

Three Die Daily: How Road Crashes Plague Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir faces one of India's highest road fatality rates. Data and experts point to poor infrastructure, lax enforcement, and weak emergency care as key drivers of the crisis.

Mehraab Nazir

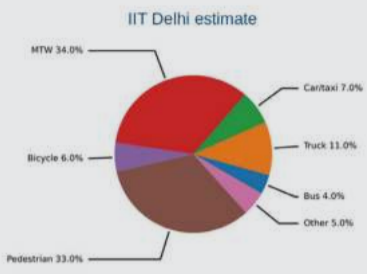
Srinagar: Every day in Jammu and Kashmir, three people do not return home. Between 2018 and 2022, official records show 4,278 people died in road crashes across the region. That averages to more than 800 deaths annually, more than twice the rate of many Indian states.

The Transport Research and Injury Prevention (TRIP) Centre at IIT Delhi

ranks Jammu and Kashmir second in India for road fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles.

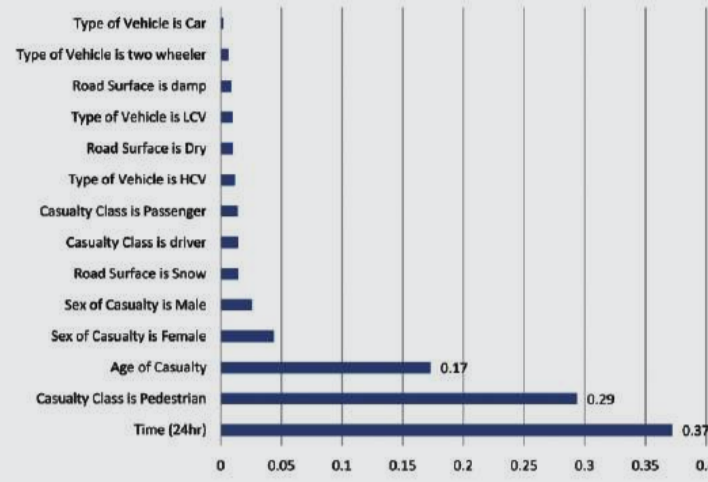
In 2019, the deadliest year in the recent period, 996 people lost their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a temporary drop to 728 deaths in 2020, but by 2022 the number climbed back to 805.

India as a whole lost more than 170,000 people to road crashes in 2023, translating to 474 deaths every



day. Kashmir's share of this tragedy is disproportionate, given its small population of 14 million and fewer registered vehicles.

Young adults aged 5 to 29 account for a majority of the victims, according to data from the TRIP Centre. "This age group represents the region's workforce. Every death in this segment is an economic loss for families and society," said Dr. Rakesh Sharma, a public health expert



Flood Fear Subsides in Valley, Uri Still on Edge

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The flood scare that gripped Kashmir for the past 60 hours eased on Saturday as water levels in the Jhelum river receded below the flood declaration mark at several key stations, bringing relief to residents after days of anxiety.

According to officials, the Jhelum level dropped below the flood declaration point at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar, while the Sangam station in Anantnag also witnessed a decline after 42 hours of being above the danger mark.

The situation had turned worrisome earlier this week when incessant rains pushed Jhelum and its tributaries to alarming levels, inundating several



areas including Zoonipora, Shalina, Tailbal, Taigan, and nearby localities. Many homes and farmlands were partially submerged before waters began to recede on Saturday.

North Kashmir still on edge While southern and central Kashmir showed signs of improvement, fresh

concern emerged in North Kashmir. In Uri (Baramulla), the Jhelum was flowing at around 630 Cumecs, prompting authorities to issue a public advisory warning of possible flooding in low-lying villages near the Line of Control.

"All concerned departments have been directed to remain on | More on P10



Devotees Throng Hazratbal on Eid-e-Milad

Milad Prayers, Processions Turn Kashmir into a Sea of Devotion

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: The revered Hazratbal shrine on the banks of Dal Lake witnessed an overwhelming outpouring of devotion on Saturday as thousands of people from across Kashmir gathered to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi

(Pbuh), the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

From late Friday night, devotees flocked to the shrine for Shab Khawani – night-long prayers, Qur'anic recitations and supplications. The most emotional scenes unfolded after Fajr

prayers when the holy relic, Moi-e-Muqqadas – believed to be of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) – was displayed before the congregation.

The relic was exhibited five times during the day, after each prayer, with cries of "Allahu Akbar" echoing across the | More on P10

CM Omar Offers Prayers at Dargah

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday joined the devotees at the revered Hazratbal Shrine here on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad. The Chief Minister offered | More on P10

National Highway Remains Shut For 5th Day

Press Trust of India

An early morning downpour on Saturday derailed the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) efforts to restore traffic on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which remained closed for the fifth consecutive day, a senior official said.

NHAI Project Manager, Ramban sector, Shubam said efforts are going on at a war footing to clear the 250-metre stretch of the highway at Thard in Udhampur district which was buried under a hill.

"What we have gained during the day on Friday was washed away by intense half-an-hour rainfall this | More on P10

Govt Emblem Not Meant for Religious Places: CM

Observer News service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday strongly criticised the installation of a state emblem at the revered Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, calling the move "unnecessary" and "avoidable" while urging authorities to respect religious sentiments.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag after reviewing the post-flood situation, Omar said that state symbols had no place in religious spaces. "I have never seen such symbols installed in any religious place or function. There is absolutely no justification for this," he remarked.

He argued that contributions at holy places are recognised naturally by people, without the need for plaques or inscriptions. "If the work at Hazratbal had been done sincerely, people themselves would have recognised it. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah gave the shrine its current shape, yet he never thought of using plaques or stones to highlight his contribution, and still people remember him with respect," he added.

'Apology, not PSA threats' Omar also took strong exception to Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakshan Andrabi's statement warning of PSA (Public Safety Act) | More on P10

J&K Bank Hands ₹131 Cr Dividend to UT Govt

Muntazir Yaseen

Srinagar: Marking the initiation of dividend distribution for the financial year 2024-25, Jammu & Kashmir Bank Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee on Friday handed over dividend cheques worth ₹122.85 crore and ₹7.92 crore to the Union Territory Administration, its promoter and largest shareholder.

The cheques were presented to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan in presence of Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D.



Vaidya, Principal Secretary to LG Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari and Company Secretary J&K Bank Mohammad Shafi Mir. The payout follows the

Bank's approval of a 215% dividend at its 87th Annual General Meeting, reflecting its strong financial performance and key role | More on P10

Stray Dog Attacks Leave Dozens Injured In Srinagar's Rainawari

Observer News service

Srinagar- Panic gripped the Rainawari area of Srinagar on Saturday after a pack of stray dogs attacked local residents, leaving dozens of civilians injured.

Eyewitnesses said that men, women and children were among those bitten in the sudden attack. The injured were immediately shifted to hospitals in Srinagar for treatment.

People expressed anger over the recurring menace, saying authorities have failed to control the growing population of



stray dogs in the city. "Every few weeks, we face such incidents. Today, dozens of our neighbours, including children, are in hospital. The administration must wake up," locals said.

The incident has renewed calls for Srinagar Municipal Corporation and other concerned | More on P10

J&K Halts Cooperative Polls Over Scam Links

Authorities cancel polls following exposure of proxy candidates and fake societies tied to a ₹223 crore cooperative bank fraud

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration canceled elections for several cooperative societies after investigators uncovered attempts to manipulate the process through fake entities linked to a high-profile financial scandal.

The decision comes amid one of the region's largest-ever fraud cases, involving the alleged siphoning of ₹223 crore from the Jammu and Kashmir State Cooperative Bank.

Authorities said proxy candidates and bogus societies were

allegedly created by former JKSTCB Chairman Mohammad Shafi Dar and his associates to tighten their grip over the cooperative sector.

Zubair Ahmed, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (East), took the unprecedented step of scrapping the elections, citing serious concerns over transparency and potential misuse of the cooperative structure. Dar rose through the ranks of the cooperative sector, starting

as a low-level employee and eventually reaching the top post of JKSTCB. He is now accused of masquerading the fraudulent disbursement of ₹223 crore from a sanctioned loan of ₹250 crore in

2019. The loan was supposedly granted to the River Jhelum Cooperative House Building Society, which investigators later identified as entirely fictitious.



Banking norms and regulatory checks were bypassed as the loan was pushed through, officials said.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a case and filed a chargesheet, while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) began a parallel probe into money laundering under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Investigators uncovered seven fake cooperative societies established by Dar and his network, including the Lakeview Cooperative Society, Kashmir Valley Cooperative | More on P10

Sikhs Seek Fresh Probe into Chittisinghpura Massacre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation of Sikh residents from Chittisinghpura village in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, seeking a fresh probe into the 2000 massacre of 35 Sikhs allegedly carried out by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

The delegation, led by Sardar Jagjeet Singh, Chairman of the '35 Shaheed Sikhs Welfare Organization', pressed for re-opening the case of the March 20, 2000 killings that occurred on the eve of then US President Bill Clinton's India



visit. The massacre, one of the most shocking acts of violence in Kashmir's recent history, had left deep scars in the Sikh community.

Demands of the delegation The members urged the administration to extend welfare benefits to the families of the victims, including: | More on P10



Fire Breaks Out At B.Ed College In Lasjan

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A fire broke out in the attic portion of a B.Ed college at Baghandar Soteng, located between Padshahi Bagh and Lasjan, on Saturday afternoon. Witnesses said smoke and flames were seen emerging from the upper section of the institution, triggering panic in the area. Soon after the alert, personnel from Fire and Emergency Services

reached the spot and launched firefighting operations. Officials confirmed that the blaze was largely controlled and efforts are underway to fully douse the remaining flames. The extent of damage to the building is being assessed, while the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. There were no students present in the building at the time of the blaze. [KNT]

MMU Expresses Concern Over Hazratbal Shrine Plaque

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), the largest conglomerate of religious organisations in J&K headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has expressed serious concern over the recent developments at the revered Hazratbal Shrine, where a plaque bearing the Ashoka Chakra has been installed in connection with refurbishment works.

Hazratbal is not merely a structure; it is the spiritual heart of the Muslims of Jammu & Kashmir, bound to our faith and identity through centuries of devotion. Any alteration that undermines its sanctity deeply pains the devotional sentiments attached to it.

Islam is explicit in its teachings: no plaques, emblems, figures, or symbols are permitted in mosques or shrines. This principle has been honored across our land for generations. Even when the Hazratbal Shrine was rebuilt in the past, no plaques or foundation stones were placed, out of respect for the injunctions of Shari'ah and tradition. To introduce them now sets a dangerous and unnecessary precedent.

The MMU reminds the Waqf Board that such acts are inconsistent with the responsibility entrusted to it under Muslim law and custom. Shrines must remain places of purity, prayer, and humility—not spaces for symbols or displays.

At the same time, MMU believes that the reaction of the people to this issue reflects their sincere religious concern. Filing FIRs against worshippers who protested from the depth of their faith is unjustified and unwarranted. Matters of religion must be resolved with understanding and dialogue, not with harsh punitive measures.

The MMU therefore calls for the immediate removal of the plaque from Hazratbal and urges the Waqf Board and authori-

ties to consult religious scholars before undertaking any future works at sacred sites.

Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema Jammu and Kashmir includes Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Mufti Azam's Muslim personal law board, Darul Uloom Rahimiyyah, Anjuman Shariee Shian, Jamiate Ahle Hadith, Karwan-e-Islami, Moulana Masroor Abshayekh Kashmir, Darul Uloom Naqshbandiya, Darul Uloom Rashidiya, Ahlul Bait Foundation, Madrasa Kanz-ul-Uloom, Idara Gousia Saraibala, Kahkahi-Hyderia Aishmuqam, Pirwan-e-Wilayat, Auqaf Islamiya Khirama, Bazm-e-Tauheed Ahle Hadith Trust, Anjuman Tanzeem-ul-Makateb, Muhammadi Yateem Trust, Anjuman Anwar-ul-Islam, Karwan Khatm-e-Nabuwat, Darul Uloom Syed-ul-Mursaleen, Anjuman Ulama wa Aima Masjid, Madrasa Zia-ul-uloom poonch, Falah-e-Darain Trust Welfare Society Islamabad, Ashraf-ul-Uloom Hyderpora, Darul Uloom Dawoodiya Batamalo, Darul Uloom Furqaniya Nowshera, Darul Uloom Dawoodiya Khanyar, Jamiat-ul-Ulama, Siraj-ul-Uloom, Idara Wahdat-ul-Makateb, Darul Uloom Imdadia Natipora, Darul Uloom Jamia-tur-Rashad Awantipora, Khanqah Muradiya Jamia Masjid Kreeri, Darul Uloom Saut-ul-Quran Gulshanabad, Awami Rahat Center, Imamia Federation Kashmir, Alnoor Trust Bemina, Shaheen Syndicate social Trust, Jamiat Ulema Wa Aima Masjid Jammu and Kashmir, Darul Uloom Syed ul Mursaleen Kulgam and other contemporary religious, milli social, and educational institutions.

Bodies Of 3 Kashmiri Workers Killed In Kullu Landslide Reach Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The mortal remains of three Kashmiri workers, who lost their lives in the Kullu landslide in Himachal Pradesh, were repatriated to Kashmir and reached Srinagar on Saturday with full dignity and respect.

In a statement issued here, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association said that out of the seven deceased workers, three bodies were recovered and were initially being transported in load carriers. The association immediately took up the matter with the Chief Minister's Office and Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena, who intervened without delay. Road transportation was halted, and the bodies were airlifted to ensure dignified repatriation.

According to the Chief Secretary, the recovered mortal remains were flown through Chandigarh

airport and have now landed at Srinagar Airport. They are being transported to their respective hometowns for final rites.

The Himachal Pradesh Government bore the entire cost of transportation and airlifting, while the Jammu and Kashmir Government provided ambulances to carry the mortal remains to their homes.

JKSA expressed gratitude to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena for their swift intervention and humanitarian approach.

The association also acknowledged the J&K Government's support in providing ambulance services.

Meanwhile, the rescue operation in Kullu continues on a war footing to trace the remaining four workers still trapped under the debris. (KNC)



EID-E-MILAD UN NABI (PBUH) was celebrated with fervour at Hazratbal Shrine on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Thousands Join Eid-e-Milad Procession In Old City

School Children, Men, Women Participate In Rally Marking Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar on Saturday witnessed a massive outpouring of devotion as a grand Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) rally to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The rally began from the revered shrine of Mir Shamsuddin Araki (RA) at Zadbial at Noon and passed through Alamgari Bazar, Hawal and adjoining localities, before culminating at the historic Imbarara Gulshanbagh. The rally was organized by Anjumane Shariee Shian.

Thousands of men, women and children thronged the streets, carrying green flags, chanting Allahu Akbar and Ya Rasool Allah, while reciting Naats in praise of the Prophet (PBUH). The atmosphere was charged with spirituality as participants walked together in remembrance.

A major highlight of the procession was the participation of thousands of school children in neat uniforms, carrying placards bearing messages of peace, compassion and unity. Their disciplined presence infused youthful energy into the rally.

"We come out every year to show our love for the Prophet (PBUH). The sight of little children walking with devotion gives us hope that the message of mercy and humanity will never fade," said



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Ghulam Nabi, a senior functionary of Anjuman-e-Shariee Shian.

The rally drew emotional scenes along its route, with people joining spontaneously, raising hands in prayers and reciting verses from the Qur'an. "This procession is more than a march — it is our collective expression of reverence. Walking together fills our hearts with humility and tears of joy," said Fatima Bano, a participant from Budgam.

Authorities had made elaborate

arrangements for the rally, including security deployment, traffic regulation, water supply and medical assistance. Officials said the procession concluded peacefully at Imbarara Gulshanbagh in Zadbial, where special prayers and Qur'anic recitations were held.

Reports said similar Milad processions were also organised in other districts of Kashmir, with large gatherings of devotees participating in night-long supplications and community prayers.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
13 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:45
ZUHR	12: 31
ASR	5:00
Magrib	6:55
ISHA	8:17

This Day In History

- 1191- Third Crusade: Battle of Arsuf - Richard I of England defeats Saladin at Arsuf.
- 1599-Earl of Essex & Irish rebel Tyrone signs treaty
- 1701- Germany, England & Netherlands sign anti-French covenant
- 1714- Treaty of Baden: Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI & France, ends War of Spanish Succession, French retain Alsace, Austria gets bank of Rhine
- 1812- Battle at Borodino: Napoleon-Kutuzov
- 1909- Eugene Lefebvre becomes first pilot to die in an airplane craft, while test piloting new French-built Wright biplane at Juvisy
- 1922- In Aydin, Turkey, independence of Aydin, from Greek occupation.
- 1936- Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) begins operation
- 1942- Transport nr 29 departs with French Jews to Nazi-Germany
- 1947- Battles between Hindus & Muslims in New Delhi, India
- 1948- 1st use of synthetic rubber in asphaltic concrete, Akron
- 1950- Monasteries shut down in Hungary
- 1965- China announces that it will reinforce its troops in the Indian border.
- 1970- Fighting between Arabic guerillas and government forces in Amman, Jordan.
- 1977- Ethiopia drops diplomatic relations with Somalia
- 1995- STS 69 (Endeavour 9), launches into orbit
- 1997- The first test flight of the F-22 Raptor takes place.
- 2005- First presidential election was held in Egypt.

From KO Archives

Valley Wide Alert As Experts Trace Adulterated Oil

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Officials of Food and Supplies Department and Srinagar Municipality in joint raids today seized tins of adulterated edible oil, capable of causing dreaded dropsy. Alert has been sounded and people warned not to use contaminated brands.

The joint teams today and yesterday fanned out in different directions of capital Srinagar and raided various godowns and retail outlets of edible oil, leading to the seizure of 7800 tins of P. Mark and over 100 canisters of Hira Brand mustard oil.

Sampling, followed by analysis on war footing of the seized' edible oil tins was done by assistant public analyst from State's Drug and Food Control organisation. The assistant public analyst, Mushtaq Ahmed Khateeb confirmed adulteration in Hira brand, packed under seal number 200- 201/PFAK, Dated 4-9-1998.

P. Mark Bahadurgarh Haryana Brand was also found adulterated, as per the officials, who warned the general public this evening not to use the two contaminated brands. The analysis of other brands seized by the teams is underway and reports are expected by Sunday.

Out of 225 samples analysed in the laboratory till now, reports of only 140 were received by this evening. While 139 samples tested negative, one tested positive. That was

the sample taken from Hira brand, manufactured and marketed by M/S Grower Oil Mills, Private Limited, Bari Brahmana, Jammu.

The raids were conducted by the teams at Court Road, Sarai Bala, Tankipora, Hazuribagh and other parts of the city. More teams will conduct raids tomorrow to trace out adulterated oil.

Eight tins of adulterated Hint brand were seized from a dealer at Court Road. Reports revealed that the said dealer has sold off hundreds of tins of

Hira brand to retailers all across Kashmir. Messages have been flashed to different districts to trace out the adulterated brands.

Two edible oil factories -situated at Zainakote, have also been raided and samples taken for analysis. The two factories, reports said, import oil from Jammu in huge tankers. "The factories will be sealed if the samples test positive," a top official in Srinagar Municipality said on condition of anonymity.

With detection of contaminated edible oil, panic has gripped the people in the Valley as thousands of them have been continuing their food preparations on these brands - now declared adulterated. According to an eminent epidemiologist there is every chance of dropsy disease invading the state now.

(Kashmir Observer, September 07, 1998)

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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

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

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

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

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

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

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

9070806160

PM Modi to Skip UNGA, Jaishankar to Represent India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued here.

The 80th session of the UN General Assembly will open on September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.



US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to a revised provisional list of speakers for the high-level General Debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly released Friday, India will be represented by a 'minister'.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the session on September 27.

According to a previous provisional list of speakers issued in July, Modi was scheduled to address the General Debate on September 26.

The heads of government of Israel, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh are scheduled to address the UNGA General Debate on September 26.

Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump at the White House in Washington. Trump has imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

The UNGA list of speakers for the General Debate is provisional and there is al-

ways possibility of changes in schedules and speakers ahead of the commencement of the high-level week.

The list will continue to be updated accordingly.

Considered the "busiest diplomatic season" of the year at the United Nations Headquarters, the high-level session opens in September annually.

The session this year comes amid the continued Israel-Hamas war as well as the Ukraine conflict. The theme for the 80th session is 'Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights'.

The session will open with a meeting to 'Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations' on September 22.

Marking the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the UN General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting centred on the theme "Recommitting to, resourcing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls".

The meeting will reflect on progress since the landmark 1995 conference in Beijing and highlight achievements, best practices, gaps, and ongoing challenges in advancing gender equality worldwide, the UN said. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will convene a Climate Summit on September 24 to serve as a platform for world leaders to present their new national climate action plans and seize the benefits of the new clean energy era.

Other high-level meetings to be held during the week include Summit for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Global Economy; Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health and Well-being; 30th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth; Launch of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance; International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons; and Situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.



PM Modi On Trump's "Will Always Be Friends" Remark

'I Fully Reciprocate His Sentiments'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday responded warmly to US President Donald Trump's remark that the two leaders would "always be friends," stressing that India "fully reciprocates" the sentiments and values its partnership with Washington. "Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties. India and the US have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership," Modi posted on X.

Trump, while reaffirming the "very special relationship" between the two countries, voiced discontent over India's continued purchase of Russian oil. "I'll always be friends with PM Modi... But I just

"I'll always be friends with PM Modi... But I just don't like what he is doing at this particular moment"

don't like what he is doing at this particular moment. There is nothing to worry about—we just have moments on occasion," the US President said, adding that trade talks with India were "going well." Relations have been

tested in recent weeks after Washington imposed secondary tariffs on India's Russian oil imports, with overall US tariffs on Indian exports now exceeding 50 percent—the steepest under Trump's latest tariff list, apart from Brazil. India denounced the measures as "unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable."

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar underscored that Modi places "enormous importance" on the partnership with the US, describing the personal rapport between Modi and Trump as consistently strong. "We remain engaged with the US... that's really what I would say," Jaishankar noted.

Despite ongoing friction over tariffs, both governments have signaled commitment to keeping the strategic partnership on a positive track.

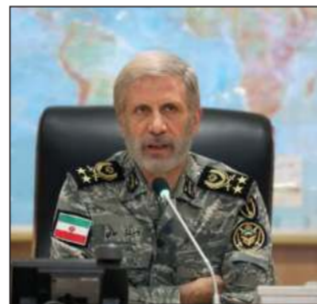
Hatami: Iran Defied West's Cutting-Edge Warfare in 12-Day War

Trans Asia News

Tehran - Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami declared that the country confronted "the most modern warfare technology of the West and NATO" during the 12-day war in June, yet the aggressors failed to achieve their objectives.

Speaking on Saturday about the conflict, Hatami said the enemy's primary goal was to destroy Iran's nuclear capability, but it was unsuccessful. "Our nuclear strength is based on indigenous science and technology, and such a capability cannot be eradicated," he stressed.

He added that the enemy also sought to undermine Iran's defense structure through the assassination of commanders. "With the immediate and wise decisions of the Supreme Commander, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, and the appointment of new commanders, this plot



too ended in failure," the Army chief said.

Another key target, Hatami noted, was Iran's missile power. "The enemy wanted to wipe out our missile capabilities during this 12-day war, but it never happened. Until the last moment, with our missile strength, we brought the enemy to its knees and struck targets inside the occupied territories."

He highlighted that in the final days, Iran intensified its missile operations, overwhelming the Zionist regime's defense systems.

The enemy also attempted to disable Iran's air defense network, but failed once again. "Today you can see the active and effective role of our air defense forces," Hatami stated.

Emphasizing the value of battlefield experience, the top general urged that the lessons of Iranian pilots who directly engaged the enemy must be carefully documented for future planning.

Hatami also said the adversary miscalculated in trying to damage Iran's governing system and national unity, only to suffer a major defeat as the Iranian people stood firm in defending their country.

The conflict began on June 13, when Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, striking military, nuclear, and residential sites for 12 consecutive days. The United States escalated the hostilities on June 22 by bombing Iran's nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.

Abu Dhabi-bound IndiGo Flight Returns to Kochi After Snag

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: An Abu Dhabi-bound IndiGo flight returned to Kochi early on Saturday due to a technical snag after being airborne for over two hours, the flight operator said.

The flight 6E-1403 (COK-AUH) departed from Kochi at 11.10 pm on Friday and returned to the city around 1.44 am on Saturday due to a technical snag, sources said.

The sources said there

site Flightradar24.com, the flight 6E1403 which had returned mid-way, was operated with an A320 neo aircraft.

"A technical issue was detected on IndiGo flight 6E 1403 operating from Kochi to Abu Dhabi on 6 September 2025. As a precautionary step, the pilots decided to turn back and the aircraft landed safely at Cochin International Airport," IndiGo said in a statement.

According to IndiGo, while the aircraft is undergoing nec-



were more than 180 passengers and 6 crew members on board the aircraft.

They also said that the passengers were flown to Abu Dhabi in another aircraft, which took off at around 3.30 am, and a new set of crew operated the flight as the earlier crew had to be replaced due to flight duty time restrictions.

As per information available on flight tracking web-

essary maintenance checks before resuming operations, an alternative aircraft was promptly arranged for customers to complete the journey.

The airline also expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to the customers and made all possible efforts to minimise it, including offering them meals and refreshments, an IndiGo spokesperson said.

2020 Delhi Riots Case

Sharjeel Imam Moves SC Against Delhi HC Order Denying Him Bail

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Activist Sharjeel Imam on Saturday moved the Supreme Court challenging a Delhi High Court order denying him bail in an anti-terror law case linked to the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots in the national capital.

Denying bail to nine persons in the "larger conspiracy" case of the riots, the high court had ruled that "conspiratorial" violence under the garb of demonstrations or protests by citizens cannot be allowed.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur dismissed the bail pleas of Imam, Umar Khalid, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, Athar Khan, Meeran Haidar, Abdul Khalid Saifi and Gulfisha Fatima holding that the Constitution affords citizens the right to protest and carry out demonstrations or agitations, provided they are orderly, peaceful and without arms and such actions must be within the bounds of law.

The order of Justice Chawla's bench had said the

right to participate in peaceful protests and to make speeches in public meetings was protected under Article 19(1)(a), and couldn't be blatantly curtailed.

However, the right was stated to be "not absolute" and "subject to reasonable restrictions".

"If the exercise of an unfettered right to protest were permitted, it would damage the constitutional framework and impinge upon the law-and-order situation in the country," the order had said.

The bench went on to say, "Any conspiratorial violence under the garb of protests or demonstrations by the citizens cannot be permitted. Such actions must be regulated and checked by the state machinery, as they do not fall within the ambit of freedom of speech, expression and association."

Dealing with the ground of delay in trial besides the time already spent behind bars to grant bail to the accused, the bench ruled such a ground was not a "universally applicable" in all cases.

6 Killed As Ropeway Cable Snaps in Gujarat Hill Temple

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Six persons died after the cable wire of a cargo ropeway snapped at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat's Panchmahal district on Saturday, officials said.

The incident at Pavagadh Hill, which is famous for the Mahakalika Temple at the summit, occurred around 3 pm, they said.

Superintendent of Police Hareesh Dudhat confirmed the six deaths and said police and fire brigade teams were at the spot for rescue and relief operations.

The ropeway, meant to carry different items, was going downhill with six persons when the incident occurred, Panchmahal Collector Ajay Dahiya said.

"The deceased comprise two lift operators, two la-

bourers and two others. The impact of the fall was near the base point where the first tower of the cable is located," he said.

The temple is situated at a height of around 800 metres, with pilgrims either choosing to climb some 2,000 steps or use cable cars to reach the summit.

Local officials were, however, not sure of the height from which the cable car fell.

The main ropeway for use by the public has been shut for the past two days due to inclement weather, Dahiya informed.

Pavagadh Hill rises from Champaner in three stages and its plateau lies at an altitude of 1,471 feet. The hill top has a heavily patronised temple dedicated to Goddess Kali. It attracts around 2.5 million visitors every year.



police swung into action and arrested Kumar within hours. Kumar was arrested from Sector 79 and handed over to the Mum-

bai Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Sumit Shukla told PTI. Investigators said Kumar admit-

Noida Astrologer Held for Hoax Mumbai Blast Threat to Frame Rival

Press Trust Of India

Noida : A Noida resident has been arrested for allegedly sending a hoax threat message to the Mumbai Police, claiming that 14 terrorists had entered the city with explosives, to frame a man who had filed a case against him and seek revenge, officials said on Saturday.

The accused, Ashwani Kumar (51), a native of Patna in Bihar, was living in a housing society in Noida's Sector 79 for the past five years. He described himself as an astrologer and vastu expert, the officials said.

According to the officials, the message received by Mumbai Police on Thursday was traced to Noida, following which Sector 113

"Mumbai Police was on alert on Thursday after receiving the threat message on WhatsApp which claimed that 14 terrorists had entered the city with 400 kg of RDX planted in 34 vehicles, just days ahead of Anant Chaturthi celebrations, when lakhs gather across the city."

ted that he acted out of personal vendetta. "He wanted to take revenge from a friend who had filed a case against

him in Patna in 2023, in which he was jailed for three months. To settle scores, Kumar sent the threat message to the Mumbai Police using his friend's name," the officer said.

Mumbai Police was on alert on Thursday after receiving the threat message on WhatsApp which claimed that 14 terrorists had entered the city with 400 kg of RDX planted in 34 vehicles, just days ahead of Anant Chaturthi celebrations, when lakhs gather across the city.

The message, sent to the traffic police's helpline, mentioned the name of a group called 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi'. A case was registered at Worli police station under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Musk Could Become First Trillionaire with Tesla Pay Package

ANI

Elon Musk, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tesla could become the world's first trillionaire after the company's board unveiled a new pay package tied to the future growth targets, reported CNN.

The news platform reported that if the move is approved, the package would grant Musk 423.7 million additional Tesla shares, worth approximately USD 143.5 billion at current stock prices, but only if Tesla's market capitalisation soars to USD 8.5 trillion, far above its current USD 1.1 trillion value.

This proposed compensation mirrors Musk's 2018 pay package, which significantly boosted his wealth and was twice approved by shareholders but struck down by a Delaware judge. Tesla is now seeking to re-approve that plan and build on it, the news platform added.

"This is all about Musk being scared about being kicked out of Tesla because he only owns 13 per cent," said Ross Gerber, CEO of Gerber Kawasaki and an early Tesla investor, who has since sold most of his stake, according to CNN.

Fruit Growers Delay Apple Harvest Due To Highway Closure

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir's famed apple season begins, fruit growers in lower areas, where the season starts early, are caught in a crisis yet again due to the frequent closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the valley's only all-weather road link with the rest of the country.

The disruption has forced many to delay apple picking, fearing heavy losses if their produce gets stranded en route to markets.

According to the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, around 800 vehicles carrying high-density apples and

pears," said Basharat Ahmad, a grower from Sopore, one of the largest fruit trade hubs in north Kashmir. "The longer our trucks remain stuck, the more we lose. Even if they somehow reach Delhi or other markets, their condition won't be the same, and we won't get the right price."

While the Mughal Road is seen as an alternative, growers say it has offered little relief. Current restrictions allow only six-tyre vehicles, which limits the volume of fruit that can be transported. Moreover, such vehicles often do not make it beyond Delhi, leaving major southern and central Indian markets, such as Bangalore, Kanpur, and



pears are currently stranded on the highway, putting the livelihoods of thousands of families at risk.

"This is extremely worrying," said Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman of the Union said.

He said that every year, during harvest season, fruit growers face one crisis or another. This year, prolonged closures have already delayed transportation, and our perishable fruit cannot survive such conditions, he said.

"We strongly demand the intervention of the government to arrange goods trains for transportation or make arrangements for heavy vehicles on Mughal roads so that this crisis is not repeated every season," Basheer added.

Nearly 70 per cent of the valley's population depends directly or indirectly on horticulture, with apples being the backbone of the rural economy. Kashmir produces over 70 per cent of India's apples, contributing thousands of crores annually to the UT's economy.

Farmers fear that if the stranded produce does not reach markets on time, the fruit will rot, and even those that make it will fetch far below the expected rates due to deteriorated quality.

"This is the peak season for gala varieties of apples and

Chennai, out of reach.

"Without access to these major markets, our income potential shrinks drastically," said Ghulam Mohammad, an orchardist from Shopian. "This is why we need a long-term solution."

Many growers are now urging the government to explore railway transport as a permanent alternative. "If goods trains are arranged, fruit growers won't be held hostage to road closures every year," said Mohammad Yousuf, a grower from Pulwama. "This sector is the backbone of J&K's economy. The least the government can do is ensure its survival."

The Srinagar-Jammu Highway has remained mostly closed over the last two weeks following landslides and road damage caused by heavy rains at several vulnerable spots. For fruit growers, this is not just a seasonal inconvenience but a recurring nightmare that threatens the very future of Kashmir's horticulture.

"We appeal to the government to treat this as an emergency," the growers said. "Without smooth transport, all our hard work will go to waste, and the valley's economy will collapse further. Immediate steps must be taken before the damage becomes irreparable."—(KNO)

DC Budgam Chairs Meeting On Relief & Restoration Measures



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat convened a review meeting at the DC Office Meeting Hall to take stock of restoration measures and departmental response in the wake of the recent floods.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulic with all Executive Engineers including Executive Engineer FSC, SE R&B with all Executive Engineers, Executive Engineer PDD with AEEs, SDM Beerwah, SDM Chadoora, ACD, ACR Budgam, AO, ARA, Nazarat and personnel from the Relief section.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on Flood Analysis & Gap Assessment in which departments presented an overall analysis of the recent flood situation, challenges faced during relief operations, and gaps in infrastructure and manpower.

During the meeting a tentative lists of damaged assets and estimated financial losses suffered due to floods were shared for compilation.

Meanwhile, officers briefed the chair about immediate restoration measures already executed to restore essential services in affected areas.

A Short-Term Restoration Plan was made in which works to be completed within the next 3-4 days were identified, with specific timelines and de-

partmental responsibilities.

Under permanent measures, departments proposed long-term and permanent flood mitigation and disaster resilience works to be taken up in the future to prevent recurrence of such damages in the District.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored the importance of a coordinated and transparent response for timely restoration of all affected services.

He stressed that the administration's focus must not only remain on immediate restoration but also on building long-term resilience against natural calamities.

The DC directed all line departments to submit real, fact-based reports on damages and restoration works undertaken. He impressed upon officers to work in close coordination and ensure that every intervention is need-based, timely and effective.

He further emphasized that upgrading infrastructure, strengthening manpower and adopting proactive planning are crucial to minimize the impact of such disasters in the future.

DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to safeguard lives, property and livelihood of people, and assured that all possible measures will be taken for early restoration and sustainable flood mitigation in budgam.

NC, BJP Trade Charges Over Hazratbal Emblem Row



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The political storm over the installation of the national emblem at Hazratbal shrine escalated on Saturday, with both National Conference (NC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders holding separate press conferences, accusing each other of politicising the issue and attempting to provoke communal sentiments.

At the NC headquarters, party's Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, flanked by over a dozen legislators, said the incident had deeply hurt religious sentiments. "The protests at the shrine were spontaneous. Violence should not have happened, but the Board's move has hurt sensitivities. The emblem is not used at any religious place, and it was wrong to impose it at Hazratbal," Sadiq said. He further accused Waqf Board Chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi of "threatening people with FIRs and PSA" and demanded police action against her.

Former parliamentarian and National Conference stalwart Hasnain Masoodi declared that the party would formally petition the Speaker of the Jammu

and Kashmir Assembly for the constitution of a House Committee. According to Masoodi, the panel's mandate should encompass a thorough inquiry into what he described as "embezzlement and financial improprieties" perpetrated by the Board.

Legislator Salman Sagar adopted an even sharper tone, insisting on the immediate ouster of Andrabi. He termed the episode a "calculated provocation timed with the impending elections in Bihar," cautioning that the party would resist any attempt to reduce religious institutions to mere instruments of electoral politics. "We urge Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to relieve Ms. Andrabi of her position. Such appointments must be the prerogative of an elected government and its cabinet, not the discretion of the administration," Sagar asserted.

In a vehement rebuttal to the National Conference's accusations, Bharatiya Janata Party leaders characterized the demonstrations and acts of vandalism at Hazratbal as nothing short of a "premeditated conspiracy." Addressing a separate press briefing, BJP spokesperson Altaf

Thakur denounced the desecration of the stone plaque at the shrine, branding it as "an assault on the very essence of the nation's identity."

"The Ashoka insignia epitomizes the sovereignty of India, its imprint visible on every symbol of statehood—from passports to Aadhaar cards. We shall never permit its defacement. If genuine grievances existed, the Waqf Board was the proper forum for redressal, not this barbaric vandalism. Their conduct mirrored the fanaticism of Osama bin Laden's cohorts. This was not a spontaneous outburst, but a meticulously orchestrated stratagem," Thakur asserted.

Waqf Board Chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi likewise issued a blistering rejoinder, categorizing the episode as "a terrorist enterprise" calculated to profane both the national emblem and the sanctity of the shrine.

The Hazratbal shrine—guardian of the hallowed relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)—had become the epicenter of turmoil on Friday after the plaque's installation. Viral videos of the commotion on social media amplified the ferocity of the political crossfire between NC and BJP.

Colours Of Faith:

Children Lead Eid-Milad Rallies Across Kashmir

From Srinagar's Bustling Alamgari Bazar To Remote Villages, Chants, Green Flags, Painted Faces Turn Kashmir Streets Vibrant

Agencies

SRINAGAR: STREETS OF KASHMIR on Saturday transformed into rivers of devotion as people of all ages, from small children to young adults and the elderly, including women, joined the Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rallies held across the Valley.

From the crowded markets of Srinagar to the quiet hamlets of North and South Kashmir, Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) processions filled every corner, carrying the colours of faith, love and unity.

According to details, children were at the heart of the celebrations. Wearing green headbands and with Islamic flags painted on their faces, they marched with tiny steps but immense spirit, drawing smiles from elders and parents alike. The melodious recitation of naats, gave the processions a rhythm of innocence and reverence.

In Srinagar's Alamgari Bazar, flags fluttered above rooftops as crowds swelled. The air was



fragrant with rose water.

Abdul Rashid, a father watching his 9-year-old wave a green banner taller than himself, said his son insisted on painting the flag on his cheek today, as it made him feel part of something bigger.

Similar scenes unfolded in Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Budgam, Kupwara, and other districts. Villages that usually echo with silence in the evenings reverberated with loudspeakers praising the Prophet (SAW).

Homes were decorated with lights, mosques adorned with banners, and shops offered free

sweets and bread to passersby.

"This love has been carried through centuries," said Mohammad Yaseen, an elderly participant in Srinagar. "Seeing children lead today shows our devotion will never fade."

Notably, the processions were not only spiritual but also social gatherings. Neighbours met on the streets, women watched from balconies, and travellers paused to join the chants. In some areas, local volunteers managed traffic, offered food, and maintained discipline, blending service with faith—(KNO)

Girl Killed In Leopard Attack

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: A tragic incident unfolded in the Midoora area of Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday when a minor girl lost her life in a leopard attack.

The victim, identified as Tanzeela, daughter of Roshan Khan, was attacked while in the vicinity of her home. She sustained grievous injuries and succumbed shortly after.

The incident has left the area in shock and grief, with locals voicing concern over the increasing movement of wild animals in human habitations. A Wildlife Department official said efforts are underway to track the leopard. "We have repeatedly cautioned people in forest-fringe villages to remain alert, particularly children, amid reports of increased wild animal activity," the official said.

FLOODS AFTERMATH

NR To Run Katra-Sangaldan Passenger Train

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: To aid the stranded passengers owing to incessant rains and flash floods of district Reasi and Ramban and roads getting damaged, Northern Railway has come to respite by planning a pair of local passenger train service connecting SVDK Katra stn to Sangaldan station via Reasi, Bakkal and Dugga stns and back for the next 5 days from 8/9 to 12/9.

The service shall provide immediate relief to the stranded passengers and will help restore the critical connectivity and will surely serve as a lifeline till road connectivity is restored.

FLOOD AFTERMATH

Rise In diarrhoea, Fever, Typhoid, Skin Infections

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A mild but noticeable rise in cases of diarrhoea, fever, typhoid, and skin-related infections has been reported from several parts of Jammu and Kashmir following recent foodborne conditions that have affected the region.

Doctors across different hospitals and private clinics have observed an uptick in patients complaining of abdominal discomfort, high-grade fever, vomiting, and skin rashes.

Health experts said the surge is due to the consumption of contaminated food and unsafe drinking water during the humid weather spell, which provides a favourable environment for the spread of bacteria and viruses.

"We are seeing more patients with waterborne and foodborne infections in the past one week. In many cases, people admitted to hospitals were found to have consumed unsafe water or improperly stored food," said a doctor from Srinagar's SMHS Hospital.

Medical professionals have also linked the rise in typhoid and gastrointestinal problems to poor hygiene practices and flooding of water pipelines in some localities. "Mixing of sewage water with drinking sources in certain areas poses a big risk. This is a recurring issue during this season, and we need stronger preventive measures," said a doctor at Anantnag District Hospital.

He said that a mild increase has already been reported, but if necessary precautions aren't taken, cases may rise further.

In addition to gastrointes-

tinal infections, skin specialists have reported an increase in fungal and bacterial skin infections, especially among children. "Excessive sweating, humidity, and exposure to contaminated water have caused more cases of skin rashes, boils, and fungal infections," said dermatologist Dr Shazia Akhter.

Doctors from the Jammu division said there has been an increase in the number of diarrhoea cases, skin infections and fever following two back-to-back incidents of floods in the last 10 days.

They have issued an advisory urging people to take basic precautions to avoid falling ill: "Drink only boiled or filtered water, wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating, avoid street food and uncovered eatables, store food properly to prevent bacterial growth, maintain hand hygiene by washing hands with soap before meals and seek medical attention promptly if symptoms like persistent fever, abdominal pain, or dehydration appear."

Doctors have appealed to the government to intensify checks on food outlets and to ensure a clean drinking water supply across towns and villages. "Awareness drives, along with strict monitoring of water pipelines and eateries, are necessary to prevent further rise in such cases," a health department official said.

Though the situation is being termed "manageable" at present, doctors warn that negligence can turn it into a larger health concern if preventive steps are not taken—(KNO)

DC Bandipora Visits Flood Vulnerable Sites

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday visited Sub-Division Sumbal to review the situation caused by rising water levels in Wullar Lake.

During the visit, the DC assessed the impact of rising waters on habitations and essential infrastructure. She interacted with locals and took firsthand feedback on the situation.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that inundation has been witnessed only in

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner personally visited these areas to assess the situation. She said that People here are praising the efforts of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department for their timely response and continuous work.

She also reviewed the arrangements made for shifting vulnerable families if needed and directed officials to remain alert and provide timely assistance. The DC stressed that departments including Revenue, Fisheries and I&FC are working in close coordination to respond effectively to any situation.



a few low-lying villages, which usually face such conditions even during normal times. She said the visit was aimed especially for the Irrigation & Flood Control Department to assess damage to bunds, seepage points and other related works.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Transit Accommodation at Odina, Sumbal to interact with migrant employees residing there. The purpose of the visit was to assess their living conditions and address their issues.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from registered A class Contractors for Works, as details below; -

NIT No.	Name of work(s)	Creation/ augmentation of feasible substation for ED Budgam
2025-26 Dated: 04-09-2025	Adv. Cost	17.00 INR Lacs
	Validity of Contract	Financial year 2025-26
NIT No.	Name of work(s)	Shifting of 11KV line from Banagund to Nowpora along road.
2025-26 Dated: 04-09-2025	Adv. Cost	9.00 INR Lacs
	Validity of Contract	Financial year 2025-26

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

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 04-09-2025; 4:30 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	04-09-2025; 4:30 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	18-09-2025; 4:00 PM
D	Clarification start date	05-09-2025; 10:00 AM
E	Clarification End date	06-09-2025; 4:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	05-09-2025; 10:00 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-09-2025; 4:00 PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/ Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 18-09-2025; 4:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	19-09-2025; 02:00 PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No: EDB/4301
Dated: 04-09-2025.

DIPK-NB-1892-25
DT: 06/09/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Budgam.

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Kashmir's EMS Challenge

For heart attacks, strokes, and road accidents in Kashmir, the difference between life and death often lies in the care given on the way to the hospital.



Dr. Nowsheen Jan

KO VIEW

Bring Back Water Watchdogs

Decades ago, under Dogra rule, Kashmir had a system of water police that kept a close watch over rivers and tributaries. Their role was simple but important. They stopped illegal construction, prevented dumping of waste, and made sure rivers stayed healthy. These officers were the first line of defense, protecting the valley's lifelines.

Today, that system has almost disappeared. The devastating floods of 2014 should have been a loud warning. Entire towns were submerged, homes washed away, and thousands of people left stranded. The message was clear. Neglecting our rivers leads to disaster.

Yet every monsoon, the same fear returns. The Jhelum rises dangerously. The Lidder and other smaller rivers spill over their banks. Fields turn into stagnant ponds. Orchards lie submerged. Roads vanish under mud and water, cutting off whole villages from food, schools, and medical help.

The problem is not just heavy rain. Human activity makes it worse. Illegal construction lines riverbanks. Plastic and industrial waste are dumped without care. Natural floodplains that used to hold excess water are filled up to make space for buildings and roads.

Government reports show that nearly 40 percent of Kashmir's wetlands have disappeared in the last twenty years. Without strict rules or proper enforcement, these harmful actions continue. Violators operate without worry, while the natural flow of rivers suffers.

The consequences are hard to ignore. Every flood season, thousands are forced to leave their homes. After the waters go down, health problems follow. Stagnant water becomes a breeding ground for diseases. Families lose not only their homes but also their way of life.

Kashmir cannot afford to stay passive. The solution is clear. We must bring back a dedicated water police force. These officers should patrol rivers all year. They need modern tools like drones, satellite images, and real-time water level monitors. These tools will help them respond quickly and stop problems before they get worse.

They should have the power to prevent illegal construction, stop dumping of waste, and protect wetlands. This is not about blocking development. It is about making sure development happens without harming our environment. The Dogra-era water guards knew how to balance people's needs with nature's limits.

Without strong enforcement, floods, destruction, and disease will keep coming back, and Kashmir will continue to pay the price.

It is time to bring back the water police to protect our future.

Every Kashmiri family has a story of rushing a loved one to the hospital. Sometimes it is a stroke in the middle of the night. Sometimes it is a road accident, or a child struggling to breathe. In those moments, what matters most is not how fast the car engine roars, but what kind of care begins before the hospital doors open.

For too long, an "ambulance" in Kashmir has meant a van with a driver and a stretcher. The global standard, however, has changed.

Emergency Medical Services, or EMS, are now fully equipped mobile hospitals. They carry advanced monitors, defibrillators, oxygen delivery systems, and a stock of life-saving medicines. More importantly, they are staffed with trained paramedics who can administer emergency treatment under the supervision of physicians. They are designed to buy patients the most precious commodity in a crisis: time.

Kashmir already has critical care ambulances. Yet very few people have the numbers stored in their phones. In moments of panic, families rely on neighbours or relatives, pushing patients into private vehicles. Sometimes patients drive themselves. These choices come with risks.

Survival in emergencies often depends on what happens in the first ten minutes, not on how quickly you reach a hospital building.

Imagine a cardiac arrest at home in Srinagar. Each minute without CPR or advanced life support reduces survival chances by about 10 percent. A trained EMS team can begin resuscitation instantly and keep the heart stable until arrival at a tertiary hospital.

Picture a severe allergic reaction in Shopian. A single injection administered by a paramedic can prevent the patient from slipping into anaphylactic shock. In these scenarios, treatment cannot wait for the hospital. The hospital must come to the patient.

The problem is perception. Many Kashmiris still view ambulances as "oxygen carriers" rather than full-fledged medical units. This misunderstanding keeps people from calling EMS when they need it most. There is also a trust gap. Families often believe they can manage better on their own,

Every life saved before the hospital is a reminder that healthcare begins at home, on the street, in the ambulance itself. To recognize ambulances as lifelines is to admit that survival depends not only on doctors inside the hospital, but on the hands that reach us first. Kashmir deserves that level of care.

even as evidence worldwide shows that trained EMS improves survival rates dramatically.

Hospitals too share responsibility. When smaller facilities refer patients to tertiary centers, how often do they provide complete handover notes? How many paramedics receive proper updates about the patient's condition before transport?

In too many cases, a patient is transferred with little more than verbal instructions, leaving the EMS team to guess during emergencies on the road. Families, overwhelmed by stress, seldom insist on written documentation.

This lack of coordination can turn an ambulance ride into a dangerous gamble.

A stroke patient requires careful monitoring of blood pressure and oxygen levels. A trauma victim needs immediate stabilization of bleeding before transfer. If the EMS team is uninformed, vital time is wasted in confusion.

The government, which has recently pushed reforms in Kashmir's healthcare sector, must address this gap.

EMS cannot thrive without clear protocols and accountability. Defining the role of physicians in pre-hospital care, ensuring mandatory handover documentation, and creating a reliable helpline system are steps that would build trust and save lives.

Public awareness campaigns are just as critical. People should know what EMS can do, and how to access it without hesitation.

Consider the numbers. Kashmir records thousands of road accidents every year, according to the Traffic Police Department. Many lives could be saved if ambulances at accident sites delivered immediate trauma care. Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death in the valley, with hospitals reporting an alarming rise in cardiac cases.

EMS can bridge the dangerous gap between the onset of symptoms and hospital arrival. These services are lifelines.

Picture a simple scenario. It is midnight in Budgam. You wake up with crushing chest pain. The hospital is fifteen kilometers away. The choice is stark: stumble into your car, hope a relative drives fast enough, or call a critical care ambulance that arrives with a defibrillator, medicines, and trained professionals ready to act in seconds. The answer is clear.

Yet most people do not think of it in that moment, because the awareness is missing.

Kashmir has entered a new era in healthcare. Dialysis centers have expanded. Tertiary hospitals now offer procedures that once required travel outside the valley. Still, pre-hospital care remains underused.

The ambulance outside your door is a moving hospital, designed to keep you alive until the ward takes over.

The challenge is cultural as much as structural.

Families must save helpline numbers the way they save contacts of relatives. Hospitals must treat handover to EMS as seriously as admission into a ward. The government must enforce standards and ensure training for paramedics who carry the burden of first response. And the public must stop treating EMS as an option.

Every life saved before the hospital is a reminder that healthcare begins at home, on the street, in the ambulance itself. To recognize ambulances as lifelines is to admit that survival depends not only on doctors inside the hospital, but on the hands that reach us first. Kashmir deserves that level of care.

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Smokers' Curse

From colonial-era hookahs to today's airport smoking lounges, tobacco remains a powerful addiction. How history, indifference, and policy failures keep the habit alive in India.

Vikas Thakur

Today, the only benefit of tobacco that comes to mind is the substantial tax revenue it generates for the government, though it likely costs us far more in terms of health, broken families, and social burden.

As I watched a steady stream of people entering a small cubicle labeled 'Smoking Lounge' opposite the washrooms at the airport, Mark Twain's famous quote came to mind: "Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I have done it thousands of times."

It was like the irresistible pull of a candle flame for a moth. I couldn't help but think of the victims of the Holocaust, pushed into gas chambers a century ago. Yet here, people were willingly entering their own chamber. A Nazi from a hundred years ago would have struggled to hold back a chuckle, I thought.

All the graphic warnings on cigarette packs seemed to have zilch effect on these men. Even the prohibitive costs, inflated by exorbitant taxes, failed to deter them.

I noticed no women heading toward the smoking lounge, which brought me some solace, having often heard that smoking is rapidly gaining ground among the fairer sex



these days.

Tobacco was introduced to India by the Portuguese during Akbar's reign as a product with medicinal properties. Thanks to the nicotine it contains, tobacco has a calming and sedative effect. Jahangir, however, recognized its addictive and harmful qualities and banned its consumption. This gave him the distinction of being the only ruler in Indian history to impose such a ban.

Tobacco was smoked differently across social classes: the elite used hookahs, mendicants smoked chillums, and the poor resorted to bidis. The 'hookahburdar' was the servant responsible for carrying the hookah, filling it with aromatic additives, and lighting it when demanded by his master.

Even the British embraced this custom with great enthusiasm. Early British dinner parties in India often ended with a hookah session, where personal hookahs were provided by the respective hookahburdars.

The flexible pipes, referred to as 'snakes',

wound in a serpentine fashion, creating an elaborate network leading to each smoker.

Cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 toxic chemicals, including 60 known carcinogens. In India, 90 percent of lung cancer cases are linked to smoking, and smokers are 10 times more likely to develop cancer. Nicotine is 10 times more addictive than heroin.

Alarming, 38 percent of children under five are exposed to secondhand smoke at home, leading to permanent health damage. Even fetuses in the uterus suffer due to smoking in the household.

Despite these well-documented facts being easily accessible to today's generation through various media, there is no noticeable decline in smoking.

We endured smoking in public spaces silently until 2003, when a comprehensive ban was introduced.

Before that, smoking in public buses was common, making the motion sickness of non-smokers, including children, even worse.

One could file a complaint against a smoker with the conductor, but that option often went up in smoke when the driver himself lit a cigarette. That was seen as an open invitation for other smokers to follow suit, flaunting their disregard for fellow travelers.

Thankfully, those days are behind us. Today, the only benefit of tobacco that comes to mind is the substantial tax revenue it generates for the government, though it likely costs us far more in terms of health, broken families, and social burden.

The author can be reached at
vthakurthakur@gmail.com

Letter to Fellow 'Simpletons' of the World

The simple-minded, mocked and marginalized, often hold the key to moral clarity and human redemption.

Wajahat Qazi

My Dear(est) Fellow 'Simpletons':

Allow me to begin with a brief summation of a brilliant movie starring the fascinating actor Tom Hanks. In the movie, a floating feather, symbolic of cross-cutting themes such as destiny, fate, and human limitations and potential, is key.

Now, regarding the content of the movie: Forrest Gump, played brilliantly by Tom Hanks, is a 'simple-minded,' 'intellectually impaired,' good-hearted American guy.

Gump, dealt a whammy by fate, loses his mother, who before dying tells him: "Gump, life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." To the question, "Why are you dying, Mama?" asked by Gump, an adult man, his mother replies: "It's my time. It's just my time."

With tears in her eyes, Gump's mother offers him parting advice: "You have to do the best with what God gave you."

Gump, bullied at school for his 'dim-wittedness' and physical disabilities, breaks his leg in a school-yard fight. Apparently a debility, this reveals Gump to be a fast runner. He lands in the U.S. Army, befriends a man, 'Bubba Blue,' and saves his life and that of other soldiers.

While he loses his friend 'Bubba,' who had wanted Gump to be a partner in the shrimp business, Gump also loses his beloved (presumably because he is too 'dim-witted').

The prelude is filled with Gump becoming a sports celebrity, feted by U.S. President John F. Kennedy at the White House. For his heroism, he is awarded a Medal of Honor by Lyndon B. Johnson. His post-war endeavors include endorsing a sports company in his native Alabama and running a



successful shrimp business in honor of his deceased friend, Bubba Blue.

Gump is reunited with his beloved Jenny, who has been living a hippie lifestyle. Jenny deserts Gump again, but she bears him a son. That fatherhood, Gump believes, is his destiny. The film ends with Gump narrating the story to a group of strangers at a bus stop, as the feather wafts past.

(Obiter dictum, a modern-day Forrest Gump may be the closest approximation or rendition of Percival, the "fool" with the intellectual and moral perspective of the Western literary tradition.)

Whether the movie Forrest Gump

was a critique of counterculture extreme liberalism and rooted in family values and tradition, or whether at a deeper level it was about the interplay of fate, destiny, free will, and so on, may be beside the point here.

What is relevant and pertinent, cutting across cultures and boundaries, is that the 'simple-minded' or 'simpletons' are looked down upon by society, excluded and marginalized, lampooned, caricatured, and laughed at.

In this schemata, 'intelligence' is prized and valued, the ability to advance (usually at the expense of others) is seen as a virtue, 'simplicity' is

regarded as naïve, ostentatiousness and material possession are seen as reflecting the gumption of people, and good looks, beautiful bodies, and stylish clothes are viewed as 'taste and refinement.'

Anything contrary to these values is demeaned, looked down upon, and scorned.

This is the world of Ayn Rand, where power, and the quest for power, narrowly defined, is the apogee of the human endeavor.

In this world, the weak have no place. Caught in the warp and woof of social Darwinism, the weak can only redeem themselves in the per-

sona of Howard Roark, the hero of The Fountainhead. If they don't, they wilt, wither, and die.

This bleak world is gradually becoming the default condition of societies across the globe, in varying permutations, combinations, and avatars.

In this world, the 'simpletons' have no place.

But parse the illusion, scratch the surface, and it is the simpletons who redeem the world.

Good-hearted, naïve, and oblivious to the ways of the world (Gump, reflective of the 'simpleton'), asks his mother on her deathbed: "Why are you dying?"; the simpletons live in Rousseau's 'state of nature,' where they are inherently good and peace-loving creatures.

It is only 'The Fall,' the descent into the ways of the world, the ones described here, that makes them iniquitous, greedy, avaricious, and warlike.

Broadly, it appears, or even something that can be determined with theoretical rigor and empirical elan, that every endowment humans have, such as intelligence, wealth, status, intellect, and physical looks, is a gift from the Creator, or from another perspective, nothing is earned as a matter of entitlement.

There is a Grand Design to the Universe, in which we humans can contribute tidbits, but the universe gyrates to the rhythms of this design.

In this schema, doing good (ihsan) and the goodness that accrues from it is of value and reflects the inherent natural condition of humans.

If it is ihsan that should be the apogee of human endeavor, then 'simple-mindedness' is the default nature of all. There, then, is no such thing as a 'simpleton.'

But as a label and a construct, being a 'simpleton' is then a privilege,



Dear 'simpletons' of the world, you are up there. Your boatload is one that people should scramble to get in. Oh, I should have said 'we' and 'us,' dear fellow simpletons. Forgive the omission, please!

not a liability.

And as Forrest Gump's trajectory reveals, within worldly limits and constraints, anyone can attain heights. To paraphrase Forrest Gump's mother, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. It is what you make of it. You have to make the best of what God gave you."

By way of conclusion, dear 'simpletons' of the world, you are up there. Your boatload is one that people should scramble to get in. Oh, I should have said 'we' and 'us,' dear fellow simpletons. Forgive the omission, please!

— Wajahat Qazi, with a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, has engaged global affairs both in scholarship and practice, including his tenure as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

A Life in Letters

Eid-e-Milad reminds us of the Prophet's timeless lessons. In two letters, a Kashmiri mother reflects on how faith carried her through the 90s conflict and now guides her as she helps her children steer a changing world.

Tabassum Haroon

There are letters that live inside us, unsent, unspoken. They wait for the right time, for the right silence to surface. Mine are addressed to the Prophet, written across two decades of my life.

One belongs to the young girl I once was, caught in the tumult of Kashmir in the 1990s. The other belongs to the woman I am now, in my forties, a mother with children of her own.

Letter One: At 18
Beloved Prophet (ﷺ),
Growing up in Kashmir in the 90s is traumatic. Everything around me feels heavy and unsafe, and being a teenager only makes it harder.

My body, mind, and emotions are all changing, and the pain outside somehow echoes inside the house.

My parents' constant clashes add to the weight I am already carrying. I am always told to be strong, so I hide my tears and never let anyone see my pain.

Somewhere along the way, I learned that showing grief is weakness, that sharing what hurts me would only invite judgment. And there was no one I could really talk to: no friends, no relatives, no counsellors or therapists. Just silence.

I felt so alone, so lost. Even faith felt far away. Allah is always there. I knew that, but I was only taught to be afraid of His punishment.

And then you came into my life quietly, through a book: The Life of Prophet Muhammad by Hayek.

It was given to me by my cousin, and I didn't even know then how much I needed it. As I read that book, I felt something shift inside me.

You became someone I could trust, someone I could lean on in silence.

Through your life, I began to see Allah differently. Not only as the One who watches every mistake, but as the One who forgives, the One who heals.

At 18, I had no visions or dreams of you. Just knowing your gentleness, your patience—it was enough to save me.

You became the light in a time when I could have been completely lost.

With a heart still learning how to love.
18-year-old me
Letter 2: In 40's
Beloved Prophet (ﷺ),

Time has passed so quickly. It feels like only yesterday that I was a young girl flipping through the pages of that book which first introduced me to you in a real way. And now here I am, a mother of two teenagers—a boy and a girl.

My daughter is gentle by nature, while my son is full of mischief and restlessness, sometimes a storm in himself.

The world they are growing up in is so different from the one I knew. Every day brings new challenges, new distractions, and choices that pull them



in different directions.

The challenge now is not only survival, but knowing who you are and standing firm when the world tempts you otherwise.

I see this in my children. Each day they are asked, silently or openly, to choose between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, light and shadow. And I know that sometimes those choices leave them lonely, sometimes misunderstood.

As their mother, I feel distraught. I do not have empires to hand down, or great patrimonies.

All I can give them is a home, some comfort, and education. But more than that, I long to pass on to them your legacy—the only inheritance that truly matters.

If they can carry even a fragment of your patience, mercy, and truth, then I will have succeeded as their mother.

Life at this stage can feel overwhelming—juggling work, responsibilities, and raising children. I have not become perfect, but I have learned one thing: whenever I am in doubt, I know where to turn.

I often tell my children that I have the best counselor, someone who listens without judgment.

Perhaps I should have discovered this earlier in life. But even now, I know what legacy I want to leave behind.

I want my children to understand that whenever they stumble, there is always Allah to lift them; whenever they err, forgiveness is near; whenever they are hurt, healing is possible.

And if Allah grants me years enough to enter the third stage of my life, I know I will sit again, pen in hand, writing to you once more.

With love and gratitude,
A mother in her 40s.

— The author is a Kashmiri-origin, Dehradun-based freelancer with a decade of experience as an academician and editor, contributing to various publications.

Budgam's Hidden Struggles

Known for its powerful clout, the central Kashmir district still struggles with dirty water, broken roads, and inadequate hospitals.



Dabirah Hassan

When people outside Kashmir hear the name Budgam, they imagine a place of privilege and influence.

The district is home to former MLAs, the current MP of Srinagar, and the influential Agas, whose sway extends across political lines. Budgam carries the aura of prestige, a name tied to both mainstream and separatist politics.

By reputation, it should be a center of progress. Yet anyone who travels beyond Humhama, past the airport road, steps into another world, one that looks like it has been frozen for centuries.

Budgam is both a district and a town, yet calling it a district often feels misleading. The villages around it have developed faster than its very heart. A few concrete complexes have cropped up in recent years, giving an illusion of modernization, but these are masks.

Scratch beneath the surface and the picture is bleak. Even the politicians and clerics who belong here have failed to bring change to their own doorstep.

The story begins with the basics. Water, the most essential element of life, is a daily crisis.

For decades, residents of Budgam have been drinking water that is muddy, untreated, and dangerous. A filtration plant was promised, but never delivered.

The much-publicized Sukhnaq

Water Project raised hopes but never crossed from paperwork to pipes. Tender notices came and went, meetings were held, promises made. The taps still run brown.

Families spend on purifiers that burn out, appliances that corrode, and medicines for stomach ailments that follow.

This is slow poisoning, tolerated in silence. Beyond water, the condition of roads makes even small journeys a struggle.

The district hospital is overstretched, and while a new facility has been sanctioned, its construction site lies miles from the town center. Getting approvals for it took years of lobbying and endless rounds of bureaucratic offices.

The half-kilometer stretch between the old bus stand and the new one takes half an hour in winter, when slush and traffic make movement exhausting.

In Budgam, daily life is an endurance test. The numbers speak. According to government records, Budgam has a literacy rate of 56 percent, well below the J&K average of 68 percent. Only 36 percent of households have access to treated tap water. Road density lags behind nearby districts, and public health indicators tell a similar story.

While Srinagar expands with malls and smart-city projects, Budgam, just next door, remains stuck. This stagnation feels especially

bitter because the district is not obscure. Its political weight is heavy, its clergy commands respect. Yet the people who can mobilize for votes cannot mobilize for safe drinking water.

The disconnect between influence and delivery is stark. Residents watch their leaders rise in stature while their neighbourhoods sink deeper into neglect.

For those who live here, the question is no longer about grand projects or ambitious reforms. It is about dignity in daily life.

It's about clean water to drink, a hospital within reach, roads that do not crumble each winter, and services that make survival easier.

These are not privileges. They are rights.

Budgam deserves better. It deserves leaders who treat governance as responsibility. It deserves a future where its name stands for genuine progress.

Development cannot remain a mirage. A district with such political and spiritual weight should not also carry the burden of neglect.

The time for performance is over. What Budgam needs is delivery.

Until then, the district will remain a place of paradox: a name that commands respect across Kashmir, and a reality that evokes despair in those who live there.

— The author is a Multimedia Journalist at Kashmir Observer.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DISTRIBUTION), ELECTRIC DIVISION
BIJBEHARA, KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

NIT: - EDB/e-tender/51 of 2025-26
Dated: -04-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders (single cover) are hereby invited from Registered Class-A Electrical Contractors (General) for following works under District Capex Budget 2025-26(BDC Grants)

S. No	Name of Work	Est cost. (Rs. In Lacs)	Treasury Receipt/ Challan	EMD (Rs)
1	Augmentation of Transformer 63 KVA (Code 782) to LII 100 KVA at Padden	17.71	RS.1000	Rs. 35420
2	Augmentation of Transformer 100 KVA to L II 200 KVA at Shah Mohalla Lehandajan			
3	Creation/installation of 63 KVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Yanned Park			
4	Creation/installation of 63 KVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Kumar Mohalla Ainoo			
1	Publishing Date & Time			
2	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time			
3	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time			
4	Seek Clarification End Date & Time			
5	Bid Submission Start Date & Time			
6	Bid Submission End Date & Time			
7	Bid opening date & Time			
8	Venue of opening Bids			

Please Read Document Carefully
Position of Funds: Authorised

The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification, and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.

MSME: Only those MSME's shall be considered responsive who are OEM (Original equipment Manufacturers)/have registered SSI Units and shall have the domain of installation of Electrical Infrastructure Only.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz Quoted percentage of NIT	Additional performance security
01	Upto and including 10% below	Nil
02	>10% upto and including 20% below	1%
03	>20% upto and including 30% below	3%
04	>30% upto and including 40% below	5% of Advertised Cost
05	>40% upto and including 50% below	7% of Advertised Cost

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Bijbehara

No: -EDB/TS/584-91
Dated:- 04-09-2025
DIPK-NB-1882/25
dated: 06-09-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No: 13 of 2025-26 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on **Aggregate Percentage Basis** from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work(s) to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (In Lacs)	AAA	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rupee(s))	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	Const of R/Wall on irrigation canal Naigund road from main road to onwards at Gogijigund	1.90	District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal's Order No: 49-BDCG of 2025 Dated: 21.08.2025	200	5700/-	21 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
02	Const of R Wall on Hayen Koul near H/o Mohd Ashraf Lone S/O AB Aziz Lone and others at Nial Nijwan	1.75		200	5300/-	21 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
03	Construction of Field channel from Ab Rashid Ganje to onwards and Const of Field Channel from Ab Rashid Rather to L/o Ab Rahim Rather at Manjigam B	2.50		200	7500/-	30 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
04	Const of R Wall on T koul near the land of Ab Mojjeed & Gh Mohd Tell and opposite side land owner at Manjigam B (ward 1) Near New Petrol Pump Duruma	3.50		300	10500/-	30 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
05	Const of Dove Khul near Land of Rashid Ahmad Mallia to onwards at Washipora	0.99		100	3000/-	21 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
06	Imp. Of washing ghat at Nallah Sindh near H/o Shaban Bhat Pethkundal Shalabugh-A	1.00		100	3000/-	21 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
07	Construction Of washing Ghat near H/o Mohd Ashraf Dar at Gandhanji mohalla ward 4 Rabbar	1.00		100	3000/-	21 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
08	Construction of Washing Ghat near Jamia Masjid Rabbar	2.00		200	6000/-	21 Days	DEE	MH 4515 PRI Grants
09	Construction Of 02 No. of washing ghats at Shalabugh 1. Near H/o Late Gh Mohammad Dar 2. Near H/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh	2.39		200	7200/-	30 Days	DEE	MH 5475 DDC Grants
10	Construction of P Wall on Dabchi Khul near land of Mohd Manzoor Dar, Dr. Abdul Rashid Dar R/o: Sheikh Bonnie Rakhi Haran	4.14		400	12500/-	30 Days	DEE	MH 5475 BDC Grants

Total Number of Work is Ten
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

- The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Sl No	Event	Date	Time
01	Publishing Date	05-09-2025	10:00 A.M
02	Download Date Start	05-09-2025	10:00 A.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	05-09-2025	10:00 A.M
04	Bid submission Date End	11-09-2025	04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	12-09-2025	11:00 A.M
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on **12-09-2025 at (11:00 AM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non-Refundable/Non-transferable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of **Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan** (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and **earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR** pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
- All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/DCG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.
- The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:
 - Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
 - encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
 - criminal proceedings.
- Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
 - The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame. d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.

NO: IFCD/GBL/CC/ 4006-55
DIPK-5938/25 Dated: 06-09-2025

Sd/-
(Er. Iftikhar Nadeem Mattoo)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Ganderbal

28th year OF PUBLICATION

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OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE **INKISHAF** VOX POP UNRAVEL KASHMIR

J&K Bank Commissions Two Branches In Baramulla And Kupwara



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Easing banking access and enhancing its services further in North Kashmir region, J&K Bank Saturday dedicated two new branches for the people; one at Nanak Bhawan, Baramulla and the other at Bumhama, Kupwara.

General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri inaugurated the branch at Nanak Bhawan, Baramulla along with Vice President (District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee) S Sewa Singh in the presence of Zonal Head (Baramulla) Tanveer Ahmad Najar amid a large gathering of the Bank's valuable customers, prominent citizens, local traders and residents. The inauguration was attended by Cluster Head (Baramulla) Masood Ahmad, Cluster Head (Bandipora) Sheikh Muzaffar, President (Traders Federation Baramulla) Er Tariq Ahmad Mughlo besides other senior officials of the Bank.

From the Nanak Bhawan Branch, Divisional Head also e-inaugurated the Bank's Bumhama Branch in Kupwara, wherefrom Cluster Head (Kupwara) Abdul Majid Bhat and a good gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens and local residents participated virtually in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Head Arshad Qadri said, "Expanding our footprint in Baramulla and Kupwara reflects our commitment to serve customers in every part of the region. These branches will not only provide convenient banking solutions but also strengthen our engagement with the local community."

He further added, "We are committed to enhance customer experience and financial inclusion through such expansions. We look forward to build deeper and more meaningful relationships with customers by catering to their evolving financial needs."

J&K Bank Holds Customer Meet In Delhi

Direct feedback from our clients is invaluable for us: ED Sudhir Gupta



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- J&K Bank organized a Customer Meet at its Zonal Office (Delhi) which was chaired by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta in presence of Zonal Head (Delhi) Rosy Tickoo and DGM (CPC - Delhi) Dorjey Angchuk.

The meeting was attended by a cross-section of the Bank's valuable clients from different parts of the zone along with other senior functionaries of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "Direct feedback from our clients is invaluable for us. These interactions provide us a clear understanding of customer expectations and help us design better products and services aligned to their needs."

"We are committed to take every practicable suggestion into account so that our services continue to evolve and improve", he added.

Further, he advised operational heads to strengthen monitoring of customer services, especially ensuring that

staff behaviour remains consistently courteous and professional. "Customer service is the bedrock of our institution. We must make sure that every customer interaction reflects our values of respect, responsiveness and reliability," he stressed.

On the occasion, Zonal Head Rosy Tickoo expressed gratitude to the participants and reiterated the Bank's commitment to further strengthening its relationship with customers of the Bank.

The meet witnessed active participation from clients, who shared their experiences and expectations. Appreciating the Bank's initiative, one of the customers said, "It is heartening to see the leadership of J&K Bank personally listening to us. Such meets not only build confidence but also make us feel valued as partners in the Bank's growth. We hope more such interactions are held regularly."

Another participant added, "The Bank's openness to feedback and willingness to act upon it is truly satisfying for me as a customer."

GST Overhaul A People's Reform, Touches Every Family: Finance Minister

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Calling the landmark GST overhaul a 'people's reform', Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that rationalisation of rates for a wide swath of products will benefit every family, boost consumption, and bolster the economy.

In an interview to PTI, the Finance Minister said she will personally monitor passing on of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in the form of price reduction but hastened to add that industry has shown positivity towards such cuts.

Within days of the decision, from car makers to public sector insurance companies and shoe and apparel brands have already announced significant price cuts and the rest are likely to follow suit by the time new GST rates are implemented, she said.

Nearly 400 products - from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners - will cost less when the rejj of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri on September 22. Premium paid on individual health and life insurance will be tax-free. A third rate of 40 per cent has been earmarked for a small list of sin goods and ultra-luxury items.

"This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140



crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST," she said.

Starting September 22, the GST slab structure will change - 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else. The existing slab of 12 and 28 per cent rates have been done away with.

In the revamped GST structure, most daily food and grocery items will fall under the 5 per cent GST slab with bread, milk and paneer attracting no tax at all.

Sitharaman said the reform - the single biggest since the 2017 rollout of the one-nation, one tax regime - has been carried out with a focus on the common man. Every tax on daily use items

has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases the rates have come down drastically.

While the significant relief in income tax that she gave in her Budget in February this year left more money in the hands of common people, the GST rejj will allow for greater spending, making things more affordable.

"People do understand for example, Rs 100 with which they go to the shop to buy a thing. Today, the same Rs 100 they can buy one and a half of the commodity. Earlier, they bought one," she said.

So this rate reduction is going to bring down monthly household ration and medical bills, as well as help aspirational buying like upgrading from car, replacing white goods like refrigerator or washing machine.

Sitharaman Writes To State FMs, Thanks Them For Role In GST Overhaul

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- In a gesture underscoring the spirit of cooperative federalism, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has written to finance ministers of all states, expressing gratitude for their support and active role in helping implement the landmark overhaul of the goods and services tax (GST) regime.

In an interview with PTI, Sitharaman said states made their view on the proposal to rejj tax rates but ultimately agreed that it was for the benefit of the common man, an argument that helped reach a unanimous decision at the GST Council meeting earlier this week.

The overhaul, which will from September 22 see rates of a wide swath of products -- from butter to chocolates and shampoos to tractors and air conditioners -- come down, was agreed at a meeting of the GST Council on September 3.

The panel is headed by Sitharaman and includes representatives of all states and Union Territories.

"Yesterday, I have written a letter to each finance minister thanking them, saying, you can have any number of

intense discussion and argument, but finally, the Council rose to the occasion and gave relief to the people of India, to all people of India. And, I am grateful for that gesture. So, I wrote that letter," she said.

She said the work at the Council was truly "remarkable". Despite apprehensions over loss of revenue from classifying most products into categories: 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else, and doing away with 12 and 28 per cent slabs, the GST Council took a unanimous decision for the GST rejj.

The panel was to meet for two days starting September 3 to discuss the proposal made by the Centre but ended up approving it on the very first day after a marathon daylong meeting.

"So the sense of the house was, this is a proposal which is going to undoubtedly benefit the common man. There is no point in standing against it... Ultimately everybody came together for a good cause, and I'm truly very grateful," Sitharaman said.

The minister said states were always in favour of rate reduction and their only concern was with regard to

their revenue implications post-tax cuts.

"I even appealed to them, saying, for the sake of the people of India, Please, It's not just the states. It's even the Centre that is going to get affected by the reduction. But we'll make up for it because once the rates come down, people are going to come out to buy, and that will take care of it (revenue impact). That's how consensus was arrived at," she said.

Sitharaman, speaking at a press conference following the GST Council meeting, had expressed her gratitude to the states for their cooperation and collaborative efforts in implementing one of India's most significant tax reforms.

On Saturday, she noted that the Council had given a patient hearing to every comment and suggestion put forward by its members.

"All points were thoroughly deliberated before arriving at a consensus," she said.

She also highlighted the inclusive nature of the discussions, adding that several ministers who wished to speak again after their initial points had already been debated were given the opportunity to do so.

GST Rate Cut For Dairy, Agricultural Inputs To Benefit 10 Crore Farmers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The GST rate cuts across dairy products, agricultural inputs, and food processing items will directly benefit over 10 crore dairy farmers and strengthen the cooperative sector, Ministry of Cooperation said on Saturday.

The GST restructuring addresses the inverted duty structure in fertiliser manufacturing and is expected to prevent price rise for farmers while ensuring timely availability of inputs during sowing seasons, the ministry said in a statement.

For dairy farmers, the exemption on milk and paneer, combined with reduced rates

animal husbandry, as these tractors are commonly used for fodder cultivation and farm produce transportation.

The moves are designed to stimulate demand in semi-urban and rural areas, reduce household expenditure on essential food items, and boost the food processing sector.

By cutting logistics costs through reduced GST on commercial vehicles, the government aims to improve export competitiveness and reduce freight rates across the supply chain.

The decision also aligns with the government's natural farming mission by making bio-pesticides more affordable compared to chemical alterna-



on processing equipment, is likely to improve margins for both individual farmers and dairy cooperatives. Major dairy brands including Amul have welcomed the announcement.

The reduction in tractor and component prices will particularly benefit small farmers engaged in mixed farming and

tives, encouraging sustainable farming practices.

These GST cuts represent one of the most comprehensive sectoral reforms targeting the agricultural and cooperative ecosystem, with potential cascading benefits for rural entrepreneurship and food security.

No Deal On Agri Imports With US At The Cost Of Indian Farmers: Chouhan

Press Trust Of India

BHOPAL- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said no agreement will be inked with the United States regarding farm produce imports at the cost of Indian farmers.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including 25 per cent additional duties, for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

"The Prime Minister has said no pact will take place at the cost of farmers. Their interest will be protected," Chouhan said at a news conference here.

He was responding to the question whether there was any room to strengthen Indo-US relations by compromising a little on the import duty on US farm produce.

To a question about the Opposition's charge that Trump's tariff shock led to the changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure, he said, "They see Trump behind every good work that happens in Bharat... Prime minister Narendra Modi has shown it to the world that the interest of the country is paramount for him, and there will be no compromise on it."

"The interests of our farmers,



THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID no pact will take place at the cost of farmers. Their interest will be protected."

poultry farmers, fishermen and the poor will be protected," the Union minister further said, adding that India takes its own decisions.

On August 25, Chouhan had stated at a function here that the government resisted demands to allow the import of US agricultural produce in the interest of Indian farmers.

TOURISM DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

IRCTC Leads Global Outreach In International Tourism Expo Vietnam 2025

Observer news Service

NEW DELHI- Prime Minister of India has announced the year 2025 to be the ASEAN-India Year of tourism and has renewed the commitment of India to enhance its cultural, economic and tourism relations with the ASEAN countries. This bold proclamation outlines the role of tourism in improving people-to-people connectivity, mutual prosperity and strengthen bonds of friendship between India and the ASEAN countries.

Under this new initiative of enhancing relations, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Government of India, has been given the mandate to organize the Indian participation in the highly regarded International Tourism Expo (ITE) Vietnam 2025, to be held between 4th and 6th September 2025 in the Saigon Ex-

hibition and Convention Center (SECC), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. IRCTC is establishing an exclusive ASEAN-India pavilion that will showcase a wide range of tourism products that India has to offer to the world including the rich cultural heritage of the country, spiritual and wellness packages, natural scenery, adventure activities and luxury travel products in the form of IRCTC luxury trains that are the best in the world namely the Maharajas express, the Golden Chariot and the Buddhist circuit luxury AC train besides the tourism scenery and attractions of the ASEAN nations. Sh. Vipra Pandey, Consul General of India, opened the ASEAN India pavilion at Ho Chi Minh city. Depending on the importance of the event, Vipra Pandey, Consul General of India, Ho Chi Minh City. As the prelude to this new collaboration and the celebration



of 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, IRCTC in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs spearheaded a solid group of tourism sector players in India and ASEAN states at PATA Travel Mart 2025 in Bangkok, a new dawn in cross-cultural and tourism cooperation between India and ASEAN

nations. The ASEAN-India pavilion located in Bangkok was opened by the Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Sh. Nagesh Singh, which gave an added momentum to the effort of MEA and IRCTC in fostering Indo-ASEAN cross-cultural and tourism relationships. To continue with this mission a Road

Show was also held in Thailand on 28th August 2025 during which the representatives of the travel and tourism industry were also present, and it was also such a big success.

The Indian delegation to ITE Vietnam is led by IRCTC, and includes leading tourism GSAs, state tourism board officers,

and representatives of the ASEAN countries, both as tourism trade and tourism policy making bodies. This collective involvement of India and ASEAN nations represents the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to grow together and to tourism cooperate. In addition to the set-up of the ASEAN-India Pavilion, IRCTC has also been charged with the responsibility of handling the full logistics of the Indian delegation. In addition, IRCTC is hosting ASEAN-India Tourism Road Show in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam where, a wide range of Indo-ASEAN tourism products are going to be exhibited in front of an audience that will include various travel trade bodies, tour operators and industry stakeholders. This road show will be timely meeting to assist the delegation to be able to interact directly with the top local travel agents and tour op-

erators in collaboration with the trade and establishment of new business partnerships.

The announcement of the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism by the Hon Prime Minister of India is a breakthrough event to endorse India as a global tourism destination among various customer segments. The recent establishment of the ASEAN-India Pavilion in ITE Ho Chi Minh City has created new channels of promoting culture and tourism between India and the ASEAN countries and has acted as a catalyst to opening the gates of future growth and prosperity. Not only has this initiative enhanced regional connectivity, but it has also established relationships of mutual trust, friendship and cooperation, thus providing a platform on which tourism-based development and sustainable development can be achieved by both India and ASEAN in the future.

Noida Man Held For Sending Threat Message Claiming 14 'Terrorists' In Mumbai With RDX

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI, Sept 6: Mumbai police have arrested a 50-year-old man from Noida for allegedly sending a threat message claiming 14 terrorists had entered the

city with 400 kilograms of RDX to carry out blasts, an official said on Saturday.

The crime branch apprehended the accused, Ashwinikumar Supra, from his residence in Sector 79 of Noida, Uttar

Pradesh, within 24 hours of receiving the threat message, he said.

The message was received on the traffic police's WhatsApp helpline on Thursday, in which the sender had claimed that 14

terrorists had entered the city with human bombs and 400 kgs of RDX and planted it in 34 vehicles to blow up the city, the official said.

The city police were on alert, as the threat was issued

while they were making security arrangements for Anant Chaturdashi, the 10th day of the Ganesh festival.

A case was registered at the Worli police station, and the crime branch took over the

probe, he said.

The crime branch traced the sender's mobile phone number to Gautam Buddha Nagar, following which a police team travelled to Noida and apprehended the accused, the official said.

The arrested accused is being brought to Mumbai and will be produced before the court, later in the day, he added.

The motive behind the hoax threat is yet to be ascertained, police said. (PTI)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Three Die Daily:

who has studied road safety in northern India.

Pedestrians and motorized two-wheeler riders form the largest share of deaths. Poor road infrastructure ranks as a leading cause. In districts such as Ramban and Doda, roads narrow to less than two lanes, wind sharply through mountainous terrain, and often lack guardrails. Seasonal landslides and poor visibility further compound risks.

"Many of these roads were never designed for today's traffic. Their condition makes them accident traps, especially during monsoons," explained Anil Khajuria, a former engineer in J&K's Public Works Department.

Urban areas face a different but equally pressing challenge. Srinagar and Jammu suffer from chaotic traffic, weak enforcement, and poorly designed intersections. Data shows crashes occur more frequently in cities, though at lower speeds, reducing severity.

Emergency medical response remains another fatal gap. SKIMS Soura, the region's main trauma hospital, reports that delayed care contributes to a large share of deaths. "Many victims die on the way or before help arrives because there is no systematic emergency response," said a senior consultant at SKIMS. "Poor mobile coverage and lack of trauma centers outside cities mean critical hours are lost."

A 2022 study by researchers from NIT Srinagar and Atlantic Technological University Sligo examined hospital records and crash patterns. Speeding was responsible for nearly half of fatal crashes. Other contributing factors included narrow roads, poor lighting, and lack of protective barriers.

The study offered clear policy solutions. It called for continuous speed monitoring with cameras, stricter enforcement of limits, and specialized traffic police training. "Enforcement alone won't solve the problem," the study noted. "Drivers need positive incentives, such as free pollution certificates for years without violations."

Infrastructure improvements are key. The researchers recommended installing rumble strips, speed humps, wider roads, and roundabouts to reduce conflict points. For pedestrians, they suggested raised crosswalks and overhead bridges with escalators or moving walkways in crowded areas.

A systemic challenge remains the absence of a scientific road safety center in Kashmir. "Currently, police maintain crash data only at the district level. There's no central body analyzing trends or coordinating between health, traffic, and urban planning," said Dr. Rakesh Sharma. Without such a facility, policy remains reactive.

Experts say Kashmir's mix of mountainous terrain, unpredictable weather, and growing traffic demands sustained, data-driven action. The numbers make it clear where and why crashes happen, and what must change.

"Until that happens," Dr. Sharma concluded, "the harsh reality stands firm: Three lives lost every day, with no signs of slowing down."

Flood Fear Subsides

maximum alert," officials said, adding that people must avoid venturing near the river. The SDM Uri also instructed local officials to enforce restrictions on public movement close to the Jhelum, while NHPC projects in the area were asked to sound alerts in vulnerable spots. A 24x7 control room has been set up with helplines (7780940038, 9103303428) for assistance.

In Bandipora, Wular Lake witnessed a slow but steady rise. "The rate has been extremely slow, at nearly 0.5 inches per hour, and with Jhelum levels dropping at Asham, stability is expected soon," said independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng.

Weather outlook brings respite. Adding to the relief, the Meteorological Department ruled out any significant weather activity till September 12. Director MeT Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that only brief, light showers at isolated places are expected over the next few days.

However, the MeT advisory cautioned about possible landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable locations, urging people to avoid rivers, streams, and loose slopes. Farmers, meanwhile, have been encouraged to resume agricultural activities, with paddy harvesting recommended from September 9 onwards.

National Highway

morning... we have mobilised the men and machinery and started the work afresh to ensure early reopening of the arterial road as soon as possible," the official told PTI.

He said they are expecting to clear the road later tonight or early next morning.

Barring this four-lane highway stretch, which is completely buried under a moving hill, the rest of the highway – the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country – has been cleared for two-way traffic, the official said.

The highway was closed for traffic amid heavy rain across the Jammu division early this week, following multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the road besides washing away of road

patches at different places between Udhampur and Banihal.

The closure of the highway left hundreds of vehicles, mostly trucks, stranded on both sides, officials said.

A traffic department official said the Mughal Road – an alternate link connecting Poonch and Rajouri districts with south Kashmir's Shopian district – is open for light motor vehicles. The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road, another alternate link, remained closed for the fourth day despite a massive road clearance operation.

A meteorological department spokesperson said rain or thundershowers are likely at a few places on Saturday. Light rain or thundershowers scattered to many places across J&K with a possibility of moderate rain or thunder over a few districts of the Jammu division towards late night or early morning on September 7 and 8.

The weather office has also forecast a brief spell of rain or thundershower activity at a few places between September 9 and 12.

"Overall, there is nothing significant till September 12," the spokesperson said.

Highway to Reopen Soon
Meanwhile Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, on Saturday said the restoration work of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is going on at a war footing basis and it is expected to reopen within two days.

In a post on X, Dr Singh said, "Road restoration in the district is progressing fast! Out of 400 damaged roads, over 50% have already been restored, and many more will reopen soon."

He said, "Restoration work of the National Highway is going on despite constant rain and adverse weather conditions. It is expected to be operational soon—maybe in one or two days—depending on how favorable the weather remains to ensure speedy work."

The Jammu-Srinagar Highway in Udhampur has remained shut for more than ten days after it was badly damaged in the district.

According to the officials an early morning downpour on Saturday derailed the National Highways Authority of India's (NHA) efforts to restore traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway today.

Devotees Throng

shrine compound. Many devotees broke down in tears, raising their hands in prayer, while others recited verses in hushed voices, overwhelmed by the atmosphere.

"It is a blessed moment of our lives. Just one glimpse of the holy relic fills our hearts with peace," said Mohammad Shafi, a devotee from Kupwara. Another devotee, Ruqaya Jan from downtown Srinagar, said, "We come here every year with our families. The tears and prayers are our way of expressing love for our beloved Prophet (Pbuh)."

SEA OF DEVOTION
From late Friday night, the shrine began to

fill. Families arrived from villages and towns across the valley: Kulgam, Sopore, Baramulla, Anantnag. Some walked miles along mountain paths. Others arrived by car or bus, their eyes reflecting a silent determination. The air filled with soft recitations of the Qur'an, low prayers, and the warm scent of rose water.

The most sacred moment came after the Fajr prayers. The Moi-e-Muqqadas, believed to hold a strand of the Prophet's hair, was unveiled before the sea of faces. For many, it was a deeply personal encounter, beyond tradition or ritual. "My heart feels light, yet full," said Zainab from Kulgam, her eyes wet. "Just one look at the relic washes away my worries. I feel blessed to be here."

The relic was displayed five times during the day, after each prayer. Every time, "Allahu Akbar" rang out, louder and louder, filling the shrine compound. Some raised their hands in prayer, others wept silently, their faces touched by emotion. The charged atmosphere of faith seemed to lift every soul present.

Fiza Hakeem from Sopore held her daughter's hand tightly. "We come here every year," she said. "To pray, to cry, to express our love for the Prophet. It gives us strength."

Authorities ensured the event unfolded smoothly. Roads were regulated, power and water kept steady, ambulances stood ready, and security personnel blended into the crowd, preserving the calm.

Beyond Hazratbal, the devotion spread through the valley. Processions of green flags and chants moved through the streets of Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kupwara, and Budgam. In villages where evenings usually pass in silence, loudspeakers now carried the soft rhythm of naats praising the Prophet.

Children, wearing green headbands, marched proudly with small flags. Their faces bore painted Islamic symbols, smiles glowing with innocent joy.

Bashir Ganai, watching his pre-teen son wave a green banner, said, "He told me today, 'Father, carrying this makes me feel connected to the Prophet.' I can't describe that feeling."

Homes shimmered with lights, mosques wore bright banners, and shops distributed sweets and bread freely. Volunteers moved through the crowds, offering water, guiding the flow of people, and keeping order.

Abdul Rashid, an elderly man from Srinagar, said, "The way children lead us today shows our love will never fade."

On Eid-e-Milad, Kashmir came alive in faith. Every chant, tear, and smile carried forward a legacy of devotion, an intimate bond with the Prophet that stretches across time.

CM Omar Offers

Magrib Namaz (evening prayers) at the shrine, which houses the sacred relic of the Prophet of Islam. After the prayers, he joined other devotees in having a glimpse of the holy relic.

Former J&K Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, and MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq also participated in the congregational prayers at the shrine.

On this spiritually significant occasion, Omar Abdullah prayed for everlasting peace, communal harmony, and the well-being and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister extended warm greetings to the people on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), urging them to uphold the noble teachings of the Prophet (SAW) as a guiding light for unity, compassion and service to humanity.

Stray Dog Attacks

departments to adopt effective measures to deal with the crisis, which continues to pose a threat to public safety. (KNT)

J&K Bank Hands

in the region's economy.
LG praises bank's turnaround
Congratulating the J&K Bank team, LG Manoj Sinha urged the institution to continue fostering inclusive growth, particularly by supporting small and micro-enterprises. He noted the bank's remarkable transformation from a loss of ₹1,139 crore in 2019-20 to a profit of ₹1,700 crore in 2023-24.

Bank posts record profit
CEO Amitava Chatterjee highlighted the Bank's performance, pointing to its "hat-trick of historic earnings," capped by a record net profit of ₹2,082 crore in FY 2024-25. He reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to excellence in banking services and its contribution to Mission YUVA for equitable and sustainable development in J&K.

Govt Emblem

action against those accused of damaging the emblem. "The first mistake was to hurt people's sentiments. Instead of threatening PSA, the right course would have been to apologise to the people," he said.

He emphasised that state symbols should remain confined to official institutions. "Emblems belong in government offices, not in religious places like temples, mosques or shrines," the NC leader stated.

In Kulgam, Omar shifted focus to governance, questioning the achievements of successive administrations over the past decade. "Whoever ruled J&K for the last 10 years must place before the people a clear record of what has been achieved since 2014," he said.

He demanded that the government present its performance honestly in the upcoming Assembly session. "Our government will take steps so that people won't face such issues in the future," he assured.

Zero tolerance on illegal mining
CM also announced a strict stance on illegal extraction of natural resources. "Illegal mining

will not be tolerated. Strict action will be taken against all those found involved," he said, underlining his government's resolve to protect public assets and the environment.

Sikhs Seek Fresh

Compassionate appointments under SRO-43, Benefits at par with non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits,

Reservation in professional courses at government universities and colleges,
Financial assistance for building a memorial at Chittisinghpura to honor the victims.

LG's assurance
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha assured the delegation that their concerns would be addressed with "utmost sensitivity and priority."

He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to justice for terrorism victims and promised that a fresh inquiry would be pursued to establish accountability.

The LG further said that eligible family members of the victims would receive compassionate appointments and support for self-employment.

Meanwhile, a joint delegation from Shree Sadhu Ganga Asthapan Trust, Kandi Khass, and Shri Sharda Asthapan Trust, Gund Gushi (Kupwara), also met the Lieutenant Governor to discuss community-related concerns.

J&K Halts Cooperative

Society, and Budgam Builder Cooperative Society. The government swiftly banned these entities once their fraudulent character became clear.

In a series of enforcement actions, the ED attached assets worth more than 195 crore linked to Dar and his associates. Dar, along with his aide Hilal Ahmad Mir, was arrested in December 2023. Both remain in custody after bail pleas were rejected.

Nazir Mir, a local businessman, welcomed the administration's decision. "This was a necessary step to safeguard the credibility of the cooperative sector," he said.

Mir pointed out how public funds were misappropriated through bogus societies and warned that holding the elections could have legitimized those networks. He called for stricter oversight and structural reforms to prevent future hijacking of cooperative institutions.

Observers say the danger posed by Dar's network remains. "This scam is not just about the money," Mir added, "it's about the erosion of trust in grassroots financial institutions."

Despite repeated attempts to seek their comments for the story, officials, including SDM Zubair Ahmed, did not respond to calls and messages from this correspondent.

Meanwhile, as the trial against Dar proceeds in the PMLA court, the government faces mounting pressure to rebuild trust and protect cooperative bodies from political and financial manipulation in the years ahead.

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Suryakumar Lauds Teammates As India Begin Asia Cup Prep

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India skipper Suryakumar Yadav has lauded the energy and commitment of his teammates on the opening day of training ahead of the Asia Cup, saying their intensity and skill sets gave him confidence going into the tournament.

India will begin their campaign against hosts UAE on September 10, followed by the marquee clash with Pakistan on September 14 and against Oman on September 19. The playoffs will begin on September 20.

Defending champions India had a full-fledged practice session at the ICC Academy here on Friday as they put the finishing touches to their Asia Cup preparations.

"To have such a brilliant bunch around with unbelievable skill sets, I always have a smile on my face when I see those boys on the ground," Suryakumar, returning to action after undergoing surgery for a sports hernia, said in a video posted by BCCI on 'X'. "Because the way they put



their body on the line, that's what I want from them. And they just enjoy on the ground." Vice-captain Shubman Gill, who recently captained India to a 2-2 draw in the England Test

series, echoed his skipper's sentiment.

The 25-year-old from Punjab attracted plenty of attention during fitness drills and net sessions, with Sanju Samson, Jitesh

Sharma, Tilak Varma and Abhishek Sharma also having extended batting stints on day one of their training on Friday.

This is the first time the team has assembled together since

the 2-2 Test series draw in England. Several players, including Gill, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Kuldeep Yadav, had a month's rest before rejoining the squad.

Among the senior players, Bumrah was also upbeat after returning to the T20I squad since the 2024 World Cup final in Bridgetown.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, sporting a new blonde hairdo, said he had used the break to focus on family time.

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep said the team environment remained vibrant from the outset.

Shivam Dube revealed the motivational words of head coach Gautam Gambhir that set the tone in training.

India have won the Asia Cup a record eight times. They are the designated hosts of the tournament, being staged across UAE venues.

Group A comprises India, Pakistan, UAE and Oman, while Group B features Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Hong Kong.

District Srinagar Rugby 7's C'ship Concludes At Polo Ground

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two-day District Srinagar Rugby 7's Championship concluded on Saturday with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit at the Synthetic Rugby Field, Polo Ground, here. The championship was organised by the Srinagar Rugby Association in collaboration with the J&K Rugby Association and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

The tournament witnessed the participation of 16 competitive teams across different categories, showcasing skill, teamwork, and the rising passion for rugby in the district.

In the Senior Women's category, Srinagar Pink emerged as the champions, securing the Gold Medal, Srinagar Oranges claimed the Silver and Srinagar Panthers bagged the Bronze.

In the Senior Men's category, Srinagar Lions stormed to victory with the Gold Medal, Srinagar Blue took home the Silver and Srinagar Greens finished strong with the Bronze.

The closing ceremony was attended by Irfan Aziz, who attended as the Chief Guest and distributed medals and trophies among the winners. In his address, Aziz highlighted the importance of rugby as a dynamic contact sport, emphasizing how it instils values of discipline, teamwork, endurance and resilience among youth.

"The successful completion of the championship reflects the growing popularity of rugby in Srinagar and the commitment of organizers, players and stakeholders to nurture this exciting sport at the grassroots level," the Srinagar Rugby Association said in a statement.



Commissioner Secretary YSS Reviews Performance, Functioning Of JKSC



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Yasha Mudgal on Saturday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the overall functioning and performance of the J&K Sports Council.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary YSS, Director Finance YSS, Secretary JKSC, Executive Engineer JKSC and other senior officers of YSS and JKSC.

While reviewing the human resource issues of the department, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the need to expedite the process of filling all vacant positions. She

emphasized that adequate staffing is essential for the optimal functioning of sports infrastructure across the region.

Highlighting the importance of youth engagement in sports, the Commissioner Secretary directed JKSC to conduct population-wise analysis of youth participation in sports activities across J&K and analyse the same with respect to the national average.

To enhance the competitive performance of athletes in J&K, the Secretary JKSC was asked to formulate a comprehensive plan aimed at increasing medal tallies in national and international competitions.

Highlighting the potential of J&K as an emerging

global sports destination, the Commissioner Secretary advised the JKSC to examine the feasibility of hosting international sporting events, including World Championships, in the region, which will significantly contribute to enhancing the global visibility of J&K as a sports destination.

During the meeting, Secretary JKSC delivered a detailed presentation covering key aspects of the Council's operations like institutional functioning, upcoming projects, major achievements, upcoming international and national championships and the status of the ongoing works under the Capex / PMDP.

Iyer Named India A Captain For Australia A Series; Rahul, Siraj To Play 2nd Game



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Left out of the Test scheme of things as well as the upcoming Asia Cup T20Is, Shreyas Iyer was on Saturday entrusted with leading the India A team in the two unofficial four-day games against Australia A in Lucknow.

Senior India players KL Rahul and Mohammed Siraj will be available for the second fixture.

Iyer, not picked even among the reserves for the Asia Cup beginning Tuesday, is currently

turning out for West Zone in the Duleep Trophy semi-final against Central Zone in Bengaluru.

The first unofficial Test will be played from September 16-19 and the second from September 23-26 at the Ekana Stadium.

India wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel, who played the fifth Test in England, has been named Iyer's deputy.

Rahul and Siraj will join the squad for the second multi-day match as they will get quality match practice ahead of home Test series against the West In-

dies and South Africa.

India's home season begins with a two-match Test series against the West Indies, with the first match to be played at Ahmedabad from October 2.

The India A squad includes Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper-batter N Jagadeesan, who was called up as a cover for the fifth Test in England. Jagadeesan scored a brilliant 197 (352 balls, 16 fours and 2 sixes) for South Zone in their Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone.

Among batters, Abhimanyu

Easwaran, Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal have been named along with Delhi skipper Ayush Badoni, who received his maiden call-up, while India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has also been named in the A side.

The fast bowling line-up includes India pacers Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Thakur and Punjab's lanky pacer Gur-nor Brar, who has also been a regular nets bowler for the national side. Dubey, Kotian and Rajasthan's Manav Suthar are among the spinners.

I Want To Milk My Body As Much As I Can For Test Cricket: Mitchell Starc

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Australia's frontline pace bowler Mitchell Starc believes he still has a lot left in him to play Test and ODI cricket, saying he is ready to "milk" his body to achieve more success in the longest format of the game.

Starc, 35, recently announced his retirement from T20Is in a move to keep himself ready for the Ashes, IPL, an away Test series in India, and the ODI World Cup in two years' time.

The decision means the left-handed quick, who has in the past skipped the Indian Premier League to preserve energies for international assignments, will not play the T20 World Cup which is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lan-

ka early next year.

"For lack of a better term, I want to milk my body as much as I can for as much Test cricket as possible. That was never going to be off the table," Starc was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"I just felt like one of the other (formats) had to give. I feel like I've got plenty to offer the ODI team and with that goal of getting my body to 2027 - but also being good enough to be in that team for the World Cup in 2027. I felt like this was my best opportunity to prolong my Test career and get to that World Cup (in 2027)." Starc had played a pivotal role in the 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE where Australia won their maiden world title in the format.

"I umm-ed and ahh-ed about which was the right (format) to put to the side. If I wasn't going to be in the frame for 2027 then I didn't want to hold up the spot. I still feel like I've got plenty to offer that ODI team. I'd thought about it for a while. I feel like it was probably a good time. I'm 35 now, Tests have always been my priority and they will remain my priority," he said.

If Starc lasts till the 2027 World Cup in South Africa, he could finish his career as one of the greatest ODI World Cup bowlers of all-time. Only Glenn McGrath (71 scalps in four World Cups - 1996, 1999, 2003 and 2007) and Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (68 wickets from five tournaments

from 1996 to 2011) have more World Cup wickets than Starc's 65 (2015, 2019 and 2023).

Starc felt he was leaving the T20 side at the right time, given that the team was in a good place with new faces coming in.

He is now looking forward to the three-match home ODI series against India and a potential Sheffield Shield appearance before the Ashes.

"The three one-dayers (against India) are a nice, controlled lead-in to five Test matches, 10 overs a game, time on the legs, they're not a day after each other. There's some Shield games that can be added to that schedule. (But) I think it's important not to have a concrete way of thinking," he said.



Srinagar Premier League 2025 To Now Begin From Monday

Srinagar Premier League 2025 is all set to begin on Monday, September 8, at TRC Ground, Srinagar. The league was scheduled to begin on September 6, but it was postponed due to the flood threat in the city.

According to the fixtures list released by District Football Association Srinagar on Friday, two matches will take place on Monday. Kashmir United FC will take on United Elegant FC at 2:00 PM, while in the second game, AG's Office XI will lock horns with SWFC Kashmir at 4:30 PM.

Other teams participating in the league include JK Bank XI, Iqbal Sports FC, JK Bank Academy, Northall United FC, Galaxy FC, Kashmir Avengers FC, Kashmir Maharaja FC, Star Kashmir FC, J&K Police XI, Kashmir Panthers FC, Ganderbal FC, Kanwal FC Anantnag and ARCO FC.

The Srinagar Premier League 2025 is being held under the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of J&K Sports Council. (Observer News Service)

Former Indian Skipper Azharuddin To Visit Srinagar Today

Cricket enthusiasts and aspiring young cricketers in Kashmir are set to receive a rare opportunity to train under a cricketing icon.

Former Indian captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, will visit Srinagar today, Sunday, September 7, to conduct a specialized training camp at the MS Cricket Academy.

This highly anticipated visit offers local talent a unique chance to learn directly from one of India's most celebrated cricketers. Azharuddin, renowned for his elegant batting style and astute leadership, is expected to provide invaluable guidance and insights into the finer nuances of the game.

The training camp aims to hone the skills of budding cricketers and is being viewed as a significant boost for the sport in the region. Azharuddin will be at the academy to directly mentor participants, sharing his vast experience from representing India at the highest level. (KNO)

BCCI To Elect New President During AGM On September 28

The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) will elect its new President and the next Indian Premier League (IPL) Chairman when it holds Annual General Meeting (AGM) here on September 28.

The post of the BCCI's president fell vacant following the exit of former India cricketer Roger Binny earlier this month after he turned 70. He was appointed as the BCCI president in October 2022. BCCI constitution does not allow any official to host a post beyond 70.

IPL chairman Arun Dhumal is unlikely to continue after completing a cumulative term of six years.

While the election is supposed to take place for all key posts in the BCCI, it is effectively only for one position as the others are likely to continue in their roles.

Devajit Saikia was unanimously elected as the secretary in January this year after Jay Shah took over the role as Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The other officials who are also likely to continue are Rohan Gauns Desai, elected as the joint secretary in March this year, and Prabhetj Bhatia, who was elected as the treasurer in January along with Saikia. (PTI)

India Thrash China 7-0 To Reach Asia Cup Hockey Final

Striker Abhishek struck a brace as a dominant Indian men's hockey team outplayed China 7-0 in their last Super 4s match to reach the final of the Asia Cup tournament here on Saturday.

Abhishek scored in the 46th and 50th minutes after Shilanand Lakra (4th minute), Dilpreet Singh (7th), Mandeep Singh (18th), Raj Kumar Pal (37th) and Sukhjeet Singh (39th) had sounded the board in a one-sided match.

India will face defending champions South Korea in the final on Sunday.

With the win, India topped the Super 4s league table with seven points, while South Korea ended at second with four points, ahead of China and Malaysia -- both on three points.

India are thus just one step away from qualifying for next year's World Cup.

India had played out a 2-2 draw against South Korea before beating Malaysia 4-1 in their earlier two Super 4s matches. (PTI)

PSG Coach Luis Enrique Breaks Collarbone In Cycling Accident

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique broke his collarbone in a cycling accident and was set to undergo surgery, the French champions said.

The 55-year-old Spaniard, a cycling enthusiast, led PSG to its first Champions League title last season, and the team has won three straight games to open its Ligue 1 title defense.

The club did not specify where the accident took place.

"Following a cycling accident on Friday, Paris Saint-Germain head coach Luis Enrique was treated by the emergency services and will undergo surgery for a fractured collarbone," PSG said in a statement. "The club expresses its full support and wishes him a swift recovery. Further updates will be shared in due course."

PSG's next game is Sept. 14 against Lens, and three days later it hosts Atalanta to open its Champions League title defense.

Also Friday, PSG star Ousmane Dembélé limped off the field injured while playing for France in World Cup qualifying. He left with what seemed to be a right hamstring injury. (AP)






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