

MeT Warns Of Flashfloods, Mudslides In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department on Thursday warned of flash floods, mudslides and waterlogging in vulnerable areas of Jammu and Kashmir as rain, thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms lashed several parts of the Union Territory.

Officials said many areas across Kashmir and parts of the Jammu division witnessed a spell of rain and thundershowers during the evening, bringing temporary relief from the prevailing warm weather conditions.

An official at the MeT Centre Srinagar said weather activity was reported from several districts, including Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch. Rain and thundershowers were also recorded along the Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave axis ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra.

The weather office said hailstorms were reported from some areas and warned that similar conditions could occur in parts of north and central Kashmir, including Tangdhar, Kupwara, Handwara, Budgam, Uri, Ganderbal, Shopian and Kokernag.

The department cautioned that intense rainfall at isolated places could trigger flash floods, waterlogging and mudslides, particularly in hilly and vulnerable areas of Tangdhar, Kupwara, Kukernag, Banihal and Kishtwar.

Officials advised residents and travellers to remain cautious, saying weather conditions could change rapidly over the next few days.

According to the forecast, generally cloudy weather is expected across Jammu and Kashmir from June 19 to June 22, with one or two spells of | [More on P6](#)

'This Was Not Easy': Trump Signs Iran Peace Deal

Agencies

Versailles (France) — U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday signed the long-awaited memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran during a dinner with French President Emmanuel Macron at the G7 summit in Versailles, marking a dramatic step toward ending more than three months of war between Washington and Tehran.

As Trump sat alongside Macron, Secretary of State Marco Rubio handed him the agreement. Before signing, Trump paused and remarked: "This was not easy."

After putting pen to paper, the U.S. president held up the signed document for those gathered in the room.

"President Trump signed tonight at Versailles the agreement between Iran and the United States. This agreement paves the way for lasting peace," a U.S. official said.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the agreement separately, bringing the accord formally into force.

The signing represents the



most significant diplomatic breakthrough between the two countries in decades and follows months of conflict, negotiations and mediation efforts aimed at ending a war that drew in Iran, the United States, Israel and regional allies.

The choice of Versailles carried symbolic significance. The historic French palace has hosted some of the world's most consequential diplomatic agreements, including the 1919 Treaty of Versailles that formally ended World War I.

The memorandum provides for an immediate and

permanent end to military operations, including in Lebanon; the lifting of U.S. sanctions and the naval blockade on Iran; the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz; and the launch of negotiations on a comprehensive settlement covering sanctions relief and nuclear issues.

Pezeshkian hailed the accord as a "historic document" and a demonstration of Iran's strength on the world stage.

"This is a historical document and a message from a powerful Iran: Peace will be realized in the shadow of mutual respect,"

India Hails Iran-US Peace Deal

Agencies

Paris, Jun 18 : India on Thursday welcomed the US-Iran peace deal, affirming that New Delhi remains in close touch with partner nations in West Asia and is prepared to contribute in addressing the "next steps" to ensure peace and stability in the region.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India always advocated the path of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict and it expects that the US-Iran understanding will lead to sustained peace.

Misri said the West Asia situation figured prominently in Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's engagements at G7 outreach meetings as well as in his bilateral talks with several world leaders.

PM Modi expressed India's desire to see sustained peace and security in West Asia, he added.

US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the landmark peace Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides for an immediate halt to all military operations, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and the lifting of the US naval blockade on Iranian ports.

Misri said India has been in close touch with most of the protagonists | [More on P6](#)

J&K Amends Higher Judicial Service Rules

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has amended the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service Rules, 2009, introducing revised eligibility criteria, changes in recruitment quotas and a new framework for determining seniority in the Higher Judicial Service.

The amendments were notified by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs through S.O. 173, issued on June 16, in consultation with the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Under the revised rules, the government has introduced the definition of an "In-Service Candidate", describing such candidates as members of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Judicial Service with a combined experience of seven years or more as an advocate and judicial officer. The definition of "Advocate" has also been expanded to include practising advocates, pleaders, government pleaders and public prosecutors.

The amendments alter the recruitment pattern for the Higher Judicial Service. Fifty per cent of posts will continue to be filled through regular promotion, while 25 per cent will be filled through promotion based strictly on merit via a Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE). The remaining 25 per cent posts will be filled through direct recruitment from eligible advocates and in-service candidates on the basis of a written examination and viva voce conducted by the High Court.

The government has also reduced the qualifying benchmark from 65 per cent to 50 per cent in certain eligibility provisions. For promotion | [More on P6](#)

IN A DEVELOPMENT WITH FAR-REACHING implications for the Middle East and global geopolitics, the Iran-U.S. peace accord signals a potential shift from confrontation to diplomacy, reshaping regional power dynamics and reinforcing the rise of a more multipolar international order.

J&K Ramps Up Security, Logistics Ahead of Amarnath Yatra

Mock Drills, Rescue Teams Deployed as Admin Reviews Preparations for July 3 Pilgrimage



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has intensified preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to begin on July 3, with authorities reviewing pilgrim facilities, strengthening infrastructure and tightening security arrangements across the

Union Territory. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday said all departments were working in close coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage and provide timely services to devotees undertaking the annual yatra. "There is a well-established system in place | [More on P6](#)

Need To Protect Forests Across Country: SC

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday underscored the need to protect forests and natural ecosystems across the country, observing that states such as Jharkhand possess valuable ecological resources that must be preserved.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana made the remarks while hearing a petition filed by the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) challenging orders of the Jharkhand High Court on stone mining and stone crusher operations near forest areas.

"There are few states where we can really protect our natural ecosystem and you are one of them," the Chief Justice remarked while addressing counsel for the JSPCB.

The court noted that several states still retain natural forest ecosystems and stressed the importance of safeguarding them.

The matter relates to a January order of the Jharkhand High Court directing that no consent be granted for stone mining or stone crushers within one kilometre of the demarcated boundaries of protected forests in the state. The order was passed while hearing a plea challenging a JSPCB | [More on P6](#)

Trump Says US Will Defend India If Anyone Attacks It

Press Trust Of India

Evian-Les-Bains (France)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday raised the issue of seafarers' safety with US President Donald Trump, urging that their protection be given the highest priority during the implementation of Washington's peace deal with Iran, even as the two leaders focused on taking steps to repair bilateral ties that witnessed severe strain over the past year.

The meeting between the two leaders on the margins of the G7 summit in the French commune came amid increasing outrage in India over the killing of three Indian crew members of a merchant ship in American military strikes in the Gulf of Oman.

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Trump, describing New Delhi as a key partner, said the US will defend India if anyone attacks it. The US president, without giving any timeline, said both sides are close to finalising the | [More on P6](#)

AI Must Improve Lives, Widen Access: PM

Says Technology Can Lead to Progress Only When Democratised

Press Trust Of India

Paris: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made a strong pitch for democratisation of technology, asserting that AI means "all inclusive" for India, days after the US imposed curbs on access to certain artificial intelligence models.

Addressing technology forum VivaTech 2026 in Paris, Modi highlighted India's technological prowess and said half of the global digital transactions are happening in the country.

"When it comes to technology, along with innovation, what matters is access. Technology can lead to progress, only when it is democratised. India believes that in this era of disruption, technology must deliver for all," the Prime Minister said.



Citing the example of AI (artificial intelligence), Modi said it must improve lives, widen access, drive growth and also "help us sustain a healthy planet". "Our participation as the AI Country Partner at VivaTech 2026 reflects this very vision. For India, AI means 'All Inclusive'," he said. Last week, Anthropic took its latest AI models | [More on P6](#)



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Your Heart May Be Older Than You Think; Doctors Warn Of Growing Obesity In India

Press Trust Of India

Your heart may be older than you think, say doctors, warning that as obesity rates rise in India, many people may have a 'cardiac age' significantly older than their actual age, raising the risk of cardiovascular disease much earlier than expected.

The concern comes in the wake of findings from the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6), which showed a sharp increase in obesity among Indian adults.

The survey found that 30.7 per cent of women aged 15-49 years were overweight or obese in 2023-24, up from 24 per cent in NFHS-5 (2019-21), while the proportion among men rose from 22.9 per cent to 27.3 per cent.

Experts said the trend, coupled with rising diabetes and hypertension, could translate into a greater burden of heart disease.

Dr Nitish Naik, Professor of Cardiology at AIIMS, Delhi, said cardiac age is increasingly being used to explain cardiovascular risk in a way people can easily understand.

Speaking to PTI, Dr Naik said, "Cardiac age is not necessarily the same as a person's chronological age. It is an assessment of how healthy or unhealthy the cardiovascular system is based on various risk factors."

A 35-year-old with obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and a sedentary lifestyle may well have a cardiovascular risk profile similar to that of a much older person, he said.

According to the World Health Organization, overweight and obesity are among the leading risk factors for non-communicable diseases, including heart disease and stroke, which remain leading causes of death globally.

Dr Rahul Chandola, Chairman of the Institute of Heart, Lungs Diseases Research Centre and founder of an AI-based healthcare technology platform iLive Connect, said obesity is the major determinant of cardiovascular health and it is a major problem across the world, including India.

He said the sedentary lifestyle, sitting for long hours in offices, consumption of unhealthy foods, and stress contribute to obesity.

Explaining cardiac age, Dr Chandola, a cardiovascular surgeon, said it is a measure of the biological health of the heart and blood vessels, reflecting the organ's physiological condition rather than the number of years a person has lived.



He said a person aged 70 or 80 may have a much younger heart if the overall cardiovascular condition is good. Similarly, a younger person can have an older cardiac age if multiple risk factors are present.

Cardiac age is determined by factors such as blood pressure, heart rate, ECG findings, heart-rate variability, blood sugar control, exercise levels and overall cardiovascular fitness, he added.

The advances in technology and AI are making it possible to precisely estimate cardiac age, he said, adding that "Platforms such as iLive can analyse multiple physiological parameters and estimate one's cardiac age."

According to Dr Chandola, the platform, incorporating multiple variables, including data collected via sensors and a wristband, tracks physiological parameters in real time over a period of time. This information is analysed using AI to generate a person's cardiac age.

Dr Naik said many Indians remain unaware that cardiovascular damage often begins years before symptoms appear. "People frequently focus only on body weight, but metabolic health is equally important. Obesity can silently damage blood vessels, increase insulin resistance and raise blood pressure. By the time symptoms develop, significant cardiovascular damage may already have occurred," he said.

Doctors say obesity accelerates cardiac ageing through several biological mechanisms.

Dr H S Isser, Head of Department of Cardiology at VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, said that excess body fat, particularly around the abdomen, triggers chronic inflammation, increases blood pressure, worsens cholesterol levels and promotes insulin resistance, all of which damage blood

vessels and force the heart to work harder.

He said obesity rarely occurs in isolation. "Obesity is closely linked with a cluster of metabolic disorders, including diabetes, hypertension and abnormal lipid levels. Together, these conditions significantly increase the risk of coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke. The rise in obesity reflected in NFHS-6 is therefore a serious public-health concern," he said.

Dr Isser said abdominal obesity is particularly dangerous because it surrounds vital organs and drives metabolic dysfunction.

"Many people focus only on body weight, but waist circumference and visceral fat are equally important. A person may not appear significantly overweight yet still be carrying excess abdominal fat that increases cardiovascular risk. This is one reason why Indians are seeing heart disease at relatively younger ages," he elaborated.

Dr Anil Gurtoo, Head of Dept of Medicine at Sitaram Bharti Institute of Science and Research said, "While the Calendar displays one age, the heart may reveal another age. So, while we may be 40 years old by the calendar, our heart may have crossed 60 years."

This unsettling paradox of the young-old and the thin-fat is becoming all too common, as the silent epidemic of visceral obesity sweeps across South Asia, he said. "What makes this phenomenon unique is that, unlike the Western populations, obesity in the Indian population expresses very differently -- by developing early-onset cardio-metabolic disease at lower body weights leading to early diabetes and heart attacks at ages as young as thirty," Dr Gurtoo said.

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan Executive Magistrate 1st Class.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of Rummy Hilal. D/o Hilal Ahmad Hajam R/O Raipora Palhallan With Date of Birth 08-03-2014. Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Palhallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.

Naib Tehsildar Palhallan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Peer Rayees Ahmad Shah, S/o Abdul Gani Shah, R/O Hajipora, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Rayees Ahmad Peer" in Aadhaar Card No. 3635 7542 2358

My correct name is "Peer Rayees Ahmad Shah". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Peer Rayees Ahmad Shah S/o Abdul Gani Shah R/O Hajipora, Shopian fko-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Ms. BISHMA AHMAD (also written as Besma Ahamad), D/o Gh. Ahmad Dar, R/O Lalpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K UT, was born on 01-12-1996 at home and her birth has not been registered with the office of the Registrar Births & Deaths, Block Lalpora.

She has now applied for registration of her birth and issuance of a Birth Certificate from the competent authority. If any person has any objection regarding the registration of the said birth, he/she may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the publication of this notice. Failing which, the matter shall be processed as per rules.

Sd/- Bisma Ahmad D/o Gh. Ahmad Dar R/O Lalpora, Tehsil Kunzer District Baramulla, J&K UT fko

To
Tehsildar
Gool
Subject: Request for Issuance of Non Availability Certificate (NAC) for My Son's/Daughter's/Child's Date of Birth
Respected Sir/Madam,
I MOHAMMAD SHAFI TRAGWAL S/O SONAULLAH TRAGWAL R/O GUNDI BUTTAS TEHSIL GOOL DISTRICT RAMBAN am writing to request the issuance of a Non-Availability Certificate (NAC) of my birth as my birth particulars were not registered at the time of birth.

Name	Father Name	Mother Name	D.O.B	Gender	Place of Birth
MOHAMMAD SHAFI TRAGWAL	SONAULLAH TRAGWAL	ZEENAT BEGUM	31-03-1971	Male	Gundi (Home)

I kindly request you to issue the Non-Availability Certificate so that I may proceed with the late registration of birth as per the guidelines of the Registrar of Births and Deaths. Thank You for Support and Cooperation.

Yours Faithfully,
MOHAMMAD SHAFI TRAGWAL
S/O SONAULLAH TRAGWAL
R/O GUNDI BUTTAS TEHSIL GOOL DISTRICT RAMBAN Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

If the correction is only regarding the name in the domicile certificate, you can use this short newspaper-style public notice:

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Farhat Gulzar Reshie, S/o Gulzar Ahmad Reshie, R/O Marbal Yamberzalwari, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Domicile Certificate as "Farhat Gulzar" instead of my correct name "Farhat Gulzar Reshie". Henceforth, my correct name shall be Farhat Gulzar Reshie for all purposes and records.

If any person has any objection to this correction, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Farhat Gulzar Reshie S/o Gulzar Ahmad Reshie R/O Marbal Yamberzalwari. fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

Public Notice

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Iqra Farooq D/o Farooq Ahmad Khanday R/o Zangam Tehsil Pattan district Baramulla with verified date of birth 23/06/2024 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

Public Notice

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Iqra Farooq D/o Farooq Ahmad Khanday R/o Zangam Tehsil Pattan district Baramulla with verified date of birth 01/01/2001. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Public Notice

I Prith pal Singh resident of Para mohalla pattan Tehsil Pattan district Baramulla hereby inform to general public that registration certificate of my vehicle bearing registration no. JK05F5309 has been lost/misplaced. Despite diligent search the document could not be found. If anyone finds the said RC please contact me on phone no 920522220. If no claim is received within 07 days from the publication of this notice, I shall apply for a duplicate RC the concerned RTO.

Prith pal Singh R/O Para mohalla pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of MOHD SALIM DULLI, S/o Faqir Mohd Duli, R/o Chacke Teran, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K, has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card No. ****7522 as "MOHAMMAD SALEEM DULLI". The correct name of the holder is "MOHD SALIM DULLI" as per his school records and other supporting documents. Henceforth, he shall be known and identified by the name MOHD SALIM DULLI for all purposes.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may file the same before the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

MOHD SALIM DULLI S/o Faqir Mohd Duli fko R/o Chacke Teran, Tehsil Tangmarg District Baramulla, J&K UT.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420003544 issued in favour of JAVID HUSSAIN GANAI Parentage MOHAMMAD QAZIM GANAI

Whereas an application has been received by one JAVID HUSSAIN GANAI Parentage MOHAMMAD QAZIM GANAI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as JAVID HUSSAIN GANIE Parentage HAJI MOHAMMAD QAZIM Which needs to be changed as JAVID HUSSAIN GANAI Parentage MOHAMMAD QAZIM GANAI.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th /11/12th) under Roll No. 121027080 Session ANNUAL-Regular Year 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my father's name as Abdul Majeed Sheikh Instead of Abdul Majeed Sheikh



Now I have applied for correction in The J&K Board of School Education Magam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary JKBOSE MAGAM within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correction particulars be recorded as under:
Name: Mohammad Imran Sheikh
Father's Name: Abdul Majeed Sheikh
Mother's Name: Masrat
Date of Birth: 14-09-2009
Residence: HEEING
Mobile No. 6005922235 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th /11/12th) under Roll No. 121008272 Session BI-ANNUAL Year 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my name as IRFAN AHMAD SHIEKH instead of IRFAN AHMAD SHEIKH



Now I have applied for correction in The J&K Board of School Education Magam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary JKBOSE MAGAM within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correction particulars be recorded as under:
Name: IRFAN AHMAD SHEIKH
Father's Name: GULZAR AHMAD SHEIKH
Mother's Name: HASEENA
Date of Birth: 16-05-2009
Residence: HEEING
Mobile No. 6005922235 bmg

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education Sub Office Budgam

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: Session: Bi-Annual Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/ Board/parent against my father's name as Gh Rasool Ganie Instead of Gh Rasool Doom



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Budgam, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Budgam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Asma Rasool
Father's name: Gh Rasool Doom
Mother's Name: Saleema Bano
DOB: 07-09-2009
Residence: Hanji Bough
Mobile no: 9541402766 bmg-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Yousuf Dar, S/o Sahiba Yousuf, R/o Chowan, Kella, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name and father's name of my daughter have been wrongly recorded in the school records of Al-Fallah Modern Islamia School, Kella, Shopian as "Shahiba Yousuf Dar" and "Mohammad Abdullah Dar".

The correct particulars are:
Student's Name: Sahiba Yousuf
Father's Name: Mohammad Yousuf Dar
Henceforth, the above-mentioned correct name and father's name shall be treated as valid for all official and educational purposes. Any person having any objection to this correction may submit the same to the concerned authorities within the prescribed period; otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohammad Yousuf Dar R/o Chowan, Kella, Shopian. fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PULWAMA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings) TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No:- 39 /RnB/Pul /e-tendering/2026-27/2342-52 Dated:- 18-06-2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of Pulwama Pampore road incl. circular road	911.03 (Base cost=772.06 +GST=138.97)	8500/-	2% of Advertised Cost	18 Months	15-07-2026	AAV Class

Major Head of Account= flood Restoration
Position of AAA= Assured
Position of TS = Assured
Position of Funds = Assured
Project Authority =PW(R&B) South Kashmir .

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-06-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20-06-2026,10:00 A.M. to 14-07-2026, 2:00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	19-06-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer PWD (RnB) South Kashmir
4.	Bid submission Start Date	20-06-2026 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	14-07-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	1-07-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) South Kashmir
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama [Tender Inviting Authority] (The Date of Treasury Challan/ EMD should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Accounts Officer PWD(R&B) south Kashmir (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Chief Accounts Officer PWD(R&B) south Kashmir (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) South Kashmir. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

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

4. The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter on intent.

c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

5.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.

20. Any Typographical error if found in BOQ will be corrected as per estimate/ DPR/ SSR (which ever is appropriate).

No:NIT/ 39 /RnB/Pul /e-tendering/2026-27/2342-52 DPK-2290/26 Dated:- 18-06-2026

HD/DM Technical officer

Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Pulwama

Unsafe, Deteriorating Substations to Be Upgraded Across Srinagar: DC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, conducted on-site inspections of various vulnerable Distribution Transformer Substations (DTs) across the District to assess their operational condition, evaluate infrastructure deficiencies and ensure uninterrupted power supply and public safety.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer KPDCI Circle-I, Superintending Engineer KPDCI Circle-II, Executive Engineer KPDCI Division-III, Executive Engineer KPDCI Division-II, and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, the DC reviewed the condition of vulnerable and deteriorated Distribution Transformer Substations at Nawab Bazar, Nawa Kadal, and other areas of the district. He directed the concerned Officers and Engineers to initiate modernisation and safety compliant upgradation works

at the earliest.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the need for comprehensive improvement and strengthening of structurally weak and deteriorated substations through the replacement of damaged poles, cross-arms, insulators, switchgear, and other defective equipment in accordance with prescribed safety and technical standards.

He directed the Officers to ensure the timely completion of critical works on a priority basis to provide consumers with a safe, reliable and uninterrupted power supply. He also emphasized the removal and proper disposal of old and damaged structures while strictly adhering to all technical and safety norms.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of time-bound infrastructure upgradation and directed all concerned agencies to expedite the modernization of vulnerable substations to strengthen the power distribution network, ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and enhance public safety across the District.

KU Announces Series of Academic, Administrative Reshuffles

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir has announced a series of academic and administrative appointments and re-assignments across several departments, research centres and academic units as part of its ongoing institutional restructuring and governance process.

According to official orders issued by the university administration, Dr. Ruqeya Nazir, Associate Professor, has been assigned the additional charge of In-Charge Director, Centre of Research and Development (CORD), and Coordinator, Microbiology Programme, relieving Prof. Bashir Ahmad Ganai of the responsibility. The order took immediate effect.

In another development, Prof. Seema Singh of the Department of Botany has been relieved of the charge of Coordinator, SET Cell, on her own request. Consequent upon the change, Prof. Ajaz Ahmad Dar of the Department of Chemistry has been entrusted with the additional responsibility of Coordinator, SET Cell

until further orders.

The university has also effected a change in the Department of Philosophy. Prof. Tasleem Ahmad War of the Department of English has been relieved of the charge of Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, following his request. The additional charge has now been assigned to Prof. Md. Meraj Ahmad of the Department of Sanskrit until further orders.

Meanwhile, Prof. Aaliya Ahmad has been appointed Head of the Media Education Research Centre (MERC) following the completion of the three-year term and subsequent extension of Prof. Sabiha Mufti. The appointment will remain effective for a period of three years or until Prof. Aaliya Ahmad attains the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier.

As per KNT, an official from the Kashmir University said that the administrative decisions reflect a broader recalibration of academic responsibilities within the university and are aimed at ensuring continuity in academic administration, research coordination and institutional functioning.

Centre of Excellence for E-Governance Inaugurated at RTO Office

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, along with Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for E-Governance (CSC) established by the District Administration Srinagar at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Srinagar.

Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, ARTO Headquarters, Mehnaz Chisti, District Coordinator CSC, Asrar Shiraz, State Coordinator UIDAI, Shoaib Ahmad, along with other Officers of the District Administration Srinagar, CSC and the Regional Transport Office were present on the inaugural ceremony.

The Centre of Excellence has been set up with the objective of strengthening public service delivery and improving citizen convenience in the District and providing efficient facilitation to the public through improved access to various Government services.

The Divisional Commissioner while inspecting the centre, appre-



ciated the initiative of the District Administration and emphasized the importance of leveraging digital platforms to enhance service delivery, improve accessibility and strengthen e-Governance across the District.

He stated that the centre would function as a comprehensive one-stop digital hub, ensuring transparent, efficient, and hassle-free access to government schemes and transport-related services and help citizens to avail services of different nature under one roof.

Deputy Commissioner said that the Centre of Excellence for E-Governance is envisioned as a model facility for integrated public service delivery and digital empowerment of citizens, particularly at the Regional Transport Office, which witnesses significant public footfall.

Earlier, the District Manager, CSC Srinagar, briefed the officers about the facilities and services being offered through the Centre. He informed that dedicated counters have been established for Aadhaar-related services, Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, RTO-related services, banking services, and insurance services.

CAT Srinagar to Observe Summer Vacation from June 22

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, will observe its annual summer vacation from June 22 to July 5, 2026, in accordance with the notified Calendar of Sittings for the year.

According to an official notification, the tribunal has made special arrangements to ensure that matters of urgent nature are addressed during the vacation period.

To facilitate the hearing and disposal of cases that cannot await regular listing after the recess, the competent authority has constituted a Vacation Bench for urgent matters.

The notification states that the Vacation Single Bench comprising Hon'ble Mr. M.S. Latif, Member (Judicial) and Head of Department, shall hold the Vacation Bench on June 25, 2026.

Advocates and litigants intending to file urgent matters during the vacation period have been advised to submit such cases well in advance, clearly specifying the urgency involved so that timely listing before the Vacation Bench can be ensured.

The arrangement has been made to ensure continuity of judicial functioning and expeditious disposal of pressing service-related matters during the tribunal's summer recess.

The notification has been issued with the approval of the competent authority.

DC, SSP Finalize Preparations for NEET-2026 Examination

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to finalize preparations and arrangements for the forthcoming re-examination of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-2026, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here today.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy was present on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadi Fareed, Nodal Principal Colleges, Prof. Seema Naaz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Qureshi, IAS Probationer Alfred Thomas, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Secretary SMC, Tahir Magray, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM, East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Chief Education Officer, Gh Mohi-ud Din, all Tehsildars, representatives of the National Testing Agency (NTA), senior Officers of the District Administration, Traffic Police, Centre Supervisors,

During the meeting, a detailed review of all arrangements being put in place for the NEET-2026 re-examination scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026 was undertaken regarding deputation of Examination Staff including Centre Superintendents, Invigilators and supporting personnel and secure transportation, handling of examination material and conduct of mock exercise. Discussions also

focused on ensuring the availability of adequate infrastructure and facilities at all designated examination centres, including uninterrupted power and water supply, proper seating arrangements, sanitation, transportation, medical assistance and deployment of requisite staff.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of meticulous planning and effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the examination. He directed all concerned departments to remain



fully prepared and responsive to address any issue and ensure that candidates are provided with a conducive and hassle-free environment on the day of the examination.

The DC underscored the need for strict compliance with the guidelines and standard operating procedures issued by the National Testing Agency and other competent authorities. He directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination and ensure that every aspect of the examination is managed efficiently and professionally while upholding the integrity and credibility of the examination process.

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

AIRPORTS
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 34
 ZUHR 12:32
 ASR 5: 32
 Magrib 7: 47
 ISHA 9: 29

HIJRI CALENDAR
 03 Muharram
 1448

This Day In History

- 1910 - Father's Day celebrated for 1st time (Spokane, Washington)
- 1917 - The British Royal Family, which has had strong German ties since George I, renounces its German names and titles and adopts the name of Windsor
- 1919 - Opposed to dismemberment of Turkey by the Allies, Mustafa Kemal declares his Turkish Nationalist Congress, headquartered in Ankara, independent of Constantinople
- 1921 - Census held in Great Britain
- 1921 - Turks and Christians of Palestine sign a friendship treaty against Jews
- 1931 - 1st photoelectric cell installed commercially West Haven, Connecticut
- 1940 - German 7th Armoured division under command of Rommel occupies Cherbourg
- 1941 - Romania orders Jews to evacuate Darabani
- 1941 - US President Franklin Roosevelt signs Two Ocean Navy Expansion Act
- 1944 - French troops free Elba
- 1944 - Heavy air raid on US fleet at Guam "Turkey Shoot"
- 1944 - Japanese troops conquer Changsha China
- 1944 - World War II: First day of the 2 day Battle of the Philippine Sea, US naval forces defeat Japanese fleet
- 1948 - Panama and Costa Rica recognize Israel
- 1961 - "Little Egypt (Ying-Yang)" by Coasters peaks at #23
- 1961 - Kuwait declares independence from UK
- 1961 - US Supreme Court struck down a provision in Maryland's constitution requiring state office holders to believe in God
- 1963 - 2 Russian space missions return to Earth
- 1963 - Valentina Tereshkova 1st woman in space returns to Earth
- 1964 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 passes 73-27
- 1965 - Algerian coup under colonel Houari Boumediene, pres Ben Bella fired
- 1968 - 50,000 participate in Solidarity Day March of Poor People's Campaign
- 1969 - State troopers ordered to Cairo Ill, to quell racial disturbances
- 1970 - A Nikolayev & V Sevastyanov return after 18 days in Soyuz 9

Man Held With Drugs during Naka Checking in Srinagar's Uptown

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Police apprehended an alleged drug peddler during a naka checking operation at Rambagh Bund and recovered a heroin-like substance from his possession.

Officials said the accused has been identified as Parvez Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Rashid Dar, a resident of Narkara in Budgam district.

During late-night checking conducted by a police party from Police Station Sherghari, the suspect was intercepted and subjected to personal search. Police said approximately 5.83 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Following the recovery, the accused was taken into custody and the contraband seized as evidence.

In this connection, FIR No. 31/2026 under Section 8/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has been registered at Police Station Sherghari.

SHO Sherghari, Muhammad Ishaq while confirming the arrest and seizure described drug trafficking as a pernicious threat to society and reiterated resolve to dismantle narcotics networks operating in the Valley.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Ghulam Nabi Teli, S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Teli, R/o Check Bagh, Hazratbal (near NIT), on 18-06-2026. May Almighty Allah grant him Jannatul Firdous. The congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on 21-06-2026 at 7:00 AM at the ancestral graveyard, Check Bagh, Hazratbal (near NIT). Thereafter, Fateh Khawani will continue at the residence throughout the day. Note: Women are requested not to bring any kind of eatables.

Bereaved: Riyaz Ahmad Teli Firdous Ahmad Teli (Sons)
Contact Nos.: 9906568556 7006789866

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) MECHANICAL DIVISION CENTRAL KASHMIR

e-NIT No:- R&B/MDCK/NIT/02 of 2026-27
 Dated: 17-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two-cover system (Technical and Financial) on item rate basis from experienced contractors/firms/companies/JV partners registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways or other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

S.No	Name of work	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Time of Completion (in months)	Tender Opening Authority	Position of Funds
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of HVAC System at New High Court Rakh-i-GundAksha Bemina	Rs 20,000	10,021,564	50,10,78,245	18 Months	Chief Engineer, R&B Central Kashmir	Available with intending department

Position of AAA: Administrative Approval accorded by Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs vide no. 3456-JK (LD) of 2021. Dated:- 04.05.2021 for an amount of Rs 908.20 crores
 Position of TS: Accorded by Chief Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir vide order no. MHED/K/TS/109.Dt:-15.09.2025 Pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Chief Engineer, R&B CENTRAL KASHMIR on 27-06-2026 (12:00) hrs

S.No	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-06-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 17-06-2026 To 08-07-2026
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 17-06-2026 To 08-07-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	From 17-06-2026 To 08-07-2026
5	Date and time of opening of Technical bid (online)	09-07-2026 at/after 12:00 hrs in the office of Chief Engineer, R&B Central Kashmir
6	Date and time of opening of Financial bid (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

DIPK-2316/26
 dated: 18-06-2026

-Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Mechanical Division
 Central Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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Kashmir's Gridlock Culture

Gridlock in the valley is often blamed on narrow roads, but daily scenes from Srinagar to Pattan reveal a deeper problem: public space is being consumed by indiscipline even before road capacity reaches its limit.



Ahmad Ayaz



Traffic congestion has become one of the defining frustrations of daily life in Kashmir.

Commuters spend precious hours trapped in long queues, families plan journeys around expected bottlenecks, and businesses lose productive time.

Fuel burns unnecessarily while vehicles inch forward. Exhaust fumes thicken the air, and stress follows people from the road into their homes and workplaces.

Public debate usually ends at an expected conclusion: build wider roads, construct more flyovers, and launch bigger infrastructure projects.

Such investments have an important place in a growing economy, but Kashmir towns and cities have also expanded rapidly, vehicle ownership has surged, and several corridors face genuine capacity constraints.

That explanation, however, tells only part of the story.

Anyone who spends time on Kashmir roads can see that many traffic jams emerge even where sufficient road space exists. Congestion often develops because available space is used poorly. Roads designed for smooth two-way movement shrink when vehicles occupy shoulders, market entrances, junctions, and portions of the carriageway.

Intersections become choke points when drivers ignore basic rules of movement. Entire stretches grind to a halt because individual convenience takes precedence over collective responsibility.

Beyond infrastructure crisis, Kashmir traffic challenge increasingly looks like a discipline crisis. Examples appear every day in Srinagar and in commercial centers such as Pattan, Magam, Narbal, and many other towns. But certain locations do face genuine engineering challenges.

Portions of the Srinagar-Baramulla highway, urban corridors under growing economic pressure, and stretches connecting expanding residential areas experience heavy demand.

Many other bottlenecks emerge from behaviour rather than design.

Illegal parking remains one of the most visible causes. Drivers frequently stop wherever it suits them, whether to make a purchase, collect a passenger, or attend to a personal errand.

A single vehicle parked carelessly can reduce the effective width of a road and trigger delays that affect hundreds of commuters. Market areas illustrate this problem clearly.

Congestion often stems less from road geometry than from unauthorized parking and roadside encroachments.

Public transport contributes its

A comparison with larger Indian cities helps place Kashmir's challenge in perspective. Cities such as Delhi handle traffic volumes many times greater than those found anywhere in the valley. Congestion certainly exists there, but many corridors continue functioning because enforcement remains stronger, parking arrangements are better organized, lane discipline receives greater attention, and compliance with regulations is more common.

share as well. Buses, minibuses, taxis, and passenger vehicles frequently stop in active traffic lanes to pick up or drop passengers.

Those interruptions appear brief from the driver's perspective. But their cumulative effect creates confusion, delays, and safety risks for everyone else on the road.

Lane discipline presents another major concern.

Drivers weave unpredictably between lanes, overtake from inappropriate sides, and ignore lane markings that exist precisely to keep traffic flowing efficiently. Peak-hour congestion often encourages motorists to drive on the wrong side in an attempt to bypass queues.

That strategy rarely saves time. Opposing streams of vehicles eventually meet head-on, producing the familiar scenes of complete gridlock that have become common in many parts of the valley.

A manageable slowdown transforms into a prolonged standstill because too many drivers pursue short-term advantage at the expense of everyone around them.

Intersections reveal the same problem. Vehicles push forward simultaneously from multiple directions, each driver seeking a few extra seconds. Movement collapses because nobody yields space. Road width becomes irrelevant when basic traffic discipline disappears.

A comparison with larger Indian cities helps place Kashmir's challenge in perspective. Cities such as Delhi handle traffic volumes many times greater than those found anywhere in the valley. Congestion certainly exists there, but many corridors continue functioning because enforcement remains stronger, parking arrangements are better organized, lane discipline receives greater attention, and compliance with regulations is more common.

Traffic volume alone does not determine how smoothly vehicles move. Management and public behaviour play equally important roles.

That reality places enforcement at the center of the discussion.

Traffic regulations exist to create order, efficiency, and safety. Their effectiveness depends on consistent implementation. Drivers quickly learn what authorities tolerate. Illegal parking becomes routine when penalties remain infrequent. Signal violations multiply when consequences appear uncertain. Wrong-side driving spreads when enforcement lacks consistency.

Over time, roads develop their own culture. A culture built on weak compliance produces congestion regardless of infrastructure quality.

Experience from many parts of the world shows that visible improvements often follow strong enforcement. Action against illegal parking, roadside obstructions, signal violations, unauthorized passenger stops, and wrong-side driving can transform traffic conditions far more quickly than major construction projects.

Enforcement alone, however, cannot solve the problem.

Roads function as shared public spaces. Their success depends on cooperation among drivers, passengers, pedestrians, businesses, and public authorities. Every person who uses the road influences the experience of others.

A driver who parks carelessly may save a short walk while imposing delays on hundreds of fellow citizens. Someone who jumps a queue may gain a few moments while creating congestion that affects an entire intersection.

Public awareness therefore holds tremendous value.

Schools, colleges, community organizations, local bodies, and media institutions can help build habits that support orderly road use. Young people who learn traffic discipline early often carry those habits into adulthood. Respect for lane markings, traffic signals, pedestrian rights, designated parking spaces, and responsible horn use can collectively transform the driving culture of an entire region.

Pedestrians share responsibility as well. Random road crossings interrupt traffic flow and create dangerous situations. Consistent use of crossings, footbridges, and designated pedestrian facilities improves safety for everyone.

Technology can strengthen these efforts. Surveillance cameras, automated challan systems, intelligent traffic signals, and real-time monitoring improve accountability and encourage compliance. Technology supports enforcement, though lasting improvement still depends on human choices.

Urban planning also deserves attention. Commercial districts frequently struggle because parking facilities remain inadequate and roadside activity lacks proper regulation. Better parking management, designated loading zones, and improved circulation plans can reduce pressure on busy corridors.

Officials should also approach road widening with realistic expectations. Transport experts have long documented the phenomenon of induced demand. Additional road capacity often attracts additional vehicle use, causing congestion to return over time. Infrastructure remains important, though its benefits grow strongest when paired with disciplined road use.

Kashmir stands at a moment of rapid urban growth and rising mobility. The challenge extends beyond building more roads. It involves creating a civic culture that treats traffic discipline as a shared obligation.

The valley's breathtaking landscapes attract visitors from around the world. A transport system defined by order, efficiency, and public responsibility would strengthen that experience while improving daily life for residents.

Kashmir needs better infrastructure. It also needs something equally important: a collective commitment to using existing roads responsibly.

Traffic congestion will ease when discipline becomes as central to public discourse as road construction itself.

Wider roads may help, but better habits can change the experience of every journey.

The author is a well-known commentator. He can be reached at ahmadayaz08@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

Beneath The Boom

The growing line of tourist cabs on Srinagar roads has created a powerful impression. The conclusion seems obvious. If tourism is booming, cab operators must be thriving.

That assumption falls apart the moment one speaks to the people behind the wheel.

Kashmir's current tourism economy looks healthy. Hotels are filling up, restaurants are seeing brisk business, and tourist destinations are crowded again. The sight of hundreds of taxis ferrying visitors from one attraction to another has strengthened the belief that transporters have emerged as one of the biggest beneficiaries of the tourism revival.

The reality is far less glamorous. Many cab operators say that despite the rise in tourist arrivals, daily hiring rates have barely moved. A large number of vehicles still get booked for around 1,800 a day. At first glance, that may sound reasonable. A closer look tells a different story.

Take a typical trip to Pahalgam. Fuel expenses can consume close to 1,000. Toll charges push the figure higher. Add parking fees, vehicle upkeep, routine maintenance and other running costs, and the operator is left with very little. As the old saying goes, all that glitters is not gold.

This raises an uncomfortable question: If tourism is flourishing, why are many transporters struggling to translate the rush into meaningful earnings?

Part of the answer lies in the way the industry has evolved.

For years, low package rates have been sustained by an informal commission system. Drivers are often expected to supplement their income by taking tourists to selected shops, dealers or businesses. The arrangement may help some operators recover a portion of their costs, but it creates uncertainty for everyone involved.

A business built on commissions rather than transparent pricing is a house built on sand.

Tourists today are better informed than ever. They compare prices online, read reviews and make independent choices. Many have little interest in being steered toward particular outlets. As a result, the commission route no longer guarantees additional income. Drivers find themselves squeezed between stagnant rates and shrinking side earnings.

The outcome is a market where the people doing the actual transportation carry much of the burden while receiving only a small share of the economic gains. This is where regulation enters the picture.

Other tourist destinations have already demonstrated that transparent pricing can work. In Leh, for example, fixed rates exist for several popular routes. A journey from Leh town to Pangong Lake comes with a clearly defined fare. Visitors know what they will pay, and drivers know what they will earn.

The system reduces confusion, limits undercutting and creates a degree of predictability for everyone.

Kashmir can draw lessons from that model.

A structured fare framework for major tourist circuits would bring greater accountability to the sector. It would curb the race to the bottom that often forces operators to accept rates that barely cover their costs. It would also reduce dependence on commissions and encourage a more transparent relationship between tourists, travel agencies and transport providers.

After all, no industry can prosper if its backbone remains under pressure.

Tourism does not begin and end at hotels, gardens or mountain viewpoints. Visitors depend on a network of drivers who connect airports to hotels, towns to resorts and attractions to one another. Their vehicles are often the first and last point of contact in a tourist's journey.

When transporters struggle, the wider tourism ecosystem eventually feels the strain. Many operators are also servicing vehicle loans. Monthly EMIs do not disappear during lean weeks, fuel prices do not wait for a better season, and maintenance costs do not decline because package rates remain frozen.

The arithmetic is straightforward: if expenses keep climbing while earnings stay largely unchanged, financial stress becomes unavoidable.

The larger lesson is simple. Headline numbers can sometimes hide ground realities. A crowded road does not automatically translate into healthy incomes. More vehicles on the streets do not necessarily mean more money in drivers' pockets.

Kashmir tourism sector has undoubtedly regained momentum. That is good news for the region, but success cannot be measured only by visitor arrivals or hotel occupancy rates. It must also be measured by how fairly the gains are distributed among those who keep the industry moving.

The road to a stronger tourism economy runs through transparency, fair pricing and sensible regulation.

Until that happens, many cab operators will continue to drive through a boom that looks far better from the outside than it feels from behind the steering wheel.

Parents often see the warning signs before report cards do. A child who once loved learning begins to switch off. School starts to feel like a burden. Even a simple mention of grades can bring anxious looks and tense shoulders.

As these changes take hold, some children withdraw. They avoid teamwork, shy away from responsibility, and give up when work becomes difficult. Others sit silently in class while worries and frustrations remain hidden beneath the surface.

Taken together, these signs point to a deeper challenge. They remind us that schools do far more than prepare students for exams. They also help shape young people who can handle setbacks, build relationships, and move through life with confidence.

That is where social and emotional learning, or SEL, comes in. It provides a practical way to help students develop the skills they need both inside and outside the classroom.

UNESCO defines it as the process through which young people acquire skills to recognize and manage their emotions, show care for others, build strong relationships, make sound decisions, and handle difficulties with confidence.

In plain terms, SEL helps children understand their inner lives, respond thoughtfully to challenges, and connect with people around them before they chase top ranks or professional titles.

Kashmir's education system tells a different story today. Schools celebrate 95 percent marks as the full measure of a child's worth. Teachers race through the syllabus and reward memorization. Honest questions sometimes draw scolding for slowing the pace. Children who express ideas in their mother tongue face subtle discouragement.

Comparisons and rankings fence in their sense of what they can become.

Discipline in many classrooms rests on fear rather than guidance. Teachers scold students publicly, mock their appearance or performance, and leave lasting impressions of inadequacy. A child who grows silent after such moments may look orderly on the surface, but that silence often masks numbness or inner turmoil. Orderly rooms filled with tense

Beyond the Report Card

As academic pressures intensify, emotional well-being is too often pushed aside. Kashmir has an opportunity to place human development at the heart of education.

Durdanah Masoodi & Aabid Rasool

young bodies become common.

Over time these environments teach students to fear failure more than they love learning, to choose silence over honest expression, and to prefer pressure over open possibility.

The result appears in graduates who excel on paper but struggle to manage emotions, communicate clearly, or build healthy lives outside academics.

A recent Economic Times report from May 19, 2026, captured this national trend through the words of IAS officer Divya Mittal.

She pointed out that schools prepare students to crack examinations and deliver strong academic performance while rarely teaching them to regulate emotions, communicate effectively, develop self-awareness, or cope with loneliness and mental stress.

Her observations feel especially relevant in Kashmir, where uncertainty is part of everyday life and families face immense pressures.

Too often, academic demands far outweigh the emotional support children receive.

Workshops with teachers organized by Dream a Dream, a nonprofit that partners with education departments to weave SEL and life skills into regular schooling, reveal how widespread these patterns run.

In sessions held in Delhi, educators described their own school days and professional experiences as marked by feeling unheard, judged, silenced, or given little choice. Many spoke of relentless pressure to perform with scant space for reflection, emotional care, or open dialogue.

Similar dynamics appear throughout systems in Kash-



mir. Emotional well-being, belonging, and a sense of worth too often remain secondary rather than the foundation on which real learning grows.

Change begins with a fundamental shift in how we define education's purpose. SEL must move from the margins into the core of the curriculum as an essential element of daily learning.

Teacher preparation programs need to expand beyond instructional techniques to include emotionally aware methods and reflective practices that help educators respond to students with sensitivity and skill. Officials must treat emotional well-being, safe learning environments, and growth beyond academics as central goals.

Families and communities can support this direction by looking past marks and exam results as the only mea-

sures of success.

Schools, in turn, can provide teachers with stronger emotional and structural backing so they bring their best selves into classrooms each day.

This approach asks everyone involved to see children as whole people. Young people benefit when they learn to manage anger, recover from setbacks, listen attentively, work in teams, and approach others with respect and empathy.

Families plant initial seeds of these capacities, but schools water them daily through consistent, intentional practice. SEL supplies the structure to make emotional growth a deliberate feature of education rather than a hoped-for side effect of upbringing.

Kashmiri children already demonstrate remarkable strength amid difficult circumstances. They need learning spaces that honour both their intellectual potential and their inner lives.

When schools integrate SEL deeply, they create environments where curiosity flourishes alongside competence, relationships deepen alongside knowledge, and young people leave ready to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

The path forward lies in action. Curricula can embed SEL practices in every subject, teacher training can prioritize emotional intelligence alongside content mastery, policies can measure success through both academic progress and human development, and communities can celebrate growth in character as readily as they applaud high scores.

Each step builds classrooms that prepare children to live fully, connect warmly, and face life's complexities with confidence and care.

Kashmir's education system stands poised to lead this transformation if leaders, educators, and families choose to center the hearts and minds of its young people together.

Durdanah Masoodi is a PhD scholar in the Department of Social Sciences & Humanities at IIT Delhi. Aabid Rasool works with Dream a Dream to integrate life skills and SEL into schools.

Bread and Belonging

While global brands sell convenience and uniformity, Kashmir's bakeries continue to preserve a rich morning culture rooted in taste, craft and memory.



Seema Sangra

Most of us have grown up hearing the famous quote by American nutritionist Adele Davis: "Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dinner like a pauper."

Davis, a prominent advocate of natural foods in the 1930s, also criticised the food industry for promoting unhealthy habits through misleading advertising.

That problem continues even today, as the U.S. remains among the most obese nations globally.

But her prescription for a heavy breakfast isn't universally echoed across cultures. In fact, Ayurveda suggests the opposite: Don't eat like a king in the morning.

Across the world, breakfast was never a formal meal. Some languages, like Kashmiri and Dogri, don't even have a direct word for it.

In many Indian regions, traditional eating patterns revolve around one or two main meals a day, with little to no emphasis on an early morning meal.

In most traditional societies, there was no separate menu for different meals. People ate the same types of food at different times, and meal patterns varied widely by region and social class.

Historically, Asian peasants often ate two main meals: a late morning meal and an early supper.

"In Punjab and parts of Jammu," explains Nikhil Sharma, a Jammu-based chef and founder of a healthy diet food chain, "the term shawala refers to the food women carried to the fields for their husbands, who left for work at dawn without eating."

That freshly cooked meal, often served with buttermilk, was their



From soft, flaky lavasa (a thin, unleavened flatbread) to the rich, sesame-crust bakarkhani, Kashmiri bakeries (kandurs) still craft the artisanal breads using time-honoured techniques.

first substantial intake of the day, Nikhil adds. "Even those at home typically had a very light start, perhaps just a handful of roasted grains or leftover flatbread, before a main meal around 11 or 11:30 am."

The concept of breakfast as we know it today arrived in the Indian subcontinent with the British East India Company in the 19th century.

Equally interesting is the role of media in reshaping breakfast habits

globally.

Television ads, newspaper write-ups, and food packaging visuals inundated us with the idea of the 'ideal breakfast': cornflakes, eggs, toast, jam, fruits, and a glass of milk.

This visual narrative gradually replaced traditional options like paratha with butter, chidwa, idli-dosa, dhokla, poha, and upma in popular imagination.

"In Kashmir," says Peer

Mohammed Adil, a long-time resident of the valley, "people traditionally ate czot, lawasa, jo, and makkhi sattu, without butter or fancy toppings."

Noon chai remains, he continues, a quintessential part of both morning and evening routines.

Breakfast, once a simple or even non-existent meal, has transformed dramatically due to industrialisation, migration, and modern

marketing.

Today's media pushes grab-and-go options: mini cereal pots, energy shots, breakfast bars, instant oats, and just-add-water noodles. All aimed at busy lives craving convenience.

According to recent business reports, the Asia-Pacific breakfast cereal market, crossed \$8.8 billion in value last year.

While packaged cereals gain popularity in urban centers, India's morning meals remain deeply rooted in regional diversity. Mostly vegetarian, savoury, and freshly prepared.

In Kashmir, Western breakfast trends and packaged options are slowly entering households, but the enduring ritual of czot with freshly churned butter and hot noon chai remains central.



Despite the convenience of factory-made breads and croissants, it is the local, deeply flavourful breads, rooted in Kashmir's identity and history, that dominate breakfast tables.

Some families now add protein-rich foods like boiled eggs or omelets, but the real stars of the Kashmiri breakfast table are its many traditional, hand-made breads.

From soft, flaky lavasa (a thin, unleavened flatbread) to the rich, sesame-crust bakarkhani, Kashmiri bakeries (kandurs) still craft these artisanal breads using time-honoured techniques.

The slightly sweet, saffron-laced sheermal and the crusty, round girda are also morning favourites, often paired with butter, or jam.

Despite the convenience of factory-made breads and croissants, it is these local, deeply flavourful breads, rooted in Kashmir's identity and history, that dominate breakfast tables.

Their continued popularity is proof: in a rapidly globalizing food landscape, taste and tradition often win over uniform, mass-produced alternatives.

-The author is Program Leader of the Media Studies Department at Amity University, Dubai. She writes on food, media, and tradition.

The Village's Guiding Light

In the hills of Kokernag, one man's determination, generosity, and belief in people are changing lives far beyond his own.



Gowher Bhat

A hundred kilometers from Srinagar, Zahoor Hussain Hakeem is quietly transforming a forgotten village. Dewalgam, nestled in misty Kokernag, has long been a place marked by isolation and hardship. But at 40, Zahoor has become its beacon of hope, defying the odds that once held him back.

Zahoor's story began at 15, when his father sent him to Srinagar to ease the family's financial burdens. Working as a servant for a wealthy man, Zahoor earned just enough to survive.

Yet, despite the hard labour, he found time to study. His late nights were fuelled by philosophy, literature, and Urdu poetry. It was through this self-discipline that he earned a degree in Political Science and a teaching credential, both with top marks.

After completing his studies, Zahoor set his sights on a teaching career, but fell just short on the National Eligibility Test. Disheartened, he returned to Dewalgam but refused to give in to failure.

He tried walnut and wood trading before venturing into Ayurvedic medicine, opening a shop under the mentorship of a local healer, Shapoo Sahib.

After completing formal Ayurvedic training, Zahoor's ambition grew. He



envisioned opening a cupping therapy center, aiming to blend healing with service. But Zahoor's vision extends beyond just healing.

He is working to turn his cow farm into an apple orchard, a step toward economic self-sufficiency and community renewal.

His ideas have sparked a shift in

the village's mindset, where people are beginning to believe change is possible.

"Zahoor is our light," says Abbas Rather, a local driver. He's not just a healer; he's a mentor, guiding children with fatherly care, teaching them for free. "He never says no," says Shakeel, a young shopkeeper. "Whether it's

medicine, school, or life, his words have weight."

Mustaq, a tailor, recalls a cold winter night when a woman urgently needed a ride to the hospital. Zahoor didn't hesitate. He grabbed his keys and drove her to safety, through snow and freezing temperatures. "He's always there when you need him,"

Mustaq says. Farooq, who runs an allopathic pharmacy, respects Zahoor's wisdom. "We talk about everything: medicine, faith, politics. His knowledge is lived experience," Farooq says.

Zahoor's compassion goes beyond the village. He regularly treks to the Pindoo Bal mountains to visit nomadic Bakarwal communities, delivering herbal ointments for joint pain, charging far below cost. "It's not about money," Zahoor says. "It's about service."

Zahoor's influence is felt deeply among the village's youth. He teaches literature to boys, helping them aim higher in life. Aadil, a young man now studying business in Chandigarh, credits Zahoor for shaping his future. "He gave me belief," Aadil says. "He showed me I could rise, no matter where I came from."

Zahoor's kindness extends to the most vulnerable. Widows remember his help in distress. Disabled villagers speak of his unwavering respect and dignity. Even the wealthier locals have been humbled by his generosity.

In a region where unemployment is high, Zahoor could have let a missed government job define him. "If I'd gotten that job, I might not be here doing this," he says. "This is my path."

As his therapy center nears completion, Zahoor's influence continues to grow. His work embodies endurance and empathy, and in Dewalgam, they say his footsteps light the darkest paths.

-The author is a Pukeema-based educator.



Zahoor's kindness extends to the most vulnerable. Widows remember his help in distress.

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Even the wealthier locals have been humbled by his generosity.

Tourist Rush Chokes Srinagar Roads as Summer Footfall Peaks

Long traffic snarls on Boulevard Road prompt calls for better traffic management, regulation of tourist vehicles

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A sharp increase in tourist arrivals has led to heavy traffic congestion across Srinagar, with long queues of vehicles becoming a common sight on major roads, particularly the Boulevard-Nishat stretch along the banks of Dal Lake. Residents, commuters and visitors say travel times have

increased significantly in recent weeks as thousands of tourists continue to pour into the Valley during the peak summer season.

On Thursday, traffic movement remained slow along several stretches of Boulevard Road, one of the city's busiest tourist corridors, with vehicles inching forward during peak hours.

"We spent nearly 40 minutes

covering a short distance near Dal Lake. The rush is unlike anything we expected," said a tourist from Delhi.

Another visitor from Maharashtra said the crowds reflected Kashmir's growing popularity as a travel destination. "The rush is visible everywhere, from the airport to the gardens and markets. It shows how many people want to visit

Kashmir," he said.

The traffic situation has also drawn political attention.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti on Thursday called for a cap on tourist vehicles entering the Valley, linking the growing congestion to an increase in visitors travelling by road.

"The sudden traffic surge in Srinagar this year, especially the Boulevard-Nishat route, has

a lot to do with tourists driving into the Valley instead of flights. Given the state of congested roads and Kashmir's fragile environment, caps on tourist cars must be introduced," she said in a post on X.

She further said that Kashmir's roads and ecology could not sustain the growing number of vehicles and urged the government to take note of

the situation.

Residents living around the Boulevard area said traffic congestion has become a daily challenge, especially during evenings when tourist movement peaks.

Traffic authorities have been regulating vehicle movement at several junctions and deploying additional personnel at congestion-prone locations.

Officials said efforts were being made to ensure smoother traffic flow during the ongoing tourist season.

The Valley has witnessed a strong tourist inflow this summer, with popular destinations across Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir recording high visitor numbers, contributing to increased movement on roads and highways.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'This Was Not

he wrote on social media while sharing images of the signed agreement.

The president reaffirmed Iran's commitment to peace while preserving its dignity, independence and national interests.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who mediated the months-long diplomatic effort, also signed the memorandum and announced that it would take effect immediately.

The agreement establishes a 60-day negotiation and verification period during which Tehran and Washington will seek a final settlement on sanctions relief, the nuclear file, economic reconstruction and compliance mechanisms. It also includes a U.S. commitment to work with regional partners on a \$300 billion reconstruction and economic development plan for Iran.

Implementation Begins

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Tehran had deliberately sought signatures from the highest authorities of both countries to make any future violation politically costly.

"When the text is signed by the highest authorities of both countries, violating it will naturally carry greater costs. Given our past experiences, we preferred that this happen," he said.

Baqaei noted that the agreement was finalized after months of negotiations mediated primarily by Pakistan with support from several regional states.

Under its terms, military operations have ceased immediately on all fronts, including Lebanon; the U.S. naval blockade has been lifted; and the Strait of Hormuz is set to reopen fully to commercial shipping.

While welcoming the accord, Baqaei cautioned that implementation would be more difficult than negotiation.

"The fact that we have signed an agreement to end the war does not mean we have forgotten the past or abandoned the costly lessons we have learned," he said.

"Our work is now harder than before, because implementing international agreements is always much more difficult than drafting them, especially with parties that are not committed to their obligations."

He stressed that Iran would closely monitor U.S. compliance and proceed with its own commitments only after verification.

"If the Americans falter in implementing their commitments, we will falter too."

According to Baqaei, monitoring already showed early signs of implementation.

"Our ships have entered and exited ports without any problems, and this commitment has begun."

He said the original agreement envisioned lifting the blockade within 30 days, but implementation was accelerated following Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs and subsequent Iranian warnings.

Nuclear Talks Deferred

Baqaei said Tehran had deliberately separated efforts to end the war from future negotiations on sanctions and the nuclear programme.

"It was decided that we would not negotiate on the nuclear issue at this stage. The focus was on ending the war, and we did that."

Under the memorandum, both sides now have 60 days to negotiate sanctions relief and nuclear-related issues.

"Given the complexity of the issue, the 60-day timeframe is reasonable," he said.

Baqaei insisted that discussions would remain limited to sanctions and nuclear matters, ruling out negotiations over Iran's missile programme.

"Our missiles do not like anyone talking about them. Iran's missiles are only for firing, not for negotiation."

"Iran's defence capabilities will not be discussed in any process with any party."

He also reiterated Tehran's position that enriched uranium would remain inside Iran.

"The unacceptable option for us is the transfer of enriched nuclear material abroad."

Lebanon and Regional Security

Baqaei stressed that Tehran viewed stability in Lebanon as inseparable from ending the war against Iran.

"The Islamic Republic has shown that it does not abandon its friends under any circumstances. For us, the ceasefire and end of war in Lebanon were as important as in Iran."

He noted that Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty are explicitly referenced in the memorandum and warned that continued Israeli military action there could jeopardise the agreement.

"It is the U.S.'s responsibility to compel the Zionist regime to respect U.S. commitments to Iran."

Sanctions Relief and Hormuz

Baqaei said the process of lifting sanctions on Iran's oil sector had already begun.

"Iran must be able to sell its oil, with transport and insurance facing no problems, and it must receive the proceeds from oil sales."

"The lifting of Iran's oil sanctions starts today and will continue during the negotiations."

He added that separate discussions were under way on frozen Iranian assets, reconstruction funding and broader economic recovery.

Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, Baqaei said Tehran and Oman had largely finalized arrangements governing maritime traffic.

"Iran will charge fees for services in the Strait of Hormuz."

"Safe transit will be ensured while preserving the sovereignty and authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the strait."

Pursuing Accountability

Baqaei said the agreement would not prevent Iran from pursuing legal and diplomatic action over the war.

"We will not miss any opportunity to document, pursue and explain the crimes committed against the Iranian nation."

"We will use every mechanism, institution and international opportunity to secure our rights."

In some of his strongest remarks, the spokesman argued that the conflict had strengthened rather than weakened Iran.

"The enemies have hurt us; they took noble lives from us and wounded Iran. But a wounded lion is still a lion."

"The war they imposed did not bring us to our knees; it made us more powerful, both in the military arena and in diplomacy."

Iranian officials have consistently portrayed the memorandum not as a diplomatic concession but as the result of military resistance, arguing that battlefield developments ultimately compelled Washington to accept terms long sought by Tehran.

India Hails

who are involved or affected by the conflict.

"We remain in very close touch with all of those partners, and we'll be ready to do whatever it is, whatever it is possible for us to do, in so far as addressing the next steps," he said.

"India welcomed the developments that have taken place through the understanding that has been reached between the US and Iran and hopes to see a rapid return to peace and stability in the region," Misri said.

The foreign secretary said India always emphasised the importance of maintaining the freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce through the international waterways in the region.

He said Modi specifically underlined the importance of the safety and security of seafarers.

"He noted how hundreds of thousands of Indian seafarers essentially provide a global public good by serving on maritime platforms that serve the global community and serve global maritime trade in a big way, and why therefore their safety and security should be a common concern of the global community," Misri said.

"This is something that he voiced not just in his intervention at the G7 summit outreach meetings but also in his bilateral meetings with several leaders," he added.

Misri said India expects that the peace deal between the US and Iran will lead to sustained peace and stability in West Asia.

"India has always advocated the path of dialogue and diplomacy to settle conflicts such as these. We have always also expressed our readiness to contribute in any manner that we can," he said.

"We have very strong relationships with all of the countries in the region," he said.

J&K Amends

through the LDCE, candidates must have completed at least three years of service as Civil Judge (Senior Division) and a minimum of seven years of combined service as Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Civil Judge (Senior Division).

Direct recruitment candidates must either be practising advocates with not less than seven years of continuous practice in civil and criminal courts or in-service candidates possessing a combined continuous experience of seven years or more as advocates and judicial officers.

The notification also introduces a revised examination structure for departmental promotions. The LDCE will comprise a written examination carrying 180 marks, performance assessment worth 80 marks and a viva voce carrying 20 marks.

The written examination will include two papers, one on laws and procedures carrying 100 marks and another requiring candidates to write civil and criminal judgments carrying 80 marks. Performance assessment will be based on Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs), quality of judgments and disposal of contested cases.

Candidates will be eligible for viva voce only if they secure at least 50 per cent marks in each written paper, 50 per cent in performance assessment and 55 per cent marks in aggregate. Only those obtaining 55 per cent or more overall will be declared successful.

The amendments further introduce a four-point roster system for determining seniority within the Higher Judicial Service. The roster will follow a repeating sequence of two regular promotees, one LDCE candidate and one direct recruit.

The notification also lays down rules governing seniority in cases of delayed recruitment and filling of unoccupied quota vacancies, with the aim of ensuring a balanced application of the 50:25:25 recruitment ratio across the cadre.

The changes have been made by the Lieutenant Governor under powers conferred by Article 309 read with Article 233 of the Constitution of India.

MeT Warns Of

light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds likely at many places.

The weather activity is expected to continue between June 23 and June 25, with partly to generally cloudy skies and light rain or brief showers at scattered locations across the Union Territory.

The MeT Department said there is a possibility of isolated hailstorms and intense showers during the next five days and urged people living in flood-prone and landslide-prone areas to remain alert.

As a precautionary measure, the department advised people to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, wires and old trees during thunderstorms. It also recommended suspension of boating and shikara operations on water bodies whenever strong winds, lightning or thunderstorms occur.

Farmers and orchard owners have been advised to carry out spraying operations during early morning hours when weather conditions are relatively stable.

Officials said district administrations and disaster management agencies were monitoring the situation and remained prepared to respond to any weather-related emergency in vulnerable areas.

J&K Ramps Up

for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Like every year, the pilgrimage will commence on July 3, and all departments are working to provide services in a timely manner," Garg told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Srinagar.

He said preparations at the Baltal and Nunban base camps were being reviewed regularly and district administrations were coordinating with service providers to ensure seamless arrangements for pilgrims along both the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Baltal route.

According to Garg, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), has been continuously monitoring preparations related to pilgrim facilitation, infrastructure development and security management.

"Meetings are being held with service providers by the district administrations as well as at the divisional level. Our effort is to ensure that a maximum number of pilgrims undertake the yatra this year and receive the best possible services," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner said all stakeholder departments, service providers and local residents were prepared to contribute towards the successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

As part of the preparations, the Jammu administration has developed the Tawi Riverfront as a major on-the-spot registration and token centre for pilgrims. Officials said the facility would help streamline registration procedures, improve crowd management and facilitate the orderly movement of devotees. Similar registration and facilitation centres have also been established across Jammu city.

Authorities are also upgrading facilities at the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's Yatri Niwas in Chanderkote, Ramban, to accommodate pilgrims during the yatra.

Meanwhile, security agencies have stepped up preparedness along the pilgrimage routes.

In south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police, in coordination with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and other security agencies, conducted mock drills at multiple locations to assess operational readiness and strengthen security arrangements ahead of the pilgrimage.

The drills were carried out along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway from Galander to Kandizal Crossing, besides Kakapora Railway Station and Ratnipora Railway Halt Station. Personnel from police, CRPF, specialised units, emergency response teams and medical services participated in the exercises.

Officials said the drills tested inter-agency coordination, communication systems, emergency response mechanisms, area domination measures and contingency preparedness through simulated security scenarios.

Security personnel also intensified search and sanitisation operations at railway stations and other strategic locations. In Kulgam district, police conducted extensive frisking and vehicle checking near the Navvug Tunnel in Qazigund along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Preparations are also underway for Muharram processions across Kashmir.

Responding to a query, Garg said the administration had initiated arrangements for Muharram and was coordinating with all stakeholders to ensure the smooth conduct of processions.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had already reviewed the arrangements and directed officials to ensure the availability of all essential services along approved procession routes.

"For the past few years, a system has been in place for Muharram processions. District administrations, in coordination with security agencies, are making arrangements at all approved routes," he said.

Garg added that field visits were underway and a final checklist of services was being prepared in accordance with the chief minister's directions.

"Our effort is to ensure that Muharram processions are held smoothly during the tourist season so that there is no inconvenience either to participants or to tourists visiting Kashmir," he said. Earlier in the day, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat flagged off 45 specialised Mountain Rescue Teams deployed at 21 locations along the Amarnath Yatra routes and at the holy cave shrine to strengthen emergency response capabilities

during the pilgrimage.

Highlighting the increasing threat posed by cloudbursts and landslides in mountainous areas, the DGP said the teams would play a vital role in rescue and relief operations in case of emergencies.

He also underscored the importance of specialised training and lauded the coordinated efforts of personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu and Kashmir Police, Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

The 38-day annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 3 amid heightened security and elaborate logistical arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir.

Need To Protect

notification that reduced the minimum permissible distance for such activities from 400-500 metres to 250 metres.

In a subsequent order in April, the High Court modified the restrictions, directing that stone mining activities remain prohibited within 500 metres of forest boundaries, while stone crushers must maintain a distance of at least 400 metres.

During Thursday's hearing, the Supreme Court observed that the distance norms had been reduced abruptly. Counsel for the JSPCB argued that the High Court's directions had stalled several activities.

However, the bench noted that the matter was already pending before the High Court for final adjudication and declined to intervene.

"Let the High Court pass a final order," the bench said.

When the petitioner referred to certain observations made by the High Court, the Supreme Court defended the role of constitutional courts.

"We cannot demoralise our High Courts. We are not headmasters to advise the High Courts what to do and what not to do. The High Courts are constitutional courts," the bench observed.

After the court expressed its unwillingness to interfere, the JSPCB sought permission to withdraw the petition. The bench allowed the withdrawal and granted liberty to the petitioner to raise all contentions before the High Court.

Trump Says US

proposed trade deal.

Following the meeting, Modi said he and Trump "reviewed the sustained progress" in bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, defence, technology and people-to-people ties.

"Conveyed India's appreciation on the progress in the efforts for restoring peace and stability in West Asia. Keeping the Strait of Hormuz open is vital for the global economy. Reiterated the importance of ensuring the safety and security of civilians, including seafarers," he said.

In his televised comments, Modi brought up the issue of the safety of hundreds of thousands of Indian seafarers operating in key maritime zones.

"I commend you for your leadership on the progress that has been made in the efforts to restore peace in West Asia. Thanks to your efforts, Mr President, new hope for peace and stability in the region has been kindled and we hope that this will lead to a long-standing peace in the region," Modi said.

"You and I agree that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open is vital for the global economy. India has consistently emphasised the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation and we should work together and place a particular emphasis on that," he said.

The prime minister hoped the US will also accord highest priority to the safety of seafarers while implementing the peace deal with Iran.

"You are aware that in the world of maritime trade, hundreds of thousands of Indian seafarers are working and performing their duties across global maritime trade routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, and making a huge contribution to the progress of the world and their safety is of utmost importance to us," he said.

"Mr President, you have made tremendous efforts towards reaching this understanding and this agreement and I'm confident that this agreement will ensure the security of seafarers and this issue will receive highest priority," he said.

In his remarks, Trump described the meeting as "great" and heaped praise on Modi. The US president, without giving any timeline, said he will travel to India.

Trump was also effusive in his praise for Modi. "I just want to say he's been my friend for a long time now and we've always had a great relationship and it's great to be with you," he said.

The US president also said that New Delhi and Washington are "very close" to the trade deal.

"He's a very tough negotiator, one of the toughest, actually. So you look at this man, I'll give you a lesson. He's the most beautiful-looking man. He looks so nice, he's like an angel. But actually, he's tough," Trump said.

"People say he is such a nice man. I said he's very, very tough. He's a tough negotiator and he loves the Indian people, but he also loves the US," he added.

The US president also described India as a major global player.

"I think India plays a big role in everything. As long as he's the leader, India's going to play a big role," Trump said in response to a question on whether New Delhi has a role to play in West Asia. "As long as I'm president, they have a great

friend in the White House," he said, answering a question on strain in India-US ties.

To a question on the deaths of three Indian seafarers, Trump said he was aware of it.

"I heard about that (the deaths), it's a rough profession, no question about it," he said, adding, "We will work together."

Answering another question on India-US defence ties, Trump said the US will defend India if it faces any security challenges or face an attack.

"I think it's a great relationship. I can tell you this - without having a contract, we don't have a contract - but if they were attacked, we would be there to help them," he said.

The Modi-Trump meeting came amid efforts by both New Delhi and Washington to repair the ties.

The relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Trump made assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes of May 2025 that drew sharp reaction from Indian officials.

Over the next few months, the US president repeatedly and publicly claimed that he had resolved the military conflict between the two neighbours and saved millions of lives as it was heading toward a full-scale war.

New Delhi stoutly maintained that the cessation of the hostilities was the result of talks between India and Pakistan and the US involvement had nothing to do with it. Washington's new immigration policy and its decision to increase H1B visa fees also contributed to the slide in India-US ties.

However, both sides made efforts in the last few months to repair the ties and even moved forward to firm up a mutually beneficial trade deal soon.

Last week, the relations came under fresh strain after three Indian sailors were killed following US military's attacks on three merchant vessels off the coast of Oman.

Asked about Indian professionals facing difficulties in the US in view of the H1B visa issue, Trump said the US have had a tremendous relationship with India in terms of employment.

"The two leaders held substantive talks on trade, regional security, and deepening economic partnership on the sidelines of the G7 Summit," he said.

The prime minister travelled to France for the G7 summit as India was invited as a guest country to the summit.

The Group of 7 (G7) brings together seven of the world's most advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union is also a member of the bloc.

The G7 serves as the forum of choice for its members to discuss and coordinate action in response to major economic, financial and geopolitical challenges on the global stage.

PM Modi arrived in Evian-les-Bains after concluding his two-day trip to Slovakia.

AI Must Improve

-- Fable 5 and Mythos 5 -- offline to comply with a directive from the US administration to prevent their use by foreign nationals.

The unprecedented move has raised concerns about accessibility to AI solutions amid a fast-changing economic landscape where such solutions are being increasingly used across sectors.

In the last decade, India has been going through a rapid transformation powered by technology, Modi said.

"From creating the world's largest digital identity system, to the world's largest/ digital payments platforms, we are using technology at a massive scale for financial inclusion, education, telemedicine, agriculture and more," he said.

Referring to his address at VivaTech in 2021, the Prime Minister said the world then was facing disruptions from Covid-19.

"Today, the world is experiencing disruptions of other kinds. And I reiterate the message I shared then at VivaTech 2021. Where convention fails, innovation can help," he said.

Modi also said with over 2 lakh startups, India is one of the most vibrant eco-systems in the world and urged attendees to visit the India pavilion.

"...you will get a feel of India's immense energy. Be it the world's first single-piece 3D printed rocket engine, advanced genetic-engineering therapies, AI solutions that detect cancer and other critical diseases or improve cyber and network security, autonomous robots, smart cities, and mobility solutions," he said.

The Prime Minister further said India is an open society and has the world's largest talent pool.

He said India is simplifying regulations and ensuring ease of doing business.

From innovation to commercialisation, the country is supporting private enterprise through targeted incentives of over USD 50 billion, he said, adding that India is also providing one of the world's most affordable data and low-cost green energy.

"Our approach is clear. Our government will enable and industry will innovate. Startups will disrupt and global partners will scale with us. Together, we will move faster than ever," he said.

Inviting investments, Modi said, "Work with India and deliver for all".

VivaTech is Europe's foremost gathering of technology and innovation, and India has set up the largest national pavilion at this edition, symbolising the potential for partnership between Indian and European innovation ecosystems.

Lavender Fields Can Become Kashmir's New Tourism Attraction: CM Omar

Calls Lavender Cultivation an addition of a new chapter in the journey of development and prosperity of J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the Lavender Festival organised by the Agriculture department Kashmir at the Model Floriculture Centre (MFC), Nunar, Ganderbal, and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several agriculture infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the medicinal and aromatic plants sector and improving farmers' livelihoods in the district.

The festival was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javid Ahmad Dar; Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dham; senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department, scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir and other officials.

Addressing farmers, growers and members of the local community on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that lavender cultivation in recent times has added a new dimension to the Agriculture landscape of J&K. He highlighted the economic sustainability of lavender crop and impressed upon the farmers to adopt this crop on commercial lines. He stressed adopting this climate-resilient and high-value crop can safeguard farmers' incomes in the face of changing weather patterns.

He noted that lavender cultivation offers multiple benefits, including value addition through



essential oil extraction, tourism potential and employment generation. He said in coming times lavender cultivation would be extended to newer areas of J&K, adding that the lavender festival would be a regular event in coming times.

Drawing parallels with internationally renowned lavender destinations, the Chief Minister said the scenic lavender fields of Ganderbal have the potential to attract visitors and nature enthusiasts, particularly those travelling to Sonamarg. He emphasized that such initiatives can create new sources of income for local communities while promoting rural tourism.

The Chief Minister also underlined the importance of reducing excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture. He said the government, in collaboration with agricultural institutions and experts, is working to promote sustainable farming practices and create awareness about the long-term benefits of preserving soil health.

Highlighting the government's efforts under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

(HADP), Omar Abdullah said substantial investments are being made to modernize the agriculture sector through advanced infrastructure, mechanization, value-addition facilities and promotion of high-value crops.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a Post-Harvest Infrastructure Project for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at the Model Floriculture Centre, Nunar, being established under HADP/ NABARD at a cost of ₹538.23 lakh.

The project includes development of an FPO Park with office and storage facilities, machinery for processing and e-marketing of medicinal and aromatic plant products, post-harvest management infrastructure, transportation facilities, establishment of a distillation unit, quality control laboratory, shade-net structures and other support facilities aimed at creating a comprehensive ecosystem for medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation and marketing.

The Chief Minister also reviewed infrastructure created at the centre under NABARD-funded projects, including development of a germplasm

centre, strengthening of farm infrastructure, irrigation facilities, farm mechanization and establishment of essential oil distillation units.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed sanction letters under various agriculture and allied sector initiatives. The beneficiaries received assistance for establishment of Hi-Tech Poly Houses, Common Facilitation Centres, dairy units and breed-based farms, besides keys of tractors provided under government-supported mechanization programmes aimed at enhancing farm productivity and improving rural livelihoods.

Addressing the farmers, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening agriculture as a viable and profitable sector. He said efforts are being made to ensure that every region benefits from development initiatives and modern agricultural interventions.

Referring to ongoing road widening works in Ganderbal, Omar Abdullah acknowledged concerns raised by affected shop-

keepers and assured them that their issues would be addressed in a fair and humane manner. He said the government would work towards a suitable rehabilitation mechanism in consultation with all stakeholders.

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar while addressing the event underlined the importance of HADP for the promotion of cultivation of crops like lavender. He said the department of Agriculture is working to explore Medicinal and aromatic crops (including lavender) cultivation for the socio-economic transformation of farming community of the region.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the government's continued focus on strengthening the agriculture sector through infrastructure development, technological interventions and farmer-centric initiatives.

Farmers, Agri entrepreneurs, stakeholders and childrens from different schools also enthusiastically participated in the event.

Congratulating the people of Ganderbal on the successful organisation of the Lavender Festival, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the initiative would further strengthen the district's identity as a centre of agricultural innovation, floriculture and rural tourism.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected stalls showcasing lavender cultivation, essential oil extraction, value-added products and other innovations in the agriculture and floriculture sectors.

CS Directs Rationalization of Departmental Cadres

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting of Administrative Secretaries to review the status of update of Recruitment Rules (RRs) across departments and assess the progress made in holding Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for government employees.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook a comprehensive department-wise review of the Recruitment Rules pertaining to both Gazetted and Subordinate Services and emphasized the need for their timely revision in line with evolving administrative requirements and technological advancements.

Observing that the nature of governance and service delivery has undergone significant transformation over the years, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of aligning departmental structures with contemporary needs. He underscored the necessity of identifying posts that have become redundant over time and strengthening those that are critical for efficient functioning of departments.

To carry forward this exercise in a structured manner, the Chief Secretary directed the constitution of a core team under the leadership of the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, with representatives from the General Administration Department (GAD), Finance Department, Law Department and the concerned departments. The team shall undertake a comprehensive review of departmental cadres and manpower requirements in the coming weeks to ensure optimum utilization of human resources across government departments.

The Chief Secretary further emphasized that updated Recruitment Rules are essential for enhancing administrative efficiency, ensuring transparent career progression for employees and creating opportunities for induction of skilled manpower possessing qualifications suited to modern governance requirements. He called upon all departments to expedite the process of revising and finalizing their Recruitment Rules within stipulated timelines. (Observer News Service)

Bandipora finalizes arrangements for International Yoga Day 2026

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day 2026 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of various departments and stressed the need for close coordination to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event. Arrangements related to venue management, participation of students and youth, sanitation, drinking water, medical facilities, transportation, and security were discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to complete the assigned tasks well in advance and ensure foolproof arrangements for the celebrations. She emphasized that International Yoga Day serves as an important platform to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise awareness about the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of yoga among people of all age groups.

The District Nodal Officer, AYUSH, and the Youth Services & Sports Department were directed to work in close coordination with all line departments for the seamless conduct of yoga sessions and related activities across the district. The Deputy Commissioner also called for maximum public participation to make the event a grand success.

It was informed during the meeting that the main district-level celebration of International Yoga Day will be held at S.K. Stadium Bandipora on June 21. Similar programmes and yoga sessions will be organized simultaneously at the sub-divisional headquarters of Sumbal and Gurez, besides other designated locations across the district, to ensure wider participation and outreach.

International Yoga Day is observed annually on June 21 across the globe to promote health, wellness, and harmony through the practice of yoga.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Information Officer, District Nodal Officer AYUSH, Block Development Officers, and other concerned officers attended the meeting. (Observer News Service)

Government Floats Project to Rebuild Key Pulwama Road Link

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department (PWD) has initiated the process for restoration of the Arihal-Sheikhpora-Lassipora Arihal Khamri road by issuing an e-tender for execution of the project, which has been estimated to cost over ₹2.08 crore.

According to the information provided by MLA Pulwama Waheed Ur Rehman Para, the project falls under flood restoration works and carries an estimated cost of ₹208.45 lakh, including applicable taxes. The road restoration project is aimed at repairing and rebuilding infrastructure damaged due to floods and other weather-related factors.

The work has been categorized under Class AAY contractors and is stipulated to be completed within 60 days from the date of allotment.

Officials said the bidding process commenced on June 18, with online downloading and submission of tender documents beginning the same day. The last date for submission of bids has been fixed as July 14, while bids will be opened on July 15 at the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian.

The road serves several habitations in the area and its restoration is expected to improve connectivity for local residents, facilitate movement of goods and services and address long-standing concerns arising from damaged road infrastructure.

As per KNT, the tendering process marks the formal start of efforts to restore the affected road corridor, which is considered an important link for villages falling along the Arihal, Sheikhpora and Lassipora belt.

Scorching Heat Leaves Jammu Markets Deserted as Shutdown Continues

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Several prominent markets across Jammu have worn a deserted look in recent days following a closure announced by various traders' and shopkeepers' associations, with sweltering temperatures and the summer vacation season contributing to the unusually subdued commercial activity.

Major business centres, including Parade Market, Link Road Bazaar, Jain Bazaar and several adjoining commercial areas, remained shut on Thursday, with only a handful of establishments, particularly medical shops and essential services, operating normally.

The closure has significantly reduced footfall in some of the city's busiest markets, creating an unusual spectacle of empty streets and shuttered storefronts during what is otherwise a peak commercial period.

A couple of traders told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that a large number of business owners and employees have travelled to cooler destinations or are spending time with families during the ongoing vacation period. The prevailing heatwave conditions have further contributed to the decision to suspend business operations temporarily.

As per KNT, market representatives said the shutdown will remain in force until June

21, after which commercial activity is expected to resume. According to the schedule announced by traders' bodies, shops are likely to reopen on June 22.

While the temporary closure has affected routine shopping activity, residents said essential services, including pharmacies and select emergency establishments, continue to function.

The phenomenon highlights the seasonal pattern witnessed in parts of Jammu, where extreme summer temperatures often lead to a temporary lull in commercial activity as many families and business owners leave the region during the peak heat period.

Panthachowk, Sadrekoot among Sites Considered for Quarrying Revival

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary emphasized the need for prompt decisions regarding the sand and stone quarrying and lifting of loose material across Kashmir to ensure the uninterrupted availability of construction material for the public.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the revival of customary mining activities and stone quarrying at identified locations across Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly, including Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, Ahsan Ahmad Pardesi, Hilal Akbar Lone, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, Javed Hassan Baig, and Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo besides Additional Chief Secretary, Mining Department, Director Geology & Mining, Director Finance Mining, Joint Directors and District Mineral Officers.

While reiterating the government's commitment to completely curb the illegal mining activities, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that people should not face any shortage of construction material due to restrictions on unlawful operations.



He called for timely formulation of a comprehensive Mining Policy for Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the optimal utilization of mineral resources while safeguarding the environmental interests. He stressed transparency in mining operations and directed the concerned authorities to ensure that no illegal mining practices are allowed in any district.

The Deputy Chief Minister also emphasized the need for effective royalty collection from all the companies engaged in mining activities across Kashmir and called for the speedy disposal of pending penalties and court cases related to mining operations.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the revival of customary stone quarrying activities at identified locations including at Panthachowk in Srinagar, Sadrekoot Bala in Bandipora, and other related locations.

The Deputy Chief Minister underscored the importance of balancing developmental needs with environmental sustainability and directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of finalizing modalities for regulated mining operations.

The meeting explored mechanisms for the structured revival of quarrying activities and outlined a comprehensive way forward in the interest of public convenience.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure that all decisions are taken in a transparent, environmentally responsible and people-centric manner, facilitating the availability of construction material while preserving ecological balance.

He also asserted on speedy disposal of penalty and court cases for the seamless functioning of the department.

PMVBRY Launched to Boost Formal Employment


Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Government of India has launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PMVBRY), formerly known as the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, with the aim of generating large-scale employment, improving employability and expanding social security coverage across sectors, particularly in manufacturing.

With a total financial outlay of ₹99,446 crore, the scheme is expected to facilitate the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over the next two years. Of these, around 1.92 crore beneficiaries are projected to be first-time entrants into the formal workforce. The benefits will apply to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

Under Part A, first-time employees registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and earning up to ₹1 lakh per month will receive an incentive equivalent to one month's wage, capped at ₹15,000, in two instalments linked to continued service and completion of a financial literacy programme.

Under Part B, employers will receive incentives of up to ₹3,000 per month per additional employee for two years. Manufacturing sector employers will receive the benefit for an additional two years. Payments to employees will be made through Direct Benefit Transfer, while employer incentives will be credited directly to PAN-linked bank accounts. (Observer News Service)



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BAGH ALI MARDAN KHAN, SRINAGAR - 190011

Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in TEL/FAX: 0194-2427478

Subject: Submission of Consent for Disbursement of Loan Sanctioned under PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of applicants of District Srinagar (list enclosed) whose loan cases have been sanctioned under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme but disbursement is pending, that as per directions of the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir vide No. DI&C-K/Pig/2026-27/815-IV/850-904 dated 09.06.2026, written consent regarding willingness to avail the sanctioned loan is required from each beneficiary.

Therefore, all such sanctioned beneficiaries of District Srinagar are hereby informed through this notice to contact their respective Bank Branches OR the office of the undersigned within 07 (seven) days positively from the date of publication of this notice and furnish their consent on the enclosed format.

Documents to carry:

1. Aadhaar Card.
2. Copy of Bank Passbook :
3. PM Vishwakarma Application ID/Sanction Letter

In case any beneficiary fails to submit the consent within the stipulated period of 07 days, it shall be presumed that the applicant is not willing to avail the loan facility. Accordingly, the case shall be updated as "Non-Willing" on the PM Vishwakarma Portal and moved to the rejected category, as per scheme guidelines. No further claim shall be entertained thereafter.

For any query, the applicant may visit the office of undersigned during working hours .

CONSENT

The General Manager,
District Industries Centre, Srinagar
Subject: Non-Availing of Loan under PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

I, _____ (Name of Applicant), holder of PM Vishwakarma ID No. _____,
Mobile No. _____, hereby declare that I am not interested in availing the loan facility under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

I understand the benefits and provisions of the scheme and confirm that my decision is voluntary and made without any coercion or undue influence. I further request that my case may not be considered for loan sanction under the scheme.

I shall be solely responsible for the consequences of this decision and shall have no claim against the Department, Bank, or any implementing agency in this regard.

Date: _____
Place: _____

Signature/Thumb Impression of Applicant
Name: _____

No. GM/DIC/Sgr. 2026/870-72
Dated: 17-06-2026

Abid Iqbal Malik (JKAS)
General Manager
District Industries Centre, Srinagar

DIPK-2287-26
DT: 18/06/2026

Qatar Sponsors Fans' World Cup Journey to Back Underdog Team

Agencies

VANCOUVER (BRITISH COLUMBIA)- Qatar brought a cheering section to the World Cup by treating a large contingent of supporters to an all-expenses-paid trip to North America. Some 1,000 Qatari fans have descended on Vancouver, via jets chartered by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, ahead of Thursday's match against Canada. The fans are staying at posh hotels, including the Fairmont and the JW Marriott Parq. They've been turning heads downtown, breaking out traditional darbuka drums. "First of all I would like to thank everyone who went the extra mile and made the journey out here," cap-

tain Abdulaziz Hatem said. "We are very aware of the responsibility. We are going to do what ever it takes for them to leave the stadium happy and for them to be proud of us." Qatar's Social and Sport Contribution Fund partnered with the Persian Gulf nation's soccer federation to pay for the "Qatari Fans Delegation Program" for the World Cup. The fund covers flights, hotels and local transportation and other perks. The federation said the aim was to create "a vibrant stadium atmosphere that will help push the players toward the best possible results on the global stage." Qatari students in the United States and Canada were also invited to attend the matches.

Qatari fans are sure to be heavily outnumbered by red-clad Canadians at BC Place. A major exporter of natural gas and oil, Qatar has a population of some 3.2 million. It hosted the World Cup in 2022 and made its first appearance in the tournament, becoming the first host country to lose all of its group matches. Qatar has fared better this time. Boualem Khoukhi scored on a header in stoppage time to give the Qataris a surprising 1-1 draw against Switzerland in Santa Clara, California. Canada also earned its first World Cup point with a 1-1 draw against Bosnia-Herzegovina last Friday in Toronto. Cyle Larin scored the tying goal in the 78th minute. (AP)



A Look at Top World Cup Performers After Week One

Agencies

NEW YORK- Cape Verde's 40-year-old goalkeeper has become a star at this World Cup, and a Senegal teenager scored in his tournament debut. Here's a look at some of the oldest and youngest players as the 48-team tournament enters its second week.

Elder statesmen

No better place to begin than the 41-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo. The Portugal star will be disappointed to not have found the back of the net in a 1-1 draw with Congo on Wednesday. FIFA said Ronaldo became the oldest outfield player to start a World Cup match. Luka Modric, 40, led Croatia to the 2018 World Cup final but got off to a rough start against England on Wednesday, when his foul led to Harry Kane's penalty goal. The midfield great was subbed off before the hour mark in a 4-2 loss.

There are several 40-year-old goalkeepers on World Cup rosters. Manuel Neuer of Germany might be the best known of the bunch, but Cape Verde's Vozinha has joined the chat. The



goalkeeper big role Spain to His mom opener by scoring a hat trick against Algeria.

Young guns

Mexico teenager Gilberto Mora got a big cheer from the home fans when he entered as a substitute in the second half of El Tri's 2-0 victory over South Africa. The 17-year-old midfielder, the youngest player on the World Cup rosters, plays for Tijuana in Liga MX and is being tracked by several top European clubs. Mexico faces South Korea on Thursday in Guadalajara. Senegal forward Ibrahim Mbaye made an immediate impact in his World Cup debut. The 18-year-old French-born Mbaye came on in the 75th minute against France and scored in stoppage time of their 3-1 loss to Kylian Mbappé and company. Senegal will play Norway on Monday. Ayyoub Bouaddi, 18, stood out in the midfield for Morocco in its 1-1 draw with Brazil. The teenager played for France at youth level but switched to Morocco just in time for the World Cup.

Egypt forward Hamza Abdelkarim, 18, came on as sub in 1-1 draw with Belgium, replacing star Mohamed Salah in 76th minute.

Why FIFA Hydration Breaks Are Drawing Criticism

AP

LOS ANGELES, JUN 18 () For the first time in World Cup history, FIFA is mandating all soccer players take hydration breaks to protect them from the threats of extreme heat. But the new rule has sparked criticism from two very different groups.

Some experts have warned that this summer's World Cup — co-hosted by the U.S., Mexico and Canada — could be the hottest in the tournament's history. In response to concerns about extreme heat, FIFA implemented three-minute hydration breaks midway through each half regardless of temperatures. But some critics say they're interrupting the game's flow and give coaches a chance to shift momentum in their team's favor, while some scientists have said the breaks are too short to make a significant impact on cooling and rehydration when conditions are sizzling.

"When we look at the three minute hydration breaks, we're really looking at this as a way to mitigate anything that could potentially lead to an incident or an emergency," said Joshua L. DeVincenzo, assistant director of applied research services at Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness. Here's a look at the heat risks players

face and what the hydration breaks can do: FIFA's mandatory breaks, regardless of temperatures. This World Cup is the first to implement mandatory three-minute cooling breaks midway through each half, regardless of temperatures or whether stadiums are enclosed and/or air conditioned.

The governing body said it was to "ensure equal conditions for all teams, in all matches," and the rules draw upon the experiences of past tournaments, including the FIFA Club World Cup in the U.S. last summer where temperatures soared into the 90s F (mid-30s C) and above in many areas.

Some coaches said the breaks make sense when temperatures are extreme, but they questioned whether they were necessary at every match. The pauses have also been criticized for interrupting the spectacle for fans, with broadcasters using them to take commercial breaks.

Even highly-trained, elite athletes can get heat stress. Athletes pushing themselves physically in hot and humid conditions risk getting what's called exertional heat illness. It happens when the body's temperature gets too hot and is accompanied by significant strain on the heart, nerves, muscles and central nervous systems. Common symptoms include muscle

cramps, extreme fatigue, impaired performance, headache, irritability, nausea, dizziness, cramping and dehydration.

When internal body temperature exceeds 105 F (40.5 C), athletes might feel confused, aggressive or lose consciousness, said Yuri Hosokawa, associate professor at the Faculty of Sport Sciences in Japan's Waseda University, in an email. "all of which are characteristic signs of exertional heat stroke and require immediate medical attention." She co-signed a letter to FIFA in May urging stricter heat guidelines for player safety, including that cooling breaks be at least six minutes.

Exertional heat stroke while playing a sport is among the leading causes of death in athletes.

Dehydration also exacerbates the risk. Athletes in the heat can sweat 1 to 2 liters (50 to 67 ounces) an hour, and most drink less liquids than they expel. Losing as little as 2% of one's body weight to dehydration can impair physical performance.

Ryan Calsbeek, professor of biological sciences at Dartmouth College, said the human body performs better when it's warmer, but there's a critical threshold above which that improvement in performance not only stops, but precipitously drops off.

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15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus

Duration (Years)	Corpus	Invested	Money grows to
5	₹4.1L	₹3.1L	1.4x
10	₹11.6L	₹6.0L	2.9x
15	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
20	₹51.8L	₹12.0L	6.5x
25	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x
30	₹1.9Cr	-	-

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