the person behind the counter.

The new generation entering public service needs training and guidance. Professionalism must be taught and reinforced. Without it, government offices risk becoming hangouts where responsibility is secondary.

Sincerely,

Malik Javid
malikjavid86@gmail.com

How Faulty Power Took Muneeb's Life in Kashmir

What should have been a simple outing became a tragedy. Muneeb's death highlights systemic neglect in Kashmir's power infrastructure, putting youth and workers at constant risk.

Dabirah Hassan

The sun had just climbed above the mountains when Syed Muneeb, 22, and his friends unpacked their picnic by the lakeside in Athwato, Bandipora.

The air was crisp, water smooth, and for a few hours, life seemed ordinary.

The boys gathered firewood, joked, and watched the mist roll off the lake. Then Muneeb's hand brushed against a steel pole at the edge of the clearing.

One moment he was laughing. And the next, he collapsed.

His friends tried CPR. Someone ran for an ambulance. By the time help arrived, it was too late.

The post-mortem confirmed electrocution. PDD officials initially claimed the pole carried no current. But neighbours knew the truth.

"We warned the department many times," said one, her voice trembling. "Nothing was done until a young life was lost."

In his hometown of Budgam, Muneeb's death adds to a growing list of similar tragedies.

In July 2025, two students from Ichgam were electrocuted after a live wire fell into a spring where they were bathing. One died on



the spot, the other succumbed to injuries two days later in Srinagar.

A daily-rated PDD worker in Srinagar survived after a live wire threw him to the ground outside the Deputy Commissioner's office, leaving him bedridden for months.

Two more PDD employees died while repairing a transformer at Budgam Receiving Station last year. Across the valley, poles stand exposed, wires sag, and transformers age without maintenance.

Data from local hospitals and police reports paint a grim picture.

Between 2020 and 2024, at least 96 field workers died from electrocution while on duty, often during storms, with little or no protective equipment.

In the past two months alone, five to six workers have been killed. A study of fatal electrocutions in the Jammu region shows 43% of victims were aged 21–30, 78% were male, and most incidents occurred during summer when outdoor activity peaks.

Yet, safety audits are rare, and accountability almost nonexistent.

Families bear the heaviest burden. They lose their primary earners, their only children, or siblings. Compensation is sporadic.

In Budgam, locals estimate roughly 20 deaths per year from electrocution, with many more across the valley.

"Our lives have become a daily negotiation with electricity," said a villager. "Every wire, pole is a threat."



MUNEEB'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS KEEP ASKING: HOW MANY MORE HAVE TO DIE before someone finally acts? How long will warnings be ignored before electricity becomes a lifeline, not a threat?

Parents warn children, but awareness cannot replace infrastructure.

Villagers petition PDD offices, call helplines, and sometimes organize local protests. Often, complaints vanish into bureaucracy. Teachers, shopkeepers, and elders speak of a silent grief.

"The system responds only after someone dies," said a high school teacher in Srinagar. "We wait for tragedy, knowing it could be tomorrow, and we cannot stop it."

In Muneeb's neighbourhood, mothers whisper their fears.

"I tell my son to stay away from poles, wires, and everywhere electricity runs. I fear for him every day," said one, eyes fixed on the mountains. Fathers nod silently, aware that vigilance can only prevent so much.

Even the urban landscape is unsafe. Srinagar's lanes are threaded with drooping overhead wires. Transformers sit unguarded in villages.

When storms hit, wires fall into ponds or streets, turning ordinary spaces into death traps.

"Electricity is a lifeline," said an activist in Budgam, "but here it has become a threat. Every household fears it, yet no one takes responsibility until tragedy strikes."

The PDD cites funding gaps, manpower

shortages, and unavoidable technical faults. Yet decades of repeated deaths suggest systemic neglect rather than chance. Activists push for mandatory safety audits, timely repairs, protective gear, and proper worker training. Calls remain largely unanswered.

Those closest to victims describe a profound sense of helplessness.

"Ever since Muneeb died, I can't pass by the poles without thinking of him," said a neighbour. "I see his friends, remember his laughter, and then I see the wires and transformers that took him. Everything looks the same, but he's gone."

In rural areas, villagers recount near misses. Children stumble into dangling wires while chasing kites. Farmers brush against transformers while tending fields.

"We live with fear, yet life goes on," said a shopkeeper in Bandipora. "The risk is constant, invisible, and often deadly."

Even in schools, hazards remain.

Wires hang near playgrounds, transformers sit unprotected, and safety drills are almost nonexistent. Parents and teachers repeatedly request inspections, yet the response is sporadic.

"We are waiting for policy, accountability, and someone to care before it's too late," said a school principal. "We cannot grieve forever."

For families like Muneeb's, the loss is immeasurable. Each pole, wire, and transformer in their village is a reminder of a system that fails before death arrives.

His inconsolable family and friends keep asking: how many more have to die before someone finally acts? How long will warnings be ignored before electricity becomes a lifeline, not a threat?

Until that happens, young Muneeb's will continue to be lost to wires, poles, and transformers that everyone sees but no one fixes.

— The author is a multimedia journalist at Kashmir Observer.



FOR FAMILIES LIKE MUNEEB'S, THE LOSS IS IMMEASURABLE. EACH POLE, wire, and transformer in their village is a reminder of a system that fails before death arrives.

When Srinagar Wakes to Water

Beautification projects light up the city, but clogged drains and vanishing wetlands leave homes under water.



Iffat Aurooj

I woke to water creeping into my home. Veranda, chairs, even my fence were half-submerged. This was after a rain that was supposed to be routine.

In Srinagar, the word "routine" doesn't mean safe anymore. The city that has been branded as "smart" loses its shape with the first shower.

Roads dissolve into brown ponds. Markets go under. Homes choke with water. Polo View, showcased as the jewel of the city's facelift, turns into a puddle faster than its celebrated image.

I have seen traders pump water out of shops they waited months to have renovated. In Safakadal, Nowhatta, and Rajouri Kadal, people don't even raise their voices now. They lift their furniture onto higher ground, as if this is the new normal.

We were told the smart city project would bring resilience. What we got instead were decorative tiles, hanging lights, and promises left unfinished. Somewhere, the most basic question was forgotten: where does the water go?

None of this should shock anyone. Srinagar's drainage system is older than many of the families who depend on it. It was built for a smaller, slower city more than 40 years ago. The Nallah Mar canal,

once a lifeline, was buried under asphalt and turned into a road. The wetlands, like Brari Nambal, Khushalsar, and Gilsar, that used to drink the excess water have shrunk, choked, or been built over.

What remains are narrow drains, clogged with silt and plastic, and pump stations that fail whenever the power goes out.

It doesn't take a monsoon to see the cracks. Just last month, a short downpour drowned the area around Soura hospital. Videos of flooded rooms made their way across social media, leaving the valley stunned at how helpless the city looked.

The figures are just as sobering. The government says it has spent more than 980 crore under the Smart City project. Yet the basics remain untouched. Earlier this year, officials floated a 9 crore proposal to de-silt drains. It was rejected for lack of funds. A few days later, fountains were announced instead.

What is missing here is not technology, but will. Smart was supposed to mean future-ready. But walk through Lal Chowk in the rain and you'll see how hollow the word sounds. A shopkeeper wading through ankle-deep water does not care for fairy lights strung overhead. He wants a road that drains, a pavement that holds, and a city that works.

The fixes are not impossible. They are almost embarrassingly simple. Drainage does not make headlines, but it makes survival possible. Srinagar needs a full audit of its drainage network. It needs to reopen natural channels, and stop selling wetlands as if they were real estate plots.

Every so-called smart intervention should carry a clause for resilience, not just beauty. Pump stations need backup power. Roads should be designed with slopes that let water escape. And the multiple agencies, including municipal corporation, UEED, and Smart City Limited, must talk to each other before they keep tearing up and re-laying the same roads.

Above all, the city must listen to engineers who live here, not consultants flown in with glossy maps. It should also pay attention to citizens who know every bend where the water gathers.

For now, I keep a mop ready in the corner. Every forecast is a warning, every drizzle a rehearsal for a bigger failure.

Like my shoes left drying near the veranda, this city too waits for a day when it can finally breathe.

— The author is a final year student of Political Science at Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi. She can be reached at aurooj.iffat@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Lost Scientists

Bright students leave or abandon science because the valley's institutions fail to connect classrooms with labs.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

Science usually means medicine or engineering in Kashmir classrooms. Students speak of NEET and JEE with practiced ease. But mention research in physics or climate, and silence takes over. One boy summed up the hesitation in a single line: "Sir, does anyone really get to do that here?"

The question reflects a deep problem in Jammu and Kashmir. Science, for most young people, has been reduced to coaching for competitive exams. The broader fields of pure sciences, research, and innovation remain far from reach.

That gap is not the fault of students. It is the result of a system where the three institutions responsible for shaping scientific futures work in isolation.

For decades, the School Education Department (JKSED) has handled schooling, the Higher Education Department (JKHED) has overseen colleges and universities, and the Department of Science and Technology (JKDST) has managed science programs and innovation funds.

Each operates with little connection to the others. The result is a broken pipeline. Classrooms overflow with theory, labs are under-equipped or unused, and research rarely connects with local needs.

The cost is measurable. According to JKDST figures, the number of funded scientific research proposals from the region has remained in the dozens each year, far below states of comparable size. Colleges in J&K continue to rank low in research output, with very few patents filed or innovations commercialized. Meanwhile, nearly 40,000 students from J&K appeared for NEET last year, a sharp rise from a decade ago. Coaching centres thrive, while labs stagnate.

This disconnect produces predictable frustrations.

JKSED struggles to keep students interested in science beyond exams. JKHED notes the lack of serious research coming out of colleges. JKDST laments the poor quality of proposals it receives.

These complaints, heard often and separately, are in fact symptoms of one disease: the absence of institutional coordination.

What Jammu and Kashmir lacks is a seamless chain that links school education, higher educa-



tion, and research into one continuum. Without it, a bright Kashmiri student who excels in science has no structured path from high school to a college research project, and onward to innovation funding.

Many either abandon science midway or migrate to Delhi, Pune, or Bangalore for opportunities.

A solution exists. Experts and educators argue for a Jammu and Kashmir Science Education Research Innovation (JK-SERI) ecosystem. Such a system would reimagine science education as a journey that begins in middle school and can stretch all the way to doctoral research.

A student in the valley could be introduced to water testing in class nine, mentored by a college faculty member during graduation, and later supported by JKDST to develop an innovation in renewable energy.

Creating such a system requires institutional reform. The current Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC), a wing of JKDST, has been largely bureaucratic and ineffective. Replacing it with a JK-SERI Council, chaired by the Chief Secretary and including the secretaries of JKSED, JKHED, and JKDST, could provide the coordination missing for decades.

This body could organize statewide science fairs, link colleges with nearby schools, and review joint research proposals tied to local needs.

The need for locally driven science is urgent. Kashmir's glaciers are retreating, rainfall patterns are shifting, and apple growers are reporting unpredictable harvests.

Agriculture, which employs nearly half the population, is already under pressure. Yet, students rarely work on projects that ad-

dress these problems. They could be testing stream water quality, or studying soil to support horticulture. Instead, most are memorizing formulas for exams that have little to do with local realities.

Teachers, too, face constraints. Many school and college science teachers have not entered a live research lab since their degrees. Without training, their teaching risks becoming outdated. Annual research camps, faculty exchange programs, and district innovation labs could help. If every district had at least one lab open to both college and school students, curiosity could be nurtured into innovation.

Local role models matter as well. While textbooks highlight Einstein and Kalam, they rarely mention Kashmiri scientists who have contributed nationally and globally. This invisibility reinforces the perception that science is "done elsewhere."

Spotlighting local researchers would help students believe that serious innovation can emerge from their own valley.

The stakes are high. Innovation does not emerge from a vacuum. It grows from long-term investment in education and research.

If JKSED, JKHED, and JKDST remain siloed, Kashmir will continue exporting its talent. If they come together, the valley could move from missed opportunities to meaningful innovation.

Somewhere in a classroom in Kashmir, there may be a student who could one day design a vaccine, a climate model, or a technology that saves lives.

Whether that happens depends on whether Kashmir can build the missing science bridge.

— The author is a Chadoora-based teacher-researcher.

Smoking Status Must Be Captured In Cancer Trials, Experts Say In New Study

Press Trust of India

A group of experts from AIIMS Delhi, McMaster University in Canada and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in France has stressed the need to record smoking status in cancer clinical trials, warning that continued tobacco use can reduce treatment efficacy and patient survival.

In a commentary published in the Lancet Oncology this month, the seven authors, including Dr Abhishek Shankar from AIIMS Delhi, said knowledge of smoking status during therapy could influence clinical decisions.

They argued that addressing barriers to tobacco-use assessment and embedding smoking cessation initiatives into oncology research protocols will improve trial outcomes, enhance therapeutic efficacy and save lives.

The researchers cited the 2014 US Surgeon General's report 'The Health Consequences of Smoking ~ 50 Years of Progress', which for the first time concluded there was a causal link between cigarette smoking and adverse cancer-related outcomes, including higher all-cause and cancer-specific mortality.

This report underscores the need to systematically capture smoking status in clinical trials, to refine estimates of efficacy of novel therapies and to better understand the impact of continued tobacco use across treatment modalities and disease sites.

Since 2014, research has increasingly shown that continued tobacco use negatively impacts patients receiving surgery, radiotherapy or systemic therapies.

The mechanisms by which tobacco smoke worsens outcomes remain unclear but may include tumour hypoxia, altered drug metabolism, stimulation of signalling pathways by nicotine and changes to the immune system, including reduced natural killer cells, the authors noted.

"Little is known about how best to overcome the effects of tobacco smoke, apart from cessation of tobacco use. Knowledge



of smoking status during cancer therapy could potentially influence clinical decisions," the authors said in the commentary.

They cited how the dose of erlotinib has to be doubled (from 150 mg to 300 mg daily) to achieve therapeutic concentrations in patients who continue smoking.

"These findings highlight a large gap in our understanding of how continued tobacco use might influence drug metabolism, therapeutic response and long-term outcomes," the experts said, adding that the issue is most pressing in low and middle-income countries with 80 per cent of tobacco users.

Meta-analyses of lung, head and neck, hormone-responsive and other cancers show that quitting smoking after diagnosis results in longer survival, with early quitting offering the greatest benefits. The authors stressed that the survival advantage of quitting could even exceed the impact of the therapy under investigation.

They also cautioned that failure to collect smoking data risks confounding trial results, especially if treatment groups are unbalanced for tobacco use.

The commentary pointed out that the 2020 US Surgeon General's report recommended structured cessation efforts as standard cancer care, though it said more data was needed to confirm a causal link with improved survival.

The authors referred to a 2020 US FDA-AACR-IASLC workshop which addressed the importance of tobacco-use assessment in oncology trials. Despite such efforts and published evidence, clinical trials still rarely incorporate robust tobacco-use assessments, they said.

Absence of standardised tools and protocols for assessing tobacco use leads to inconsistencies in data collection, making it challenging to compare results across studies, authors added.

"They further said that some researchers and clinicians might perceive tobacco use as having minimal impact on clinical outcomes, leading to its omission from data collection.

"However, evidence strongly suggests that continued tobacco use can have a substantial adverse effect on cancer treatment efficacy and patient survival," the authors said.

They also said that opportunities to intervene with current users after diagnosis have been missed, and more research is needed on mechanisms by which tobacco worsens outcomes.

Collecting detailed smoking data requires time and resources, which might be limited in clinical trial settings, they pointed out. Electronic health record systems might not have integrated templates for recording smoking status information, leading to inconsistent documentation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that Mr. Faizan, son of Shri Muzafar Ahmad Padroo, resident of Village kanihama, Tehsil Magam, District budgam, has applied for issuance of an Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Certificate. If anyone has any objection to the issuance of this certificate, they may file the same with the Tehsildar, Magam, within seven (7) days of this publication. Otherwise, the certificate shall be issued in due course.

bmg

از نیابت بومی زمینگیر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب شاز یثاثر دختر شار احمد لون ساکنہ عیدی پورہ برادر اجرائی

Stamp Vebdir

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ زیر بحث کے نسبت اول پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ حاصل کیا گیا مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری بلاہ ساکن عیدی پورہ کاسکونت دار ہے اور وہ ہذا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کالکبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

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|--------------------------------------|------------|--------|
| ثاثر احمد لون ولد غلام محی الدین لون | تجارت | 56 سال |
| سلیم بیگم زوجہ شار احمد لون | گھریلو کام | 55 سال |
| دانش ثاثر پسر شار احمد لون | زیر تعلیم | 27 سال |
| شاز یثاثر دختر شار احمد لون | -- | 32 سال |

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور اب ساکنہ اپنے حق میں Stamp Vendor Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدارFKO

از نیابت بومی زمینگیر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب انشاء بخش دختر محفص گنائی ساکنہ تیرجیلی ہار برادر اجرائی

Stamp Vebdir

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ زیر بحث کے نسبت اول پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ حاصل کیا گیا مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری بلاہ ساکن عیدی پورہ کاسکونت دار ہے اور وہ ہذا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کالکبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

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|------------------------------------|------------|--------|
| محمد شفیع گنائی ولد عبدالغنی گنائی | مزدوری | 55 سال |
| سیدہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شفیع گنائی | گھریلو کام | 54 سال |
| انشاء بخش دختر محمد شفیع گنائی | زیر تعلیم | 25 سال |

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور اب ساکنہ اپنے حق میں Stamp Vendor Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدارFKO

از نیابت پلہا لن۔ با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار پلہا لن

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب ممتازہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم محمد دلا ور خان ساکنہ پلہا لن تحصیل چٹن برادر اجرائی لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفیکیٹ بحق خود

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کا شوہر مرحوم محمد دلا ور خان برطانیہ دستہ سرٹیفیکیٹ 27-11-2004 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائزہ بذیل ہے

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|---------------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| مسما تہ بیگم | 87 سال | عمر رسیدہ | والدہ | متوفی |
| ممتازہ بیگم | 50 سال | گھریلو کام | بیوہ | متوفی |
| بلکیس دلا ور | 25 سال | گھریلو کام | دختر | متوفی |
| رضیہ دلا ور | 22 سال | زیر تعلیم | -- | -- |
| کاشمیر دلا ور | 21 سال | -- | -- | -- |
| عارف دلا ور | 22 سال | -- | -- | -- |
| بسمادلا ور | 20 سال | -- | -- | -- |

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور اب ساکنہ اپنے حق میں لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدارFKO

از نیابت پلہا لن۔ با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار پلہا لن

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب جاوید حسن ولد غلام حسن تانترے ساکنہ پلہا لن تحصیل چٹن برادر اجرائی لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفیکیٹ بحق خود

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کی والدہ مسما تہ صرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام حسن تانترے برطانیہ دستہ سرٹیفیکیٹ 24-06-2006 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائزہ بذیل ہے

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|-----------------|--------|------------|------|-------|
| غلام حسن تانترے | 55 سال | مزدوری | شوہر | متوفی |
| مسرت بیگم | 31 سال | گھریلو کام | دختر | -- |
| عارف احمد | 27 سال | مزدوری | پسر | -- |
| جاوید حسن | 23 سال | زیر تعلیم | پسر | -- |

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور اب ساکنہ اپنے حق میں لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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ICRISAT Delegation Meets CM, Explores Agricultural Self-Reliance For J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A delegation led by Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, accompanied by representatives of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to discuss the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Resilient Agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation included Dr. Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General-Research and Innovation, and Dr. Sean Mayes, Global Research Program Director, ICRISAT.

They briefed the Chief Minister on the organization's global contributions in crop research and fodder production, highlighting scientific advancements and best practices adopted across different regions. The team also apprised the Chief Minister of their visit to

J&K and interactions with senior government functionaries.

During the meeting, the delegation emphasized both the immense potential and the challenges in strengthening the agriculture and allied sectors in J&K. The Chief Minister observed that changing climate patterns have made precipitation less reliable, posing new challenges for the farming community.

He observed that Jammu and Kashmir, while having a substantial demand for livestock products, continues to depend heavily on imports to meet local requirements. Given that livestock rearing necessitates large quantities of fodder, much of which is presently sourced from outside J&K, there exists considerable scope for enhancing indigenous fodder production.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stressed that SKUAST-Kashmir can play a pivotal role in achieving greater self-reliance in this critical sector.

J&K Startup Idea Challenge

JKEDI Conducts Boot Camps At Samba, Shopian, Baramulla



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR/JAMMU- The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Tuesday launched a series of boot camps under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge across colleges and universities in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. These boot camps aim to harness and nurture the innovative ideas of students, fostering entrepreneurial thinking and encouraging youth-led innovation across the region.

The first three boot camps were conducted at Dogra Law College, Samba, Saqib Mohiudin Memorial Degree College, Shopian and Government Degree College for Women, Baramulla.

At Samba, the boot camp under Startup Idea Challenge was inaugurated at Dogra Law College, Samba by Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, JKEDI. The camp was conducted by a three-member team including Project Manager JKEDI, Zahid Ali, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Samba, Vijendra Jamwal and Sorab Mengi, Assistant Manager.

The camp witnessed participation from students, faculty members, members of the Dogra Educational Trust, Ex-

ecutives from J&K Bank and officers/officials of JKEDI. Besides, Dr. Samar Dev Charak, Secretary Dogra Educational Trust, Dr. Bela Thakur, Director Dogra Group of Colleges were present on the occasion.

In his inaugural speech, the Joint Director, JKEDI appreciated the zeal of students and stressed on the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship on shaping the future of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged the young participants to pursue their ideas and assured them of the JKEDI's continuous support in their entrepreneurial journey. During the boot camp, 13 students pitched their innovative ideas based on various fields of interest.

At Shopian, the boot camp under the Startup Idea Challenge was held at Saqib Mohiudin Memorial Degree College, Shopian. The boot camp was conducted by a team including Ajaz Mulla, Assistant Faculty, Sayeem Rafiq District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Shopian, Mudassir Mohidin, Assistant faculty and Rizwan Andrabi, Office Associate.

The event saw participation from 150 students from Saqib Mohiudin Memorial Degree College, Shopian, Government Higher Secondary School Zainpora, Shopian and National Innovation School Shopian.

J&K Gears Up For UT-Wide Skilling Mission

Chief Secretary Reviews Roadmap To Achieve The Target



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a meeting to take assessment of the progress made in his initiative of creating the requisite skilling ecosystem across J&K envisaged to ensure 'Skilling for All' as per the capabilities of each section of the population in an inclusive manner.

Those who attended this meeting includes Commissioner Secretary, Labour & Employment; MD, Skill Development Mission; DG, Budget; Director, L&E and other concerned officers.

Applauding the role of the Department, the Chief Secretary observed that it is quite satisfying to note that the department had come up with the initial blueprint of the skilling plan in the shortest possible timeframe after the holding of the stakeholders conference here in the month of July. He termed it promising and a sure way of moving ahead. He also encouraged them to keep this momentum intact till the objectives are not realized here.

He further underscored the need of consulting all the stakeholders for discussing the framework for incorporation of their insights as well. He advised for holding multi-player discourses to make this skilling plan more robust and effective in achieving its outcomes. He suggested for holding deliberations with the local higher educational institutions, IIT/IIM Jammu, Agricultural Universities, NABARD, J&K Bank besides others

for making the initiative more effective on ground.

During this meeting the Secretary, L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan threw light on the different steps taken in the direction of creating a robust skilling plan for the UT as envisioned and directed by the Chief Secretary previously.

The Secretary went on to elucidate that recently a 2-day conference on the theme of 'Transforming Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir' was held in which 7 government departments, 6 industry partners, 4 academic institutions and over 100 delegates gave their valuable suggestions that had been documented into a comprehensive report for framing of an effective strategy here.

He further informed that the conference was followed by multi-stakeholder discussion in which the institutions like that of IIT, IIM and other institutions participated for discerning of steps to be followed next. The Department also embarked on the task of analysing the available tools and equipments for implementation of the future steps, he added.

Further it was revealed that the Department also went on to devise the surveys for appraising itself about the strengths and weaknesses of its institutions, requirements of industries and support to be garnered from them and essentially to know about the aspirations of youth, their skills, feedback about curricula, their entrepreneurial interests and the barriers they had

faced till now.

The roadmap, it was revealed, pivots upon 4 different pillars which are envisaged to bring out desired results here in J&K. First of all, it was given out that the plan envisages skilling all the employable individuals. For that the step conceived is the introduction of foundational vocational courses right from the schools itself. This as per the strategy aims at introducing basic modules related to coding & AI, imparting communication & life skills, problem solving & innovation besides a career pathway module to expose the students to multi-career paths through content availability and alumni instructions.

Moreover the annual technological festival and a competition named 'Techniche' and 'Technotholon' respectively are going to be part of this initial programme to enhance the appetite of our students towards innovation, creativity and skill development. The same is going to be organised by the government in close collaboration with IIT Jammu.

In colleges a 'Career Launch pad' for youth had been contemplated. It features imparting basic and advanced domain based skills like that of website designing, digital marketing, data analytics, green skills, tourism related skills to youth enrolled there. The same are going to be further augmented by the 'College Finishing Skills' encompassing a 3-month long boot camp to enhance their CV making and interview preparation skills at the end.

J&K Bank Commissions CRM At Wattergam, Baramulla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Reinforcing its commitment to provide state-of-the-art banking facilities across Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank has commissioned a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) at its Wattergam Branch in Baramulla for the convenience of customers in the area.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Baramulla) Tanveer Ahmad inaugurated the facility in the presence of Cluster Head (Sopore) Mehboob Ellahi Khan amid a gathering of valuable customers, prominent citizens and local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head said, "Installation of this CRM reiterates our focus on enhancing customer service delivery and expanding digital banking infrastructure across our areas of opera-



tions. The machine will enable round-the-clock cash deposit and withdrawal services, thereby providing greater flexibility and convenience to our customers."

Those present on the occasion hailed the Bank's efforts for bringing modern banking facilities closer to people, particularly in rural areas like Wattergam.



India, US Negotiating Agreement To Liberalise Trade In Goods, Non-Sensitive Agri Products: Minister

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India and the US are negotiating a multi-sector bilateral trade agreement and as a part of the negotiations, both sides are discussing liberalisation of trade in goods, including non-sensitive agricultural products, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The government is engaged with all relevant stakeholders including agriculture, farming experts, to assess the interests and requirements of India's rural economy, farmers and agricultural sector, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

"India and the USA are negotiating a multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). As a part of negotiations, among other things, both sides are engaged in discussions on liberalization of trade in goods, including non-sensitive agricultural products, with the aim to expand trade and deepen the India-US trade relationship," he said.

He added that the government is committed to taking all necessary steps to secure and advance the country's national interest and protect the welfare of our farmers, rural economy

and agriculture sector.

So far, five rounds of talks have been completed between the two countries on the proposed BTA. The US team has recently postponed their visit for the sixth round of negotiations, which was scheduled from August 25.

In a separate reply, he said a reciprocal tariff at the rate of 25 per cent has been imposed on certain goods exported from India to the US starting from August 7. Further, additional duty of 25 per cent with effect from August 27, 2025 has been imposed on certain goods exported from India.

"The Government has taken note of tariff imposition by the US," the minister said, adding it is estimated that around USD 48.2 billion of India's merchandise export (based on 2024 trade value) to the US will be subject to the above additional tariffs.

He said that the government is committed to secure and advance the country's national interest and protect the welfare of Indian farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry and take all necessary steps to help mitigate impact on trade including through appropriate export promotion and trade diversification measures.

Stock Markets Rally For 4th Day; Sensex Climbs Nearly 371 Points On GST Reform Bid

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Rising for the fourth consecutive day, benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Tuesday following gains in oil major Reliance Industries and Tata Motors amid prevailing optimism over sweeping GST reforms and easing geopolitical worries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped by 370.64 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,644.39. During the day, it spurred by 482.13 points or 0.59 per cent to 81,755.88.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 103.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 24,980.65.

Optimism prevailed in the market, buoyed by plans for big bang reforms in the GST regime by Diwali and easing geopolitical worries, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors rose the most by 3.5 per cent while Adani Ports gained 3.16 per cent. Reliance Industries rose by 2.82 per cent. Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Maruti were also among the gainers.

However, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra and HCL Tech were among the laggards.

"The national market contin-



ued the renewed momentum, buoyed by expectations of GST rationalisation and a recent upgrade in India's credit rating. Additional optimism came from signs of easing geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine, shifting the near-term outlook from consolidation to a more constructive stance," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

The BSE midcap and small-cap indices jumped 0.97 per cent each.

All BSE sectoral indices ended higher. Oil & Gas climbed 1.49 per cent, followed by energy (1.48 per cent), auto (1.45 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.25 per cent), services (1.12 per cent) and telecommunication (1.04 per cent).

As many as 2,630 advanced while 1,437 declined and 165 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Gold Falls Rs 500 To Rs 1,00,420/10 G; Silver Declines Rs 1,000

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices fell Rs 500 to Rs 1,00,420 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a firm trend in the overseas markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had ended at Rs 1,00,920 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity dipped Rs 450 to Rs 1,00,050 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. It had closed at Rs 1,00,500 per 10 grams on Monday.

"Gold prices cooled down, as peace talks between (US) President Donald Trump and (Ukraine) President Volodymyr Zelenskyy brought some hope for ending the war in Ukraine during a meeting at the White House, with European and NATO leaders also in attendance," Abans Financial Services CEO Chintan Mehta said.

According to Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities and Currencies, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said, "Weakness in the USD/INR pair on the Indian government tweaking GST rules is weighing on the domestic gold prices."

In addition, silver prices declined Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,14,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday, as per the Association.

The white metal had settled at Rs 1,15,000 per kg in the previous market session.

In international markets, spot gold went up 0.15 per cent to trade at USD 3,337.92 per ounce in New York.

"Gold prices declined below USD 3,380 per ounce as investors turned their attention towards US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's forthcoming statements at the Jackson Hole Symposium as well as minutes from the Fed's most recent meeting," Renisha Chainani, Head, Research, Augmont, said.

Spot silver was trading at USD 38.09 per ounce, up 0.19 per cent.

Bhat Directs For Boosting Tax Revenue, Curbing Tax Evasions

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Commissioner State Taxes, Jammu and Kashmir, P.K. Bhat Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with State Tax Officers (STOs) of the Jammu Division today here as a precursor to second quarter of the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting, held at the Excise and Taxation Complex here, focused on assessing departmental performance, addressing challenges and discussed strategies for enhanced revenue collection and tax compliance.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra along with State Tax Officers from all circles of the Jammu division. The outer circle officers joined the meeting through virtual mode.

Commissioner Bhat, during the meeting, emphasized on the critical role of the State Taxes department in strengthening financial discipline and boosting revenue to meet the fiscal targets for 2025-26. He directed

officers to aim for a significant revenue hike by adopting proactive measures and leveraging technology to curb tax evasion.

"Our goal is to ensure robust tax compliance while fostering a business-friendly environment. We must utilize every tool at our disposal to achieve these objectives," he stated.

Bhat also highlighted the need to crack down on dormant dealers, ensure timely filing of returns and monitor Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) payments.

He instructed officers to intensify field inspections, particularly in cash-heavy sectors like banquet halls, catering services, and retail, to ensure compliance with GST regulations.

The Commissioner stressed the importance of scrutinizing E-Way Bills to prevent revenue leakage and urged officers to harness GST Prime and BIU for real-time data analysis and monitoring of high-risk sectors, including cement, iron, and mobile industries, where tax violations are more likely to occur.

Rupee Appreciates 26 Paise To Close At 87.13 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee appreciated 26 paise to close at 87.13 against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by optimism over GST restructuring and positive domestic equity markets.

Forex traders said rupee is expected to trade with a positive bias as easing worries over additional tariffs by the US boosted market sentiments after the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 87.24 against the US dollar, touched an intraday low of 87.31 and a high of 86.92, and settled at 87.13, registering a gain of 26 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee appreciated 20 paise to close at 87.39 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee rose to the highest levels in a month on optimism over GST restructuring as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Independence Day speech. Eas-

ing worries over additional tariffs by the US also boosted market sentiments," said Anuj Chaudhary, Research Analyst, Commodities and Currencies, Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

The present GST tax rates of nil/zero on essential food items, 5 per cent on daily use products, 12 per cent on standard goods, 18 per cent on electronics and services and 28 per cent on luxury and sin goods will be replaced by two tax slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, plus a special 40 per cent top bracket for 5-7 demerit goods.

The proposed two-slab regime, if approved by the GST Council, will replace the current four slabs in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, doing away with the 12 per cent and 28 per cent slabs.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on upbeat domestic market sentiments due to GST rationalisation and fading trade tariff concerns. Falling crude oil prices and overall weakness in the greenback may also support the rupee," Chaudhary said.

Modi Govt Has Rescue-centric Approach To Handle Disasters: Shah

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Narendra Modi government's approach and strategy to handle any disaster since 2014 is rescue-centric rather than relief-centric, thus reducing casualties and damage significantly.

Chairing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 'Disaster Management and Capacity Building' here, he said many major policy-related and institutional decisions have been taken in the field of disaster management in the past 10 years.

The disaster-response policy



of the Modi government is based on the four pillars of capacity

building, speed, efficiency, and accuracy, Shah said.

This has resulted in significant prevention during disasters,

from the 1999 super cyclone in Odisha that killed 10,000 people to the 2023 Biparjoi in Gujarat and 2024 Dana in Odisha with zero casualties, he said.

Before 2014, there was a relief-centric approach towards disaster management, which was changed to a rescue-centric approach by the Modi government, he said.

The home minister said that as a result of the efforts of the Modi government in the field of disaster management, there has been a 98 per cent reduction in the damage caused by cyclones and a significant reduction in heat wave casualties.

He mentioned the recent cloudburst and landslide

incidents in several states, and said a strategy is being formulated to deal with such calamities.

Shah said the Modi government has adopted a multi-dimensional approach in the field of disaster management along with financial, institutional, and structural strengthening. The focus of the Modi government is to save people from the losses caused by disasters, he added.

He also said that based on PM Modi's 10-point agenda, the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill was brought in 2024, which has been worked upon with transparency, responsibility, efficiency and synergy.

The home minister emphasised the need to spread

awareness about disaster prevention at district and gram panchayat levels.

Rs 66,000 crore was given to SDRF and NDRF between 2004 and 2014, which has been increased almost three times to Rs 2 lakh crore in the 10 years from 2014 to 2024, Shah said.

He also pointed out that Rs 1,28,122 crore has been allocated for SDRF and Rs 54,770 crore for NDRF for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Shah said the Central government has also allocated Rs 13,693 crore for the National Disaster Mitigation Fund and Rs 32,031 crore for the State Disaster Mitigation Fund for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kishtwar Cloudburst:

my last words to him," she whispered, wiping away her tears.

Family members rushed to Chisoti after the disaster, only to hear from survivors that Sahil and his family were last seen near a bridge moments before the deluge struck. Since then, every new photograph of recovered bodies sent for identification feels like another blow.

"Every time a picture comes, it feels like the ground is slipping beneath my feet. I can only pray for their safe return," said Sahil's brother-in-law.

Officials overseeing the rescue operation have assured that the search will continue until the last missing person is found. But for families like Sahil's, the days of silence have turned into a test of faith.

"For us, hope is the only strength left," Suman said.

Rescue Almost

becoming impossible to trace the missing people alive. In such a situation, our efforts will be to recover as many bodies and hand them over to the families for the last rites."

According to officials, searches are continuing at Chisoti village where over 60 bodies have been recovered so far. The August 14 cloudburst struck the last motorable hamlet en route to the Machail Mata temple, triggering flash floods that left a trail of destruction. A total of 167 persons were rescued.

Omar assured that the government will provide all possible assistance to the affected families. "Whatever help we have to provide, we will do as much as possible. They had put a few things before me when I was there, and we will consider it," he said.

Omar said that the government is mulling to form a team of experts to identify all vulnerable places across Jammu & Kashmir and also suggest measures to prevent loss of lives in future.

He said the situation in Kishtwar is known to all and day-by-day, it is becoming impossible to trace the missing people alive.

"In such a situation, our efforts will be to recover as many dead bodies and handover them to the families for the last rites," he said.

He added several issues have been put forth by the people there and the government will look into it and take decisions accordingly. "We will ensure every possible assistance to the people," he said.

He also said that the Kishtwar incident has occurred due to the cloudburst. "A team of experts will be formed to identify all the vulnerable areas. We will have to see what measures are to be taken to ensure minimum losses in such incidents in the future. We will seek a report from them regarding preventive measures," the chief Minister said.

He said such a similar situation was witnessed in Ramban earlier, but human losses were less compared to Kishtwar.

On politics, Omar said the INDIA bloc candidate should win the upcoming election for Vice President. "The election will take place. We do not understand why this election was imposed on us? VP Dhankar left suddenly and he has not been seen since. I have had a chance to interact with him and I will pray for his good health. As far as the election is concerned, the INDIA bloc candidate should win," he said

On the controversy over NCERT changing chapters about Partition, Omar cautioned against "fiddling with history." He said, "Whatever our history is, let the students learn that. After that, let the kids decide what is right and what is wrong. It is a fact that the British sank our boat."

Responding to criticism of his Independence Day speech announcing a signature campaign for the restoration of statehood, Omar said the opposition's role was to oppose. "They do not want statehood. They do not want us to go among people. Earlier, they were asking, 'Why are you not doing anything?' Now we want to meet people. Our job is to work (for the people), their job is to oppose," he said.

2 Bodies Recovered

The body is being handed over to the family. "A massive search operation by the SDRF, local administration, and police took place to find Shah, who was swept away while crossing a seasonal rivulet yesterday," said Deputy Superintendent of Police (SDRF) Zabeen Akther, who supervised the rescue efforts on-site.

"The body of Asia Kouser, who was swept away by strong currents near Umrah Ban Dhok yesterday, was recovered from the Suran river in the Shindra area of the district," an official said.

Rains lashed several areas of the Jammu region intermittently but there were no fresh reports of damage to any structures, officials said.

Rescue efforts were underway in Bhainch in Poonch district, where 20 people are trapped due to flash floods, they said, adding that rain is continuing in the area.

A landslide in Niaka Panjgrian village of Rajouri has caused the closure of two roads, they said, adding that efforts are on to remove blockades.

Heavy rain on Monday triggered flash floods and landslides at several places, causing damage to multiple structures and roads in the Jammu region.

Three houses were washed away near the Betaar riverbanks. Flash floods also occurred in several parts of Poonch, damaging some houses and a school in Khanetar.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which was shut for vehicular traffic early Monday after heavy rains triggered multiple landslides and shooting stones from hillocks overlooking the arterial road in Ramban district, was restored, officials said.

Traffic is plying normally on the inter-regional Mughal road after a brief closure due to a landslide, they added.

Death Toll

recovered parts are suspected to be of bodies that have already been recovered. The remains would be sent for a DNA test.

The rescue teams are working at multiple locations, especially the major impact spot near a community kitchen site, sifting through the rubble using heavy machinery, including earth movers, and sniffer dogs.

A cloudburst struck Chisoti, the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple, on August 14, leaving a trail of death and destruction. Among the 65 dead, three are CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

A total of 167 people have been rescued, and 39 were still marked as missing after a fresh revision of the list on Monday, the officials said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, SDRF, Masoof Ahmad Mirza said four teams have been deployed to search for bodies on both sides of the stream from Chisoti to Gulabgarh, a stretch of 22 km.

"The rescue and relief operation is going on a war footing. The impact area of the cloudburst is vast, and so it is taking so much time. We have cleared a large area upstream, and now we are searching the downstream as well," he said.

Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti visited the site, following an order issued by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha that announced the posting of 10 IAS and IPS officers for the next eight days to supervise relief and rescue operations.

The Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps, in a post on X on Monday, said five relief columns of the force are engaged in the rescue and relief operations, and efforts have been intensified with additional medical teams deployed.

The flash-floods triggered by the cloudburst left a trail of destruction, flattening a makeshift market, a langar site for the annual Machail Mata yatra, damaging 16 houses and government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge, and over a dozen vehicles.

The joint teams of police, Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), CISF, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), civil administration, and local volunteers are engaged in the rescue efforts.

Army engineers on Sunday built a Bailey bridge over Chisoti nullah, providing much-needed connectivity to the village and the Machail Mata shrine. The Army has also introduced a couple of all-terrain vehicles as part of the efforts to intensify the rescue and relief operation.

The rescuers conducted over half a dozen controlled explosions in the past three days to blow up giant boulders hampering the search effort.

The annual Machail Mata yatra, which began on July 25 and was scheduled to conclude on September 5, remained suspended for the sixth consecutive day on Tuesday.

However, the authorities will allow a group of devotees carrying the 'Charri' from Jammu to reach the shrine on August 21 or 22. The 8.5-km trek to the 9,500-foot-high shrine starts from Chisoti, located about 90 km from the Kishtwar town.

J&K Reorganisation

this part of our country. I don't know why this issue is agitated now. This particular state is not the correct state to muddy the water. I will still seek instructions," Mehta had said, seeking eight weeks to file the Centre's reply.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who has been at the forefront of the demand for statehood since the October 2024 Assembly

elections, reacted to the latest buzz with a GIF captioned "Please, I can't take this anymore."

Earlier, in his Independence Day address, Omar had announced a signature campaign to mobilise grassroots support for statehood restoration. J&K Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, launched the campaign from Mendhar in Poonch on August 17.

Omar had said on 5 August that he is optimistic about 'something positive' for the Union Territory during the ongoing parliament session, but not on Tuesday, amid buzz over the centre planning something on the Jammu and Kashmir 'statehood'.

Notably, the Union Government will also introduce three other legislations in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, including the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025.

The House will also take up motions to refer the Constitution Amendment Bill, the Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, and the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill to the Joint Committee of Parliament after their introduction.

In addition, a special discussion has been scheduled on "India's first astronaut abroad the International Space Station - Critical Role of Space Program for Viksit Bharat by 2047."

For Thursday, August 21, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has reserved the agenda for consideration of any government business carried over from Wednesday. The official note, signed by Deputy Secretary S.S. Patra, was issued on August 19.

PM Modi Set

will contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity," Modi posted on X.

Wang Yi's Talks With Doval and Jaishankar
Wang Yi's visit came primarily for the 24th round of the Special Representatives (SR) Dialogue on the boundary issue, which he co-chaired with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. He also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, with both engagements described as "positive and substantive."

Following his talks with Doval, Wang Yi said that relations between India and China were "healthy" and that warming ties carried great significance ahead of Modi's visit to China. Doval, for his part, underlined the "new energy and momentum" in bilateral ties and the peace prevailing along the border, adding that today's talks held "very special importance" in view of the upcoming SCO summit.

Doval also said both sides had agreed to work towards a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution" of the boundary question. Wang Yi suggested settling specific issues along the borders and emphasised building consensus on the goals of boundary consultations.

The Chinese minister's visit marks the latest effort by the two countries to stabilise relations after they plunged to historic lows following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020. Though disengagement of troops from friction points in eastern Ladakh has been completed, both armies continue to maintain an estimated 50,000-60,000 soldiers each along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The process of re-engagement began after Modi and Xi met in Kazan last year and agreed to revive various dialogue mechanisms. The latest disengagement agreement in October 2024 paved the way for incremental confidence-building measures, including the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and India's move to restart issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals.

With Modi's confirmation of his participation at the SCO Summit in Tianjin, the stage is set for a high-profile bilateral engagement with President Xi. The meeting will be closely watched for signals on whether the two sides can move beyond disengagement towards genuine de-escalation along the LAC and chart a new course for cooperation.

EAM Embarks

co-chair the IRIGC-TEC that is expected to lay the ground for President Vladimir Putin's visit to India later this year.

Jaishankar and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov are also expected to discuss the latest initiatives by the Trump administration to bring peace to Ukraine.

During the visit, the external affairs minister will review the bilateral agenda and share perspective on regional and global issues with the Russian foreign minister, the MEA said in a brief statement.

"The visit aims to further strengthen the longstanding and time-tested India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic partnership,"

it added.

It is expected that the two sides will also deliberate on India-Russia energy ties during Jaishankar's trip to Moscow.

The visit comes amid strains in India-US ties after President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50%, adding an extra 25% penalty over New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian crude oil.

Experts Flag

moisture-laden monsoon winds from the Indian plains collide with cooler Himalayan air masses, resulting in localised, high-intensity rainfall within a short duration.

Scientific studies indicate that J&K has witnessed an increasing frequency of such events over the past two decades, Dr Bandh explained.

He further noted that human interference has worsened the impact of these natural events. "Unregulated deforestation, haphazard urbanisation, road widening, and encroachment of floodplains destabilise slopes and reduce the natural absorption capacity of soils. This amplifies flash floods, landslides, and destruction associated with cloudbursts," he said.

Climate change, driven by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, further alters precipitation patterns, increasing the risk of extreme weather events, he added.

Offering another scientific perspective, Dr Mudasisir Nazir, an environmental expert, explained how the Himalayan terrain itself acts as a trigger. "The high altitude ranges of the Himalayas often prevent clouds from crossing over. Instead, they get reflected back and start assembling layer by layer against the slopes. Due to high levels of moisture, the accumulated cloud mass eventually becomes too heavy to remain suspended in the atmosphere," he said.

"When it can no longer resist the pull of gravity, it bursts suddenly, releasing intense rainfall over a localised area," Dr Nazir said, adding that more experimental studies are underway to validate this mechanism.

Both experts said that while cloudbursts are natural to the Himalayan ecosystem, their frequency and devastation have increased due to unchecked human activities and changing climatic trends.

They called for stricter environmental regulations, proper land-use planning, and investment in early warning systems to minimise damage to life and property.

Around 168 cloudburst incidents have been recorded in J&K between 2010 and 2022, with the number expected to rise in the coming years due to climate change.

At least 70 people have lost their lives to recent cloudbursts in the Kishtwar and Kathua districts. (KNO)

SMVDU Makes

Governor said Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University today stands as a beacon of knowledge, innovation, inspiration and cultural pride of Jammu & Kashmir, recognized and respected not only at national but global level.

"Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is playing an important role in creating human resources in accordance with the global changes. In its journey the University has blossomed into an institution of excellence, nurturing minds and transforming lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor announced that the long pending persistent demand of non-teaching employees of the University belonging to lower middle level and below has been fulfilled.

"As per the approval accorded all non-teaching employees of this category who were earlier on 05 years contract system and whose contract period were continuously renewed shall now be regularised and the contract system is hereby removed.

This decision reaffirms our commitment to fairness, talent retention, and professional growth. This move will strengthen the foundation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and provide the employees with a renewed sense of stability in their jobs, empowering them to contribute to the university's development with even greater confidence and dedication," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the faculty members to develop a skill-driven learning environment in the campus.

"We have the onerous responsibility of preparing the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, architects and skilled professionals in the country," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also encouraged the students to dedicate the skills and knowledge they acquired at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University to contribute to nation-building.

He observed that the creation of a developed India and the prosperity of the society

are the criteria for the usefulness of education. He asked the Alumni to address the needs of the society and contribute to improving the university.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the citizens who have lost their lives during the recent natural calamities in Kishtwar and Kathua.

"With a whole-of-government approach, relief work is underway on a war footing. I have also spoken to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah and the Government of India is fully committed to proper rehabilitation of the affected families as quickly as possible," he further said.

Baldev Raj, Member of Legislative Assembly; Ashok Bhan and Gunjan Rana- Members of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education; Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Mata Vaishno Devi University; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; senior officials, faculty members, staff, and students of Mata Vaishno Devi University were present.

Meets Khelo India

at the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar. The event is conceived as a celebration of Jammu Kashmir's culture and ecology. The Mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival is inspired by the Himalayan Kingfisher, which reflects adventure, energy and profound connect to the nature.

More than 800 athletes and officials from 28 states/ union territories will be participating in Competitive sports events of rowing, canoeing and kayaking. The Water Sports Festival will also feature demonstration events like water skiing, dragon boat and shikara race.

Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Mamta Shree Ojha, Director, Khelo India Games, SAI and officials of Sports Authority of India and J&K Sports Council were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

HC Upholds Forfeiture

timelines are not met within stipulated period, the termination of the contract and forfeiture of the security deposit are justified in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract."

Additionally, the Bench said, the Courts must refrain from interfering in contractual matters, unless, there is clear arbitrariness or breach of statutory duty.

The contractor had challenged Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University's orders regarding forfeiture of the deposits in 2021.

The court observed that that the contractor was under obligation to provide around the clock security services in the form of 115 security guards for the Mata Vaishno Devi University, but there was failure on part of the petitioner to supply adequate security personnel as the petitioner supplied only 53 security guards instead of 115 security guards, meaning thereby, that the petitioner has breached the terms and conditions of the Tender Notice/Contract, constraining the varsity to terminate the contract in question by forfeiting the security amount to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs.

".....in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case, this Court upholds the forfeiture of the security deposit as lawful and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract and action of respondents in forfeiture of the security deposit can't be termed as illegal," the Bench said and dismissed the petition.

Govt Schools Must

19 education projects across different districts, including upgraded classrooms, labs, and smart learning facilities. He said the government was committed to developing an "actionable roadmap" to implement NEP-2020 in a phased and effective manner.

Educationalists and officials attending the meet welcomed the initiatives, saying that a renewed focus on government schools was necessary to improve literacy rates and ease the financial burden on families.

Elder Sister Booked

coupled with forensic and technical evidence, leaves no doubt about the accused's involvement," the SSP said, confirming that a case under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered at Police Station Kheer Bhawani.

Protests and Outrage
The gruesome murder has sparked anger among locals. Hundreds poured onto the streets of Sehpora Batpora demanding exemplary punishment for the culprit. "She was a school student, innocent and full of life.

The accused has been formally arrested and presented before the court, with all evidence submitted to the magistrate. Further proceedings are in progress, police said.

Kashmir Athletes Eye National Glory At Water Sports Festival In Srinagar

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir contingent has undergone a 21-day camp to prepare for the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) here and the 17-strong group is hopeful of securing national spotlight with a strong performance in the event starting August 21.

The Festival will run till August 23 and feature three medal sports -- rowing, canoeing and kayaking.

More than 400 athletes from the 36 states and Union Territories of the country are here to compete at the iconic Dal Lake, an established world famous tourist spot.

Muhammad Abbas Kand of Rainawari in Srinagar downtown has been preparing hard for the upcoming Games. He will take part in rowing doubles in the light weight category.

"I am hopeful of fetching a gold medal for Jammu and Kashmir. I am also elated that the Games are being held inside Dal Lake. It will give a boost to water sports in the



region and also bring the much-needed limelight to water sports athletes like me," said Abbas.

Abbas, who has won nine state and district level medals and participated in seven national

events, including the 37th National Games in Goa, is among the 17 water sports athletes from

J&K here.

Abbas and other water sports athletes from J&K have been training under the guidance of water sports coaches Parvez Ahmad Shagu of the J&K Police team and Waseem Raja of the J&K Sports Association.

Like Abbas, Irtiza Ali and Muntazir Ali are also looking forward to their participation in the rowing Pairs event.

Irtiza, who hails from the Saida Kadal area of Srinagar and won a bronze medal in the 43rd junior national rowing championships at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh, wants to improve his performance and fetch gold this time around.

Zahid Hussain is another J&K water sports athlete who is keen to make a splash in KIWSF. Zahid, a national bronze medal winner, has also won 25 district and state medals. He will be taking part in the canoe slalom event.

"Team India water sports athletes will come here. We will learn techniques from them. We will race with them really hard," Zahid said.

LG Sinha Meets Khelo India Water Sports Festival Mascot



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday met the mascot of Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.

The LG extended his best wishes to the Sports Authority of India, J&K Sports Council and all the participating players and officials of the three-day Water Sports Festival.

The event is conceived as a celebration of Jammu Kashmir's culture and

ecology. The mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival is inspired by the Himalayan Kingfisher, which reflects adventure, energy and profound connect to the nature.

Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Mamta Shree Ojha, Director, Khelo India Games, SAI, and officials of Sports Authority of India and J&K Sports Council were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

Sports Minister Announces Several Activities On National Sports Day Eve

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In line with the nationwide initiative to promote sports and physical fitness, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday announced a slew of programmes to mark National Sports Day on August 29 and Community Fitness Day on August 31 across J&K.

The minister made the announcement while participating in a virtual meeting convened by Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, which was attended by Sports Ministers from different States and Union Territories to finalize the framework for the celebrations across the country.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez; Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other senior officers.

Satish Sharma informed that the week-long ac-



tivities in J&K will aim to spread awareness about fitness, encouraging grassroots participation in sports and inculcating the values of discipline, teamwork and healthy living among citizens. He said that schools, colleges and community

institutions during morning assemblies will organise tributes to Major Dhyan Chand, fitness pledges, sports and recreational games, indigenous sports, yoga sessions, cycling events and community walks.

"To ensure greater inclusivity and impact, a specified target of individuals per district has been set. Special attention will be given to youth engagement as well

as fitness activities for senior citizens under the Fit India Movement", he said.

Satish Sharma further highlighted that the celebrations will have a strong digital engagement component, with campaigns on social media platforms, promotional taglines, and fitness assessments through the Fit India Mobile App. He added that all activities and achievements will be documented, including medal tallies and photo galleries, and uploaded on the Fit India portal through institutional logins for record and transparency.

Reiterating the vision of the Government of J&K, the minister said:

India Squad For Asia Cup: Gill Appointed VC, Bumrah Included

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Test skipper Shubman Gill was on Tuesday appointed vice-captain of India's 15-member T20 squad for next month's Asia Cup, which will also feature pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

Gill's last T20 match was against Sri Lanka at Pallekele in 2024 and he has now replaced Axar Patel as the deputy of skipper Suryakumar Yadav. The Asia Cup gets underway on September 9 in the UAE.

"Gill's form in England was something we expected but he exceeded it all," chief selector Ajit Agarkar said during the squad announcement press conference here.



There were some lingering doubts on Bumrah's availability largely due to the tournament's

proximity to the home Test series against the West Indies in October. But the selectors opted to pick

him nevertheless and this will be Bumrah's first T20 tournament since last year's World Cup.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav too has been drafted in, while Jitesh Sharma will be the back-up wicketkeeper batter.

Yashasvi Jaiswal was among the five standby players chosen by the selectors.

"It's unfortunate Jaiswal has had to miss out but he will have to wait," Agarkar said.

Another prominent name missing in the squad was Shreyas Iyer, who showed tremendous form while guiding Punjab Kings to the IPL final earlier this year. Agarkar blamed it on the abundance of T20

talent that makes it difficult to accommodate him.

"We have got some serious options in T20 squad...sometimes not the easiest squad to pick but good headache to have," Agarkar said.

India is placed in Group A of the Asia Cup alongside Pakistan, Oman, and the UAE.

India squad for Asia Cup:

Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Abhishek Sharma, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Jitesh Sharma, Shivam Dube, Arshdeep Singh, Sanju Samson, Harshit Rana, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Varun Chakravarty, Kuldeep Yadav.

Ashwin Slams Iyer's 'Unfair' Omission From Asia Cup Squad

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Tuesday expressed disappointment over Shreyas Iyer's exclusion from the Asia Cup squad, terming it "sad" and "unfair" while also questioning the logic behind leaving out opener Yashasvi Jaiswal.

The BCCI has named a 15-member India squad for the continental tournament beginning September 9 in the UAE.

"Selection is a thankless job. You have to let someone out. When you talk to them, you have to go through that sadness and disappointment in their faces. I hope, someone has talked to Shreyas and Jaiswal," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel Ash Ki Baat.

While Iyer, who led Kolkata

Knight Riders to the IPL title in 2024, was left out, young opener Jaiswal too did not make the cut.

"When you have Jaiswal as your third opener, you have brought Shubman Gill in the team by removing a person from the World Cup winning squad. I mean, I am happy for Shubman but I am very, very sad for both Shreyas and Jaiswal. It's just not fair on both," Ashwin said.

Highlighting Iyer's track record, Ashwin said: "Look at the credentials of Shreyas Iyer. He went out of the team. But came in the Champions Trophy and did amazing batting. He won and gave it to you."

"If the answer is that Shubman Gill is in blasting form, Shreyas Iyer is also in high-quality form. Jaiswal's innings on a tricky pitch in the last game in the Oval... he is



also in cracking form. So, how can you give an answer for this? "What Shreyas has done wrong... he did brilliantly well

for KKR, made them win. He was sent into the auction. He then took Punjab to the finals for the first time since 2014. He overcame the

short ball problem. He was hitting the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Jasprit Bumrah with ease in the IPL. I am just extremely sad for him and Yashasvi Jaiswal; it is extremely unfair."

Iyer, who has played 51 T20Is for India, has scored 1104 runs at an average of 30.66 and a strike rate of 136.12. His last appearance in the format came against Australia in December 2023.

The Mumbai batter also has a strong leadership record in the IPL, guiding Delhi Capitals to the playoffs in 2019 and to their maiden final in 2020, before steering KKR to the title last year.

Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar too criticised the selectors' decision, suggesting it signals Iyer is no longer in the reckoning for T20 cricket.

Maharaj Leads SA To Win Over Australia In ODI Opener

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj dismantled Australia with a career-best 5-33 as South Africa romped to a 98-run victory in the first one-day international on Tuesday.

Maharaj made full use of spin-friendly conditions to help dismiss Australia for 198 with more than nine overs to spare after South Africa had earlier posted 296-8 -- the highest ODI total at Cazaly's Stadium in Cairns.

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh made 88 off 96 balls and Ben Dwarshuis scored 33, but Maharaj had done enough damage in his unchanged spell of 10 overs to give the Proteas a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Travis Head (27) gave Australia an explosive start of 60-0 in the first seven overs when the left-hander smashed fast bowler Nandre Burger for five boundaries in one over.

But in a dramatic turnaround, the home team lost six wickets -- five to Maharaj -- for the addition of only 29 runs as Proteas skipper Temba Bavuma turned to his slow bowlers inside the batting power play. Australia went from 60-0 to 89-6. (AP)

PCB Central Contracts: Babar, Rizwan Demoted To Group B

Former captain Babar Azam and current ODI skipper Mohammed Rizwan have been downgraded to category 'B' in the latest list of central contracts released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday.

The PCB, in fact, has not found any cricketer fit to be in the elite category and has placed 30 players in Category 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

The PCB release doesn't mention the valuation of the contracts.

Babar and Rizwan have been penalised for their consistently poor show across all marquee events, including last year's T20 World Cup, this year's ICC Champions Trophy, and the bilateral against Bangladesh and the West Indies.

T20 skipper Salman Ali Agha, on the other hand, has earned a promotion from group C to B.

The other notable promotions are opener Saim Ayub and pacer Haris Rauf.

Compared to last year's list of 27 contracted players, the PCB has expanded the pool to 30, including 12 fresh additions.

Additionally, nine players have retained their positions in the same categories. (PTI)

FIFPRO Wants Quick Resolution Of India's League Stalemate

Global soccer players' union FIFPRO has called for a swift resolution to the crisis that has gripped the domestic game in India.

The 2025-26 India Super League (ISL) season was due to start in September, but the 14-team competition has been suspended due to uncertainty over the renewal of its organizing agreement between the Indian federation and its commercial partner, the Football Sports Development Ltd., pending a Supreme Court ruling.

"The lack of clarity for players over the 2025-26 Indian Super League (ISL) season, arising from a dispute over the league's organization and governance that has led to its indefinite suspension, is having a significant impact on their livelihoods, careers, and well-being," FIFPRO Asia/Oceania said in a statement released Tuesday.

"Players have been subjected to unilateral and unlawful suspensions of their employment contracts until further notice," the statement added. "These actions represent a direct breach of the players' labor rights and are causing significant distress." (AP)

Ashvir Singh Johal Named First British Sikh Manager In England



Leicester-born Ashvir Singh Johal on Tuesday became the first British Sikh manager of a professional England football club (FC) when he took charge of Morecambe FC in Lancashire, north-west England.

Johal, 30, has spent 10 years at Leicester City football club, coaching younger players in the academy.

His new appointment comes after he completed the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Pro Licence with the Football Association (FA), one of the youngest to acquire the highest qualification in management and football coaching, back in June.

Johal's appointment is pitched as a new era for the Shrimps, as Morecambe FC is known, as it started a new journey under fresh ownership.

Morecambe FC hailed Johal's "excellent reputation" as a forward-thinking coach and leader, bringing a wealth of experience in player development, tactical innovation, and building high-performance cultures.

The new manager announcement comes days after the approval of the club's takeover by the consortium Panjab Warriors after its previous boss was sacked. (PTI)



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| 02. | Academic Coordinator (Primary Dept.) | P.G. with 10 years' experience as HOD/Principal/Vice Principal at any reputed educational institute | 40,000/- PER MONTH |
| 03. | S.St | M.A/M.Sc (History/Geography) + B.Ed + 3 years' experience in the relevant field | Negotiable |
| 04. | English | M.A English + B.Ed + 3 years' experience in the relevant field | |
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| 08. | Urdu | B.A/M.A Urdu + B.Ed + 3 years' experience in the relevant field | |
| 09. | Computer Operator | Graduation with computer experience of 2 years | |

Instructions:

- Interested candidates are required to visit the school in person on 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th August 2025 with a hard copy of their updated CV. Online applications will not be entertained.
- Both males and females are eligible to apply.
- There is only one vacancy against each post mentioned above.
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