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J&K Orders 3-Month Advance Foodgrain Supply

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered the advance lifting and distribution of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Non-Priority Household (NPHH) schemes for August, September and October 2026 to ensure uninterrupted supplies during the ongoing monsoon season.

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) said the measure has been taken as a precaution against possible transportation and logistical disruptions caused by adverse weather, with the aim of safeguarding food security across the Union Territory.

Under the arrangement, eligible beneficiaries will be able to collect their foodgrain entitlement for all three months through a single transaction. The department has directed that the entire distribution exercise be completed by August 31.

To facilitate the initiative, the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Jammu and Kashmir, has been asked to enable a one-time transaction facility in electronic Point of Sale (e-POS) devices for the distribution of the three-month allocation.

The Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs said the advance distribution would strengthen the department's preparedness to deal with any disruption caused by the monsoon.

He said the initiative would ensure the uninterrupted availability of foodgrains and protect the food

Flood Fury Deepens Across J&K; Shops, Vehicles Swept Away

» Beerwah among worst hit; man feared swept away in flash floods

» Relief ops intensify; pilgrimages remain suspended for the 3rd consecutive day



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh spells of torrential rain battered Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, triggering flash floods, overflowing rivers and streams, inundating homes and markets, sweeping away shops and vehicles, and disrupting road

connectivity as authorities continued large-scale rescue and restoration operations across the Union Territory.

With at least 23 people dead and seven still missing in rain-related incidents since Sunday, the administration remained on high alert as the Meteorological | More on P6

Relief Operations Underway: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said rescue and relief operations were underway | More on P6

Fresh Weather Advisory Issued

The district administrations of Srinagar and Budgam on Tuesday issued fresh weather advisories, urging residents to remain vigilant and avoid vulnerable areas after the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast heavy to intense rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir until July 23. | More on P6

Landslides Disrupt Traffic On NH-44

Fresh landslides and mudslides triggered by incessant rainfall disrupted traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Tuesday, with restoration work underway at several vulnerable locations as heavy monsoon showers continued across the Jammu region. Officials said continuous rainfall in Udhampur | More on P6

HIGH
ALERT!

Kashmir On High Alert Amid Rain Threat

24x7 control rooms activated; field officers deployed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir administration on Tuesday placed all departments on high alert and activated round-the-clock control rooms across the Valley in view of the adverse weather forecast, with Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Anshul Garg saying the entire administrative machinery has been mobilised to respond

swiftly to any emergency.

Speaking to reporters in Kulgam, Garg said district administrations, disaster management authorities, police, emergency services and other line departments have been directed to maintain close coordination and remain fully prepared to deal with any weather-related situation.

"All departments have been put on high alert and asked | More on P6

Srinagar Waterlogging

Smart City Works To Face Third-Party Audit: CM

Agencies

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday announced that the government would assess losses suffered by people affected by the recent heavy rains and provide compensation in accordance with the prescribed norms, while ordering an inquiry into the widespread waterlogging in Srinagar and reaffirming that the Smart City project would undergo a third-party audit.

Replying to questions during a press conference here, Abdullah said the administration would begin assessing the damage once weather conditions improve and ensure relief reaches affected families as per

the existing guidelines.

"As far as compensation is concerned, the losses suffered by people will be assessed, and relief will be provided as per the prescribed guidelines," he said.

The Chief Minister said an inquiry would be conducted after the weather improves to identify the reasons behind the extensive flooding and determine corrective measures to prevent similar incidents in future.

"Let the weather improve. We will conduct an inquiry and decide what corrective action needs to be taken," he said.

Expressing concern over the flooding of the Civil Secretariat, Abdullah | More on P6

J&K Wraps Up 100-Day Anti-Narcotics Drive With 2,301 Arrests

'A New Era Has Begun': LG Marks End of Nasha Mukt J&K Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday, marked the successful culmination of the 100-day Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan, with the administration describing the campaign as a watershed initiative that combined stringent enforcement against drug trafficking with a mass public movement against substance abuse across the Union Territory.

The campaign, spearheaded by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, was launched with the objective of dismantling the narco-terror ecosystem, curbing drug abuse, and



strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms through community participation.

Highlighting the achievements of the campaign, the administration said the 100-day drive had evolved into a powerful Jan Andolan spanning

all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with participation from panchayats, educational institutions, religious leaders, civil society groups, youth clubs, women, senior citizens and ex-servicemen.

"Jammu and Kashmir has

struck a decisive blow to the narco-terror ecosystem by targeting drug networks that provide financial support to terrorism," the administration said, adding that disrupting the drug trade was critical to choking the funding channels of terror outfits.

LG Sinha said the campaign marked "the dawn of a new era" in the fight against drug abuse and called upon citizens to sustain the momentum until the menace is eradicated completely.

"The 100-day campaign heralds the beginning of a new chapter. From every village to every | More on P6

J&K Cyber Crime Cases Decline After 4 Yrs Of Rise

UT records 114 cases in 2024 as national tally crosses one lakh

Centre says ₹11,158 crore saved through cyber fraud response system

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded a decline in registered cyber crime cases in 2024 after four consecutive years of increase, even as cyber offences across the country crossed the one-lakh mark for the first time, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures, Jammu and Kashmir registered 114 cyber crime cases in 2024, down from 185 cases in 2023, while neighbouring



Ladakh reported one case during the year.

The data, tabled in response to an unstarred question in Parliament, showed that cyber

crime cases in J&K had risen steadily over the previous four years—from 120 in 2020 to 154 in 2021, 173 in 2022 and 185 in 2023—before | More on P6

J&K Revises Enhanced Family Pension Rules

Benefit payable for seven years or till deceased employee would have turned 67

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has amended the Jammu and Kashmir Family Pension-cum-Gratuity Rules, 1964, revising the period for payment of enhanced family pension in cases where a government servant dies after retirement.

The amendment was notified by the Finance Department through S.O. 204, issued under the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India.

According to the

notification, where a government servant dies after retirement, the enhanced family pension will now be payable for seven years, or until the date on which the deceased retired government servant would have attained the age of 67 years had they survived, whichever is earlier.

The government clarified that cases already settled under the provisions existing before the issuance of the notification will not be reopened. However, all cases pending on the date of the notification will be decided in | More on P6

Statehood Key To Restoring Special Status: CM Omar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asserted that the restoration of statehood is the foundation for reclaiming the Union Territory's special status, saying any discussion on constitutional safeguards or power-sharing would be meaningless without restoring Jammu and Kashmir's status as a state.

Addressing a press conference a day after the National Conference (NC) staged a protest in New Delhi demanding restoration of statehood, Abdullah said the party would continue to remind the Centre of its commitment and intensify its campaign until the promise is fulfilled.



Describing Monday's protest in the national capital as the beginning of a larger movement, the chief minister said the NC remained committed to every promise it had made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

'Statehood Comes First'
Responding to criticism that his government | More on P6

GMC Rajouri Gets 50 More MBBS Seats

Observer News Service

Jammu: Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri has been granted approval for 50 additional MBBS seats, taking its annual intake from 100 to 150, Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo said on Tuesday.

Announcing the development in a post on X, the minister said the increase in seats would create more opportunities for aspiring doctors and further strengthen medical education and healthcare infrastructure in the Union Territory.

Itoo said the approval follows a similar enhancement of MBBS seats at Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College Srinagar.

"Glad to share that, after the successful | More on P6



Dr. Farooq Calls for Audit of Srinagar Smart City Project

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday expressed profound grief over the loss of lives and widespread destruction caused by the recent torrential rains, flash floods and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Pir Panjal region.

In a statement issued from the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subha, Dr. Farooq said the unprecedented rainfall has triggered a humanitarian crisis, claiming many lives in Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and other districts, while causing extensive damage to homes, roads, bridges, public infrastructure, agricultural land and livelihoods. Flash floods inundated residential localities and markets, swept away vehicles, and landslides disrupted connectivity, severely affecting rescue and relief operations.

Describing the scale of devastation as enormous, Dr. Farooq said the financial burden of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction cannot be borne by J&K government alone. He urged GoI to announce a comprehensive and generous special relief package to facilitate the rehabilitation of affected families and the restoration of damaged infrastructure.

Recalling the inadequate assistance extended after previous flood disasters in Jammu, he expressed hope that the Centre would respond more generously this time, commensurate with the magnitude of the present calamity.

Referring to the extensive waterlogging witnessed across Srinagar during the recent rains, Dr. Farooq said the situation has raised serious concerns over the efficacy of the Smart City Project, which was executed under the erstwhile unelected administration before the elected government assumed office.

He called for an independent, impartial technical and financial audit to examine the project's planning, execution, quality of work and adherence to prescribed engineering standards, saying the people have a right to know whether public funds were utilised efficiently and whether any lapses contributed to the city's vulnerability to heavy rainfall.

"A thorough inquiry must ascertain whether public funds were utilised efficiently and whether deficiencies in planning or execution contributed to the city's inability to withstand heavy rainfall. If lapses are found, responsibility must be fixed and corrective measures undertaken without delay," he said.



KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Heavy Rain Alert Issued for Srinagar; Shikara Boating Suspended on Dal, Nigeen Lakes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Administration of Srinagar on Tuesday issued a weather advisory warning residents and tourists of heavy to intense rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir, including the summer capital, till July 23.

Citing forecasts from the India Meteorological Department and the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the advisory urged people in landslide-prone and high-altitude areas—including Lidwas, Dagwan, Harwan,

Dara, and Astanmarg—to remain alert and evacuate immediately if water levels rise or signs of landslides are observed.

All shikara operations and recreational boating on Dal Lake and Nigeen Lake have been ordered suspended for the duration of the alert. Sand miners along the River Jhelum have been strictly advised against mining or river-crossing activities until weather conditions are verified as safe.

The District Emergency Operation Centre has activated helpline

numbers—9103998355, 9103998356, and 9103998357—for public assistance. The Police Control Room can be reached at 01942477567.

The advisory, as per KNS, has been circulated to the Divisional Commissioner, SSP Srinagar, SDRF, NDRF, and other line departments for necessary action.

"Citizens are requested to remain vigilant, follow official advisories, and cooperate with the district administration in the interest of public safety," the order stated.

SKUAST Trains IFS Officers in AI-led Forest & Wildlife Conservation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Thirty senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers from 14 states are undergoing a five-day national training program at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies for forest and wildlife conservation, reinforcing the University's growing role in technology-driven environmental governance.

The program, "Smart Conservation: Technological Solutions for Forest and Wildlife Protection," is being

organized by the Division of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with the Research & Training Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.

Held from July 20 to 24, it brings together senior forest administrators, including Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (PCCFs), Conservators of Forests, Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) and Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs), for training in AI, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS),

drone, satellite monitoring and other digital tools for sustainable forest governance.

The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, while Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Jammu & Kashmir, Sarvesh Rai, attended as the Guest of Honor.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai stressed that conservation in the 21st century requires the convergence of forestry, agricultural sciences, climate science, data analytics and digital technologies.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-TENDER NOTICE				
Tender No: 62, 63-2026-27-ADEN-JUC & 64-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR				Date: 20.07.2026
Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 10.08.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in				
Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System
Open		Works		Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time
17.07.2026		27.07.2026		10.08.2026/ 15:00 Hrs.
SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender		
1	62-2026-27-ADEN-JUC	Repair to various arches of Bridge no. 58 on JUC-BEAS section under ADEN/JUC.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
7499422.81		150000.00	60 Days	06 Months
Similar nature of work: - "Any civil work other than track work"				
2	63-2026-27-ADEN-JUC	Augmentation of Running Room at JUC in C/with Augmentation of running Rooms at FZR, JUC, MCTM & SVDK by providing 10 Nos. additional rooms.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
8024077.24		160500.00	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work: - "Construction of building/quarters."				
3	64-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR	Improvement to various staff amenities like water supply arrangement of A, B & C blocks at railway colony Amritsar in the section of SSE/WWS/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
24585712.25		491700.00	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work: - "Any civil work other than track work."				
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
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OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE FOR e-AUCTION OF IDENTIFIED STANDING/FELLED/FALLEN TREES OF VARIOUS SPECIES

e-Auction Notice No:01 OF 2026-27
Dated:- 21-07-2026

Name of Work: - Sale of Timber/Firewood from Standing/felled Trees of various species at different locations through e-Auction on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS" basis.

SECTION – I

It is hereby notified for information of Timber/Firewood Dealers and civil contractors duly registered with JK Government/Central Government/Forest Department/FDC and registered on e-Auction India that Social Forestry Division Pulwama intends to carry out e-Auction (forward auction) of "felling/ removal and sale of marked Poplar Trees standing trees on "as it is, where it is basis" as per SF order No: 29 OF 2026, dated-19-05-2026, issued vide endorsement No-DIR/DSF/Estt/122-24, dated-19-05-2026 at below mentioned Plantation as per details given below:-

Name of Plantation unit/ V.W. Lot	Period of inspection of Location trees	Species	No of trees	Volume in (cft)	Fire wood in Quintals	EMD Amount(3% of basic cost of Timber in Rs.	Remarks
Strip Plantation Marvel Chat-tergam Canal	22-07-2026-23-07-2026	Poplar	26	778.06	0	5000	
Total			26	778.06	0	5000	

Detailed auction document with terms and conditions are available on or can be seen / downloaded from the website eauction.gov.in. Bid documents containing qualifying criteria for bidders, schedule of advertised quantities, conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Website:- eauction.gov.in in as per schedule hereunder.

Time Schedule and Key details of the e-Auction

#	Activity	Date & Time/ particulars
1	e-Auction Publishing Date and Online Document upload start date	21.07.2026 at 10.00 hrs
2	CDR/FDR Instrument deposit and other related documents online upload End Date	23.07.2026 by or before 16.00 hrs
3	Document Approval Start Date	25.07.2026 from 9.10 hrs
4	Document Approval End Date	27.07.2026 from 18.00 hrs
5	Auction Start Date	28.07.2026 at 11.00 hrs
6	Auction End Date	28.07.2026 at 13.00 hrs
7	Declaration of Result	29.07.2026
8	Deposit of 25 % Down Payment/Security Deposit by HI Bidder	01-08-2026 by or before 16.00 Hrs
9	Type of e-Auction	Forward Auction
10	Lot Types	Plantations as per location
11	e-Auction Place	eauction.gov.in
12	e-Auction Fee	Rs.200 (Treasury Challan) payable TO Forest Revenue Head 0406 Rs. 5000
13	EMD Deposit	Rs. 5000
14	Payment Instrument (security deposit)	CDR/FDR/Online Payment Mode (NEFT/RTGS)
15	Security Deposit Exemption Allowed to:	NO

Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Pulwama

No.DFO/SF/Pul/Plg/336-344
DIPK-3536/26
Dated: 21-07-2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR

Tel- 0194-3510830
Email ID: -electricdivision3rd@rediffmail.com, electricdivision3rd@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender

e-NIT No.: - ED-III /08 of 2026-27
Dated:- 21-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JK PDD, for "Creation of 200 kVA Substation for Providing of Electricity facility at Jammu University Campus at Rakhi Aarth falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Watalakadal ED 3rd (Turnkey Basis)" as details below:

Name of the work.	Tender Value (Lacs)	EMD	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Status of funds
Creation of 200 kVA Substation for Providing of Electricity facility at Jammu University Campus at Rakhi Aarth falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Watalakadal ED 3 rd (Turnkey Basis)	15.21	2% of Tender value Rs. 30420.00	Rs. 1000/-	20 days	Available undedr District Capex Budget Budgam

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

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

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 21-07-2026; 04:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (End)	08-08-2026; 02:00 PM
C	Clarification start date	25-07-2026; 10:00 AM
D	Clarification End date	04-08-2026; 02:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	25-07-2026; 10:00 AM
F	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	08-08-2026; 04:00 PM
G	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
H	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	10-08-2026; 02:00 PM
I	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
K	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Treasury Receipt of Rs. 1000.00/- (Rupees one Thousand only)

No.: - ED-III/TS/
Date: 21-07-2026
DIPK - NB - 1153/26
DATED: 21-07-2026
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 3rd

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KO VIEW

Nature Strikes Back

A concrete building did not simply collapse into the Sukhnag River at Beerwah during this summer showers. It looked as though the river had reached out, seized the structure and dragged it back into its own channel. Videos of the scene spread quickly, drawing disbelief, sympathy and outrage. Another feeling also surfaced. Many people admitted that the river had reclaimed the course that always belonged to it. That image may become the defining picture of Kashmir’s summer of 2026. People often treat floods, cloudbursts and intense rain as isolated disasters. This season tells a different story. Kashmir now lives through weather that grows harsher with rising temperatures in the Himalayas, while decades of reckless decisions have stripped away the landscape’s ability to absorb that shock. Climate change may bring the rain, but human choices decide how much damage follows. Rivers have lost room to spread. Streams have narrowed beneath roads and buildings. Springs have vanished under concrete. Wetlands that once stored floodwater have turned into colonies, shopping areas and parking lots. Flood basins and flood channels now host homes, hotels and commercial complexes that stand exactly where water always planned to return. Experts warned about this path for years. Their reports rarely stopped another foundation from being poured. Urban streets flooded within minutes this summer because drainage systems could no longer cope with water that once flowed into wetlands and open channels. Beerwah witnessed something even more striking. Nature removed a structure that people had placed in its path. That scene felt dramatic because people rarely imagine rivers as living systems with memory. Water remembers its course even after concrete tries to erase it. Life in Kashmir has always included heavy rain. Earlier generations respected that reality by leaving space for rivers, streams and marshes. Today’s race for commercial expansion treats those natural boundaries as empty land waiting for construction. That mindset places families, businesses and public money directly in harm’s way. A different future begins with a different relationship between people and the landscape. Wetlands should return to their original purpose without encroachments. Riverbanks, flood channels and natural streams should regain the space that keeps settlements safe. Restoration belongs at the center of public policy, while local communities accept the same responsibility instead of placing the entire burden on government agencies. Memories of the 2014 floods faded quickly as construction returned to many of the same flood-prone locations. Another cycle of rebuilding in risky places would deepen a crisis already visible through this summer’s showers. Sukhnag delivered a warning that words rarely match. Kashmir still has time to read it with humility, repair what human hands have altered and allow nature enough room to protect the valley once again

Free Blocked Waterways

Human hands have narrowed the Jhelum and its tributaries, multiplying flood damage even as forecasts sharpen and preparations mount.



Mohammad Amin Mir

Kashmir faces floods that grow more destructive with each heavy downpour. Government teams issue alerts, close schools, and mobilize responders whenever satellites spot intense rain. But the waters still surge into homes, markets, and fields. Technology delivers precise warnings, yet the disasters intensify because people have seized the rivers’ space. Encroachment on the Jhelum, its tributaries, streams, wetlands, and floodplains stands as the central driver that turns manageable rain into catastrophe. Restoration of these waterways provides the only path to genuine safety. A century ago, land records captured a valley where natural systems worked unhindered. Rivers flowed in wide channels, floodplains stayed open, wetlands soaked up excess water and released it gradually, and streams carried runoff without blockage. Heavy rains occurred then as they do now, but widespread urban flooding remained rare. Riverbanks commanded respect, people built away from vulnerable zones, and agricultural lands absorbed surges. The balance held firm, and communities thrived. That balance has collapsed now. Population growth, rapid city expansion, and lax enforcement spawned widespread illegal construction. Buildings, shops, boundary walls, and roads advanced into riverbeds. Operators filled sections of the Jhelum, narrowing its width and dumping debris along its banks. Solid waste accumulated, tributaries shrank into choked drains, and many nallahs vanished beneath unauthorized structures or roads. Wetlands shrank under residential colonies and commercial projects. Flood spill channels disappeared, and rainwater lost its natural outlets and poured instead into populated areas. The Jhelum once served as Kashmir’s backbone. It sustained agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transportation, and drinking water for centuries. Its historic width and connected floodplains handled seasonal rises. But today, continuous encroach-



International examples show success through different routes. Countries reopened floodplains, restored wetlands, relocated structures, and created parks. Kashmir can adapt these strategies to local conditions.

ments reduce its capacity. When rains arrive, the constricted river cannot discharge excess flow. Water levels climb fast, tributaries feed the problem, while blocked or narrowed streams cause upstream backups and localized inundation. These smaller channels discharge into the main river. Obstruct them, and the entire system fails. Wetlands once acted as giant sponges across the valley. They absorbed massive volumes during downpours and eased pressure on rivers. Their loss through filling, pollution, and construction leaves floodwaters with nowhere to go. Every acre converted to built-up land heightens vulnerability. Urban growth in Srinagar and other cities ignored drainage patterns. Colonies rose on former marshlands, roads altered water flow, and storm drains proved inadequate. The result appears with painful clarity during every major rain. Climate change contributes heavier rainfall, glacier melt, and erratic storms. Scientists document these shifts worldwide, and Kashmir feels them. But climate alone fails to explain the scale of recent destruction. Nature supplies the rain, but human decisions create the disaster. Narrowed rivers amplify moderate events into severe floods. Vanished wetlands eliminate natural storage. Blocked drains guarantee urban chaos, while encroachment multiplies the impact of every storm. Forecasting tools have advanced dramatically. Satellites, Doppler radars, numerical models, and real-time

monitoring provide accurate predictions. Authorities issue timely advisories and activate emergency plans. These steps save lives and merit praise, but forecasts only buy preparation time. They cannot restore lost capacity in rivers or replace wetlands. Government advisories address symptoms while the root causes remain. The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has repeatedly directed removal of encroachments from water bodies to protect lives, property, and ecology. Those orders serve the public interest and demand coordinated follow-through from revenue officials, irrigation departments, municipal bodies, and others. Citizens share equal responsibility. Many encroachments begin with private actions, like walls extended into streams, debris dumped in nallahs, and wetlands filled for plots. Thousands of small violations accumulate into systemic failure. Voluntary removal of illegal structures would save public resources and shield communities. The notion that such occupation equals development misleads. Sustainable progress improves welfare without destroying natural systems. Encroachment shifts costs forward: repeated floods destroy roads, bridges, schools, businesses, orchards, and crops. Tourism drops, relief spending climbs, families lose savings, and restoration costs far less than endless recovery. Biodiversity suffers too. Wetlands host migratory birds, rivers support fish and aquatic species, and vegetation stabilizes banks. Dis-

ruption degrades water quality, reduces fish stocks, and harms livelihoods. International examples show success through different routes. Countries reopened floodplains, restored wetlands, relocated structures, and created parks. Kashmir can adapt these strategies to local conditions. Effective enforcement requires consistent application of existing laws. Regular surveys with satellite imagery, drones, and GIS detect new violations. Penalties deter offenders while transparent, humane rehabilitation addresses genuine hardship. Communities must join as partners. Village groups, residents’ associations, schools, religious bodies, and youth can run awareness drives, cleaning efforts, plantations, and monitoring. Education plays a vital role. Students need field experience with local rivers and ecosystems through clubs, projects, and campaigns. Future development demands hydrological studies, environmental assessments, floodplain mapping, and integrated planning. No project should proceed without accounting for natural drainage. Technology aids conservation when applied properly. Digital records, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence help track river health and spot problems early. Public mindset forms the decisive factor. Individuals must weigh personal convenience against collective risk. Media outlets expose violations, educate audiences, and push accountability. Coordinated action across government agencies and civil society tackles the interconnected challenge. Kashmir holds extraordinary natural assets in its rivers, lakes, wetlands, and forests. Protecting them invests in safety, stability, and prosperity. River restoration must become a broad civic effort. Removal of encroachments protects rather than punishes. The valley’s waterways sustained civilization for generations. They need space to flow freely again. Determined steps, like full surveys, court order implementation, scientific restoration, stronger laws, community involvement, and long-term planning, can slash flood risks. The alternative grows clearer with each alert: continued encroachment guarantees worse outcomes. The Jhelum and its network ask only for room to function as nature designed. Kashmir must give it to them.

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Rivers Remember

Deadly floods in Rajouri and Poonch expose how officials tolerate illegal building on riverbanks while communities bear the repeated cost.



Anuj Kumar Verma

Heavy rains struck Rajouri and Poonch on July 19, 2026, and the Dharhali River surged over its banks. The torrent swallowed the New Bus Stand area in Rajouri town, sweeping away dozens of houses and hundreds of vehicles. Twelve people died. A house collapsed in the downpour and killed nine in one blow in Poonch. These losses join a grim tally that local authorities have watched accumulate for years. The pattern repeats with punishing regularity. Last year’s monsoon season delivered over 150 deaths across Jammu and Kashmir and destroyed thousands of homes. Government figures confirm the scale: entire districts lost houses, livestock and crops. Bridges collapsed, roads washed out, and water systems failed. Recovery teams still distribute compensation while the same vulnerabilities sit exposed. Floodwaters strike hardest where people have built directly into river channels and floodplains. Houses, shops and makeshift colonies crowd the banks of the Jhelum, Chenab, Tawi and their tributaries. When flows rise fast, these settlements vanish first under water or silt.

In Jammu, unauthorized structures line the Nikki Tawi in areas such as Beli Charana, Gorkha Nagar, Bhagwati Nagar and Gujar Nagar. Each heavy rain turns them into casualties. A study on Rajouri town documents the advance in stark numbers. Researchers tracked the Manawar Tawi riverbed and found extensive encroachment, especially on the edges of populated zones. Farming claims 107.86 hectares so far, but those plots convert to construction. Since 2003 the encroached area has grown fivefold to 93.43 hectares, much of it for buildings planted brazenly in the riverbed itself. Locals operate without fear of enforcement, and structures rise in full public glare. Amid these violations, silt clogs spill channels that once handled far greater volumes. Wetlands that buffered peaks have shrunk, and Wular Lake has surrendered large stretches of its storage capacity. Hokersar, Haigam and Shallabugh wetlands have also suffered degradation and intrusion. Authorities removed trees and some structures from Jhelum embankments in 2025, but legal stays, political connections and informal claims protect hundreds more. Thousands of encroachments and illegal boundary walls persist along the Jhelum and tributaries in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kupwara and Jammu districts. These obstructions narrow channels and block natural flow. Riverbed mining compounds the damage. Unregulated extraction of sand and gravel deepens and destabilizes beds, sending worse surges downstream. Tree planting on embankments and later removal during clearance drives further scramble water movement. The combined human pressure leaves rivers less able to absorb sudden rains. Officials respond each time with evacuation crews, relief



Thousands of encroachments and illegal boundary walls persist along the Jhelum and tributaries in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kupwara and Jammu districts. These obstructions narrow channels and block natural flow.

packets and public statements. The same weak spots remain for the next storm. Weather forecasts already flag fresh heavy rain risks in coming weeks. Without structural change, the cycle tightens. Administrators hold the tools to break it. They must map every encroachment on riverbanks and floodplains throughout the Union Territory and flag the most hazardous sites first. Families on clearly dangerous ground need relocation to safer land at subsidized rates, plus compensation for lost structures and help rebuilding livelihoods. Authorities must refuse regularization of unauthorized floodplain colonies and demolish them where law demands. Bans on illegal riverbed mining require real patrols and steep penalties. Engineers can desilt choked channels, revive key wetlands and strengthen embankments and bridges against stronger flows. Coordinated reforestation in catchment zones, designed with local input and species that anchor soil without pinching rivers, would restore balance. The deaths in Rajouri and Poonch, added to last year’s toll, demonstrate how floods become disasters through placement and neglect. Natural rain meets weakened rivers and crowded banks, but preparation can replace helplessness. Swift mapping, strict enforcement, wetland restoration and targeted resettlement protect lives and property. Continued tolerance for encroachment guarantees the next surge will claim more victims in the same places. The rivers keep rising, the question is whether governance will finally rise to meet them.

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A Village Wrapped in Plastic

Morning beauty meets modern waste as a resident confronts the growing footprint of disposable convenience on the fringes of Wullar Lake.



A. R. Matahanji

After Fajr, I stepped onto my wooden porch and breathed in the morning. A blue-grey mist rested on the houses, settling into their curves and corners. The scene carried an old beauty, shaped by time and habit, the sort of morning people speak of with pride.

For a moment, the village seemed held together by light and prayer. Then my eyes dropped.

In the gaps of stone walls, inside thorny bushes, and along the narrow gutter, scraps of colour waited to be seen. Wrappers lay folded and tired. Bits of plastic caught on thorns trembled with the air. The beauty still stood, but something had crept into it, something sharp and out of place.

An elderly neighbour walked past, returning from the bakery. His hair had faded to grey, and his steps carried the memory of decades spent on these lanes. In his hand hung a thin blue plastic bag. Inside, fresh rotis released steam, fogging the plastic from within. It was a sight repeated every morning in every home.

Bread carried home, hunger answered, and life moving forward.

For him, the bag meant ease, clean hands, and a simple solution. As he passed me, the bag swung lightly at his side. I watched it and felt a strange

weight settle in my chest.

That thin blue skin began to look like a layer slowly spreading over the village.

The sun climbed higher and reached the square. I stepped down from the porch and started walking. My boots met gravel, but they also met something else.

Dry plastic cracked underfoot, mixed with dust and earth. The sound followed me with each step.

I walked toward the heart of the mohalla, keeping my eyes on the ground. Every few steps, something appeared. The torn corner of a chips packet. Long strands of a polythene bag. A bottle cap pressed into the soil. A used baby diaper left to swell and fade.

These objects had settled into the earth, as if the ground itself had learned to wear a plastic coat.

The bakery stood ahead, a low stone room warmed by the fire inside. Heat from the tandoor rolled into the street. Manzoor Sahib worked with skilled hands and sharp focus. He pulled rotis from the clay walls and slipped them straight into plastic bags.

One after another, the motion flowed without thought.

I joined the line. Money passed from hand to hand. Bread passed back wrapped in plastic. The exchange moved smoothly, like a habit polished over years.

"Salam," the baker said, reaching for a bag. "Ten rotis today?"

I looked at the pile of bags on the counter. They shimmered faintly, waiting for their brief purpose. "I brought my own cloth bag," I said. "You can put them in here."

His hand stayed in the air. Confusion crossed his face, then faded. He nodded. "As you wish," he said. "It is more work for you. You will have to wash it."

He placed the rotis into my cloth wrap. The warmth spread through the fabric. When I stepped outside, the weight in my hands felt



I RETURNED HOME AND SAT ON THE GRASS STRAW MAT IN MY KITCHEN. I placed the rotis beside me and stared at the empty space where plastic usually lay. If I had taken a bag, it would sit in a bin, or burn in a yard, or sleep beneath the soil.

different.

The street told another story. Some early birds walked past holding packets of chips. Women returned from the market, arms full of bags in bright colours. Red for tomatoes. Yellow for onions. Green for spinach. Plastic moved through the morning with confidence, woven into every task.

As I walked home, my thoughts sharpened. Those bags were made from high-density polyethylene, a material built to last centuries. They served a journey that lasted minutes. The distance from the bakery to my kitchen measured three hundred meters. For those few steps, the land received something it would carry far longer than any of us.

Near the edge of the village, a small stream cut through the earth. Its water travelled onward to Wullar Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Asia. Water shaped this place. It gave Bandipora the word "Aab" in its name. In the center, the stream looked clean. Along the banks, plastic ruled.

It clung to rocks like false growth.

It wrapped around the roots of willow and poplar trees, tightening its grip. A used diaper sat wedged against a stone, heavy with water and waste. Sunlight caught its plastic skin and turned it bright.

This damage built itself through daily habits. Small choices repeated until they formed a pattern.

Standing there, a cold knot formed in my stomach. I had believed I cared for the land. That belief thinned under the weight of what I saw.

I returned home and sat on the grass straw mat in my kitchen. I placed the rotis beside me and stared at the empty space where plastic usually lay. If I had taken a bag, it would sit in a bin, or burn in a yard, or sleep beneath the soil.

I thought of my family, neighbours, and the whole mohalla. Five bags per house each day. The numbers rose quickly in my head. The image that followed felt heavy.

I opened my notebook, the one used for household expenses. On a blank page, I wrote a heading: The Daily Count. The words stood plain and firm. Vague concern no longer felt enough. I wanted numbers that spoke clearly. I wanted to see my own role without comfort or excuse.

The kitchen held the early morning stillness. My pen scratched against paper. Outside the window, a plastic bag hung caught in the branches of a willow tree. It flapped and twisted, held fast. The sight stayed with me.

That bag felt like a signal. Before speaking for the lake or the fields, I had work to do at my own door. I began to count. What the numbers would show remained unknown. Once written down, they would shape how I saw this village forever.

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The Age of Care

Migration, low fertility, and longer life expectancy are redefining Kashmir's households. A locally rooted care economy can turn this challenge into an opportunity.



Aksa Muzamil

In a Srinagar neighbourhood, an elderly woman begins her day alone. Her children work in the Gulf, and call when they can. She relies on neighbours and routine for meals, medicines, and errands.

Stories like hers are no longer rare, whether in city lanes or rural villages.

As young people leave Kashmir for work, parents and grandparents are left behind. Public conversations often focus on youth unemployment, while older residents are barely noticed.

But beyond buzz and brouhaha, a silent shift is happening in the valley, reshaping family life, work, and care.

Jammu and Kashmir is living longer and having fewer children. People aged 60 and above made up about 8 to 9 percent of the population in 2023. By 2036, this share is expected to rise to nearly 15 percent.

Youth migration speeds this up, leaving fewer working adults at home.

Falling birth rates make things harder.

At roughly 1.4 children per woman, Kashmir is well below what is needed to replace its population.

Even if fewer young people left, smaller families would still leave fewer hands to look after older parents.

Unemployment pushes this cycle further. More than 370,000 young



people were registered as unemployed by November 2025. Many move to big cities or abroad. The result is a thinning middle layer.

The valley is slowly filling with children and the elderly, while working-age adults disappear.

Care for older people falls almost entirely on families. This creates a trap.

Care work is unpaid and demanding. At the national level, such work is valued at between 7.5 and 15 percent of GDP. Experts estimate that investing in care services could create about 11 million jobs in India.

This, for Kashmir, means local jobs

that cannot be outsourced and do not need heavy industry.

Women bear most of this burden. They leave paid work or education to look after ageing parents.

A structured care economy could turn what women already do into paid, recognised work with income and social protection.

Today, elder care in Kashmir barely exists as a service. Old-age homes are rare. Assisted living and trained home-care workers are even rarer. Health care focuses on short-term illness, rather than long-term conditions like arthritis, dementia, or diabetes.

Families pay the price, financially

and emotionally.

Social isolation adds another strain. Studies show that about 13.4 percent of older people report frequent or severe loneliness. This links closely with chronic illness and rising medical costs.

Loneliness often shows up in hospital visits and poor health.

Full-time old-age homes remain unpopular due to social norms. But there are middle options.

Senior day-care centres, local social clubs, and community hubs can offer company and care during the day while letting elders stay in their own homes.

Ignoring this sector is a lost chance.

Care work creates steady jobs rooted in local communities. It suits a region with few factories and limited private industry. It also keeps young people closer to home.

Simple steps can unlock this potential.

Caregiver cooperatives can train unemployed youth, especially women, in home-based elder services. Community centres can become senior day spaces with basic health support and volunteer networks.

Startups can help too. Platforms can link migrant children with trusted local companions for their parents. Technology can support care without replacing human contact.

The J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 aims to support 2,000 new ventures. Care-focused startups should be clearly included, from simple health apps to elder-friendly devices.

Money makes this possible. Through silver bonds, non-resident Kashmiris can fund local elder care and help parents from afar.

Diaspora Care Credits offer another idea. A small, voluntary levy on remittances could be converted into care hours for parents. Migrants could track services digitally, while money flows into local jobs. Similar systems already work in countries like the Philippines.

Kashmir's ageing population is still missing from most policy debates. But its impact is already visible in women's lives, labour patterns, and family stress.

Building a care economy is not only about treating elders well. It is essentially about fixing a gap in how the valley plans its future. If ignored, this gap will only grow.

The time to act is now.

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Kashmir's ageing population is still missing from most policy debates. But its impact is already visible in women's lives, labour patterns, and family stress.

NC Urges Centre to Declare Rajouri, Poonch Floods a National Disaster

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The National Conference on Tuesday urged the Central government to declare the flash flood devastation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts a national disaster and announce

a comprehensive relief package for affected families. The demand was made by the party's Jammu provincial president, Rattan Lal Gupta, who described the widespread destruction caused by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides as a "humanitarian crisis"

requiring immediate national intervention. Expressing grief over the loss of lives and property, Gupta said the scale of devastation warranted the deputation of a central team to assess the damage and facilitate relief measures. "The people of Rajouri and

Poonch have suffered immense loss. This is not merely a regional disaster but a tragedy of national significance. The Government of India must declare it a national disaster and extend every possible support to help the affected people rebuild their lives," he said.

Gupta also sought adequate compensation for the families of those killed, financial assistance for rebuilding damaged homes and businesses, and speedy restoration of essential infrastructure in the affected districts. Since Sunday, rain-related incidents have claimed 23

lives across the Jammu region, while seven people remain missing. Poonch has been the worst affected, with 17 deaths and six persons missing, followed by Rajouri with three deaths and one missing. Three people also lost their lives in Doda district.

The National Conference leader also praised the Omar Abdullah-led Jammu and Kashmir government for its response to the crisis, saying the administration acted promptly by mobilising rescue teams, senior officials and relief machinery to the affected areas.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Flood Fury Deepens

Department warned of more heavy rainfall till July 23.

All major pilgrimages, including the Amarnath Yatra, Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra, Shiv Khori Yatra and Machail Mata Yatra, remained suspended for the third consecutive day because of persistent rainfall, landslides and the heightened threat of flash floods.

The Kashmir Valley witnessed widespread rainfall, with intense showers causing rivers and streams to swell dangerously.

In Budgam district's Beerwah town, the Sukhnag stream overflowed after heavy rainfall in the upper reaches, triggering flood-like conditions that swept away several shops, including portions of a municipal shopping complex near the main bus stand.

Floodwaters also washed away the Sukhnag Diversion, damaged a newly constructed bridge and eroded embankments along the stream.

A temporary alternative road serving as the only link connecting Beerwah with Budgam and Khansahib was extensively damaged, disrupting vehicular movement, while a drinking water supply pipeline was also damaged, affecting potable water supply to several localities.

Residents urged the administration to restore connectivity, repair the damaged water supply network and strengthen flood protection measures. Officials said an assessment of the damage was underway.

In neighbouring Khag area, a man identified as Shabir Ahmad Poswal, a resident of Drang village, was swept away near Gujarpati. Officials said he was feared dead and search teams were continuing efforts to trace him.

Water levels also rose sharply in streams flowing through Tangmarg in Baramulla district, inundating several houses and damaging agricultural and horticultural land.

Jammu Continues to Reel

Heavy rainfall lashed Jammu city and several parts of the region for the third consecutive day, inundating roads, disrupting traffic and affecting normal life.

According to the Meteorological Department, Katra recorded the highest rainfall at 107.1 mm during the 24-hour period ending Tuesday morning, followed by Poonch (61.5 mm), Reasi (54.5 mm), Rajouri (49 mm) and Jammu city (35 mm).

Heavy rainfall caused widespread waterlogging across Jammu city, with overflowing drains and nallahs raising concerns in low-lying areas. Residents reported rainwater entering homes and shops in several localities.

In Kathua district, two persons stranded in the middle of Bhini Nallah, a tributary of the Ujh River, were rescued by police and SDRF personnel after swift action.

The district received over 100 mm of rainfall, causing almost all rivers and streams to overflow. The Ujh River crossed the evacuation level at Panjitrithi, inundating low-lying areas, while waterlogging was reported along stretches of the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway.

The Tawi and Chenab rivers were also flowing close to the alert level.

Hundreds Rescued, Search Continues

Rescue and relief operations continued across the worst-hit districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Officials said more than 230 people had been rescued from flood-affected areas in Rajouri district, while nearly 450 displaced residents were being accommodated in relief centres equipped with food, drinking water, bedding, healthcare and other essential facilities.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma said over 100 vehicles had been washed away in flash floods while restoration of roads, power supply and drinking water was being undertaken on a war footing.

Search operations entered the third consecutive day in Surankote area of Poonch, where police and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams continued efforts to trace the seven persons reported missing since Sunday's flash floods and landslides.

In another incident, a 60-year-old man was injured after his mud house collapsed in Arai village of Mandi area and was shifted to the district hospital for treatment.

The Jammu-Poonch National Highway remained closed after a landslide at Shiendra Maidana in Surankote, while several highways and link roads across the region continued to be affected by landslides, mudslides and shooting stones.

Administration on High Alert

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti visited flood-hit areas of Poonch to re-view rescue, relief and restoration works.

The Divisional Commissioner directed officials to expedite restoration of essential services, assess damage and ensure timely assistance to affected families.

Managing Director of Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDL) Gurpal Singh also inspected damaged power infrastructure in Rajouri and Poonch and re-viewed restoration work on the 33 KV Doongi-Keri transmission line.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said rescue and relief operations were underway at the highest level and assured affected families of all possible assistance.

He said he had spoken to senior officials and deputy commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch to review the damage caused by heavy rain, flash floods and landslides.

"Our focus is on reopening key roads and restoring power and water supply. Out of 435 damaged roads, 356 have already been restored," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He added that teams of the SDRF, NDRF, Army, BRO, NHAI, J&K Police and Civil Defence were working in coordination while quick response teams remained deployed in vulnerable areas.

Government Steps Up Relief

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who has been monitoring the situation through back-to-back review meetings, announced an ex gratia of 6 lakh for the next of kin of each person killed in the rain-related incidents.

The assistance comprises 4 lakh from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and 2 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF).

The Chief Minister also deputed Ministers Javed Ahmed Rana and Satish Sharma to Rajouri and Poonch to supervise relief and rehabilitation efforts and ensure timely assistance reaches affected families.

During his visit to Rajouri, Satish Sharma inspected damaged infrastructure, relief camps and restoration works, assuring displaced families that the government would extend every possible assistance until normalcy is restored.

More Rain Forecast

The Meteorological Department said moderate rainfall continued across many parts of Kashmir, with isolated heavy to intense showers over Budgam, Kupwara, Baramulla, Ganderbal, parts of south Kashmir and the Chenab Valley.

The weather office warned of intense showers, thunderstorms, flash floods, landslides, mudslides, shooting stones and rising water levels in rivers and streams over the next two days.

Authorities have advised people to avoid unnecessary travel, stay away from rivers, nallahs and landslide-prone areas, and strictly follow official advisories as Jammu and Kashmir braces for another spell of heavy rain.

Relief Operations

at the highest level in the rain-battered districts of Jammu, asserting the Centre has assured all possible help to the affected people.

"Many lives have been lost due to heavy rains in Poonch and Rajouri which is extremely unfortunate. Rescue and relief operations are underway at the highest level. The administration, SDRF, NDRF, and police are all active on the ground," the LG told reporters on the sidelines of a valedictory function of the 100-day 'Nasha Mukht J-K' campaign here.

At least 23 people have been killed and seven others are missing in rain-related incidents in Poonch, Rajouri and Doda districts since Sunday.

Sinha said immediate assistance is being provided by the administration to the affected families.

"Most bodies have been recovered, and efforts are on to search for those who are still missing," he said.

The LG assured the affected families that the government and the administration stand with them with full sensitivity.

"The (Union) Home Minister also called and assured that all possible help from the Government of India will be provided. I believe that the administration officials on the ground are working with complete responsibility," he added.

On the 100-day 'Nasha Mukht' J-K campaign, Sinha said the administration has created a rehabilitation plan for the persons affected by drug menace.

"During this 100-day drive, individuals affected by drug addiction were identified, and a permanent rehabilitation policy is being prepared. Based on this, the campaign will continue in the future as well," he said.

Kashmir On

to remain prepared. We have activated 24x7 control rooms across Kashmir to monitor the situation and ensure a prompt response wherever required," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner said field officers have been instructed to maintain constant surveillance in vulnerable areas and take timely preventive measures to minimise any loss of life or damage to property.

Referring to the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Garg said all decisions regarding the movement of pilgrims and conduct of the annual pilgrimage would be taken strictly in accordance with weather advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"The safety and well-being of pilgrims remains our highest priority. Every decision regarding the Yatra will be based on the prevailing weather conditions and official IMD forecasts," he said.

The Amarnath Yatra has remained suspended for the past three days due to persistent rainfall, landslides and the heightened risk of flash floods.

The Divisional Commissioner urged residents and pilgrims to remain vigilant and rely only on official advisories for weather-related information.

Appealing to people not to pay heed to rumours, he said the administration was continuously monitoring the evolving weather situation and would issue timely updates whenever required.

Authorities have already advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel, stay away from

rivers, streams, nallahs and landslide-prone areas, as the Meteorological Department has forecast more spells of rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days.

Landslides Disrupt

and Ramban districts triggered mudslides and shooting stones at multiple locations along the highway, particularly near Sharda Mata Mandir and Thara, affecting traffic movement and posing a risk to commuters.

Road clearance teams, assisted by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), traffic police and other agencies, were deployed to remove debris and restore smooth movement on the strategic highway. Authorities advised commuters to check the latest traffic updates before undertaking their journey.

Meanwhile, a separate landslide was reported in the Nograta Saldhar area of Rajouri district, where continuous rainfall caused mud and rocks to slide onto roads, disrupting local connectivity. No casualties were reported.

The incidents come amid a weather alert issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which has forecast very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, flash floods and landslides in several districts of the Jammu region, including Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri, Samba, Kathua, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban.

Authorities have urged people to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly through landslide-prone stretches and hilly roads, and advised residents to stay away from rivers, streams and other flood-prone areas while following advisories issued by district administrations and disaster management authorities.

The ongoing wet spell has caused widespread damage across parts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past few days, with flash floods, landslides and cloudbursts damaging houses, roads, bridges, agricultural land and other public infrastructure.

Emergency response agencies remain on alert, while restoration teams continue to monitor vulnerable locations to ensure the timely reopening of roads and the safety of commuters

Fresh Weather

According to an advisory issued by the Office of the District Magistrate, Srinagar, the alert is in continuation of the weather advisory issued on July 19. The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, has predicted heavy to intense rainfall over the next two days, prompting the administration to step up precautionary measures across the district.

Residents, particularly those living in high-altitude and landslide-prone areas including Lidwas, Dagwan, Mamnaith Top, Mulnar, Fakir Gujri, Harwan, Gandtal, Dara and Astanmarg, have been advised to remain alert and shift to safer locations if they notice rising water levels, landslides or any other imminent threat.

The administration also advised tourists, visitors and Shikara operators to suspend boating and recreational activities on Dal and Nigeen lakes during the weather alert to prevent any untoward incidents. Sand miners operating along the River Jhelum and other water bodies have been directed not to undertake mining or river-crossing activities unless weather conditions and water levels are confirmed to be safe.

To facilitate emergency response, the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), Srinagar, has activated dedicated WhatsApp helplines at 9103998355, 9103998356 and 9103998357, while the Police Control Room (PCR), Srinagar, can be contacted on 0194-2477567.

J&K Extends School

vigilant and follow the advisories issued by the concerned authorities. Wishing everyone good health and safety," she said.

GMC Rajouri Gets 50

enhancement of MBBS seats at Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College Srinagar, approval has now been accorded for an additional 50 MBBS seats at Government Medical College Rajouri, increasing its intake capacity from 100 to 150 seats," she said.

The minister attributed the development to the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and said the government remains committed to expanding medical education, creating greater opportunities for students and strengthening the healthcare system across Jammu and Kashmir.

Smart City Works

described the situation as unacceptable. "It is a matter of shame for us that even the ground floor of the Civil Secretariat was under water. This is not a normal situation," he said.

He acknowledged that the government was deploying all available resources to improve Srinagar's drainage system but said the problem had accumulated over decades.

"This is such an old problem. Those before us neither resolved it nor seriously attempted to. It cannot be fixed overnight," he said.

Taking a swipe at the previous administration over the implementation of the Smart City project, Abdullah questioned how the funds allocated under the programme had been utilised.

"Those who brought the Smart City project here, implemented it and left the remaining work for us to complete should be asked where the Smart City money went, apart from the

footpaths built along the Jhelum," he said.

The Chief Minister said the Cabinet had already decided to order a third-party audit after noticing a gap between the project's stated objectives and its actual outcomes.

"The order is yet to be implemented, but it will be taken forward," he said, adding that the government would continue efforts to strengthen Srinagar's drainage network and address long-standing deficiencies in urban infrastructure.

His remarks came a day after several parts of Srinagar were submerged following hours of intense rainfall, disrupting traffic, inundating markets and residential areas, and triggering widespread criticism over the city's drainage infrastructure despite years of investment under the Smart Cities Mission.

KCCI Welcomes Decision

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) welcomed the Chief Minister's assurance that traders whose shops, business establishments and goods were damaged by the recent waterlogging would receive compensation.

In a statement, the Chamber said the announcement offered much-needed relief to the trading community, which suffered significant losses after commercial areas across Srinagar remained inundated following the heavy rainfall.

KCCI also welcomed the government's decision to subject the Smart City project to a third-party audit, saying it had consistently advocated an independent technical assessment of the city's drainage and stormwater network.

The Chamber urged the government to extend the audit beyond Smart City projects to cover the entire drainage system across Srinagar and other urban centres, arguing that recurring flooding had exposed serious shortcomings in planning, design and execution.

Calling for a scientific assessment of the existing drainage infrastructure, KCCI said future urban development projects should incorporate environmental impact assessments, hydrological studies and climate-resilient planning while protecting wetlands, floodplains, green belts and other natural water absorption areas that play a crucial role in mitigating urban flooding. (KNO)

J&K Wraps Up

town, voices have united against drug abuse. This collective resolve must continue until Jammu and Kashmir becomes completely drug-free," Sinha said.

Sinha said he travelled across all 20 districts during the campaign, interacting with families affected by drug abuse. He said the padyatra exposed him to the pain of parents fearing for their children's future, but also revealed "unprecedented public support" for the campaign.

The campaign witnessed large-scale public participation through padyatras, awareness drives, rallies and outreach programmes conducted across the Union Territory. Citizens from Kupwara in north Kashmir to Kathua in Jammu participated in anti-drug initiatives, reinforcing what the administration described as a people-led movement.

Officials credited the success of the campaign to coordinated efforts by law enforcement agencies, district administrations, health departments, educational institutions and civil society organisations.

The administration also highlighted the role of mothers and women in identifying cases of substance abuse, encouraging treatment and rehabilitation, and helping remove the social stigma associated with addiction.

According to officials, Panchayat women's committees, senior citizens, youth clubs and former servicemen emerged as important community partners in spreading awareness and preventing drug abuse at the grassroots level.

The campaign also witnessed extensive enforcement action against drug traffickers and their support networks.

According to official figures released at the conclusion of the campaign:

2,027 FIRs were registered under anti-narcotics laws.

2,301 drug smugglers were arrested.

Over 1,300 kilograms of narcotic substances were seized.

Properties worth 139 crore linked to drug trafficking were attached.

Action was taken against 254 chemist shops for violations.

370 driving licences were cancelled.

Registration of 750 vehicles was cancelled.

3,000 Aadhaar cards were cancelled.

Authorities recommended the impounding of 205 passports linked to offenders.

Officials said these measures were aimed not only at arresting traffickers but also at dismantling the wider financial and logistical infrastructure supporting the narcotics trade.

Reiterating the government's policy, Sinha said there would be "zero tolerance" towards drug smugglers and narco-terrorists.

"No smuggler or narco-terrorist will find a safe haven on this sacred land," he said, adding that while the administration would pursue ruthless action against traffickers, it would simultaneously ensure care, compassion and rehabilitation for individuals struggling with addiction.

J&K Orders 3-Month

security of eligible beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies

and Consumer Affairs, said the advance lifting, transportation and distribution of foodgrains would be carried out in close coordination with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) and district administrations.

The department has directed the Directors of FCS&CA, Jammu and Kashmir, to personally monitor the lifting, transportation and distribution of foodgrains to ensure the exercise is completed within the stipulated timeline and that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of their entitlement.

Instructions have also been issued to all concerned officers, Fair Price Shop dealers and other stakeholders to ensure timely lifting, transportation and distribution of foodgrains, with the entire exercise scheduled to conclude by August 31.

Statehood Key

should prioritise the restoration of Article 370 and Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Abdullah said statehood was a prerequisite for any meaningful discussion on constitutional guarantees.

"Some people ask us to first talk about Article 370 or special status. I want to ask them, what does Article 370 or any special status mean without statehood?" he said.

Explaining the party's position, Abdullah said there could be no real power-sharing between the Centre and a Union Territory because all executive authority ultimately rests with the Union government.

"There is no sharing of powers between the Centre and a Union Territory because a Union Territory has no state list. All powers lie either with the Centre or the Lieutenant Governor. Every Cabinet decision goes to Raj Bhavan first," he said.

He said the debate over special status is fundamentally about the distribution of powers between the Union and the state.

"How do you talk about power-sharing without a state list? Statehood is the foundation. Once that foundation is laid, we can build upon it," he added.

Special Status Resolution 'Still Alive'

Abdullah rejected suggestions that the National Conference had abandoned its commitment to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

He pointed out that the Assembly had passed a resolution on the issue during its first session after the formation of the elected government.

"We passed the resolution on the very first day of the Assembly session after government formation. That resolution is still alive," he said.

However, he maintained that any meaningful discussion on the resolution could only take place after statehood is restored.

Hits Back at Critics

The chief minister also criticised opposition parties for questioning the NC's statehood campaign while failing to support the party's protest in Delhi.

He said all like-minded political parties had been invited to join the demonstration.

"Not only did they not join us, they made every effort to ridicule our efforts. Those who claim to sympathise with the people of Jammu and Kashmir forget that sympathy when such occasions arise," he said.

Abdullah also dismissed criticism over the size of the protest, saying those who participated had travelled on their own without any assistance from the party.

"We did not book plane tickets, reserve train coaches or arrange vehicles for anyone. Everyone who came did so voluntarily," he said.

J&K Revises

accordance with the amended rules.

The amendment has been incorporated as the second proviso below Note 4 of Rule 20 of the Jammu and Kashmir Family Pension-cum-Gratuity Rules, 1964, contained in Schedule XV of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, Volume II.

The Finance Department said the revised provisions will come into force with immediate effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

J&K Cyber Crime

registering a decline last year.

Ladakh recorded one case in 2020, five in 2021, three in 2022, one in 2023 and one in 2024.

Nationally, cyber crime cases continued to rise sharply, with the NCRB registering 1,01,928 cases in 2024, up from 86,420 in 2023, 65,893 in 2022, 52,974 in 2021 and 50,035 in 2020.

The Ministry said the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has strengthened the country's response to cyber-enabled financial fraud through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS).

According to the Ministry, the system had helped save more than 11,158 crore in over 32.80 lakh complaints as of June 30, 2026.

Between 2021 and 2025, more than 65.89 lakh financial fraud complaints involving over 55,050 crore were reported through the portal. Authorities marked over 8,189 crore under lien and registered more than 1.95 lakh FIRs during the period.

The Centre said cyber crimes are investigated by state and Union Territory police, as police and public order are State subjects, while the Union Government supports them through policy guidance, technology, funding and capacity building.

Ministers Javed Rana, Satish Sharma Visit Rajouri, Review Flood Relief Measures

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana accompanied by Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Information Technology, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma today visited Rajouri to review the flood situation, inspect relief measures, and assess the restoration of essential services in the district.

The Ministers visited the Relief and Rehabilitation Centre established at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Rajouri, where they interacted with the families shifted to the centre. They enquired about their well-being and reviewed



the facilities being provided by the District Administration, including accommodation, food, drinking water, healthcare and other essential services.

Later, the Ministers held a high-level review meeting attended by MLAs, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, and senior district and sectoral officers to assess the

overall situation and review the ongoing relief, rescue and restoration efforts.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the Ministers about the prevailing ground situation, relief measures undertaken by the district administration, restoration of water supply and other essential services, and the immediate re-

quirements for rehabilitation in the flood-affected areas.

After reviewing the requirements, the Ministers announced immediate support for strengthening the water supply infrastructure and restoring essential services.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Rana announced the establishment of 20 minor water supply schemes at an estimated cost of ₹15 lakh each (₹3 crore), provision of transformers for 10 water supply locations at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore, 1,000 water storage crates at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore, procurement of five dewatering pumps costing approximately ₹2.5 lakh, provision of five 125 KVA generator sets at an estimated cost of ₹50 lakh, and ₹4 crore for the restoration of damaged water supply

schemes. The Minister stated that these interventions would provide immediate relief to the affected population and help restore essential public services at the earliest.

The Ministers appreciated the prompt response and dedicated efforts of the District Administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, along with all line departments, in carrying out rescue operations, providing relief to affected families, and ensuring the restoration of essential services despite challenging conditions.

The meeting was attended by all district and sectoral officers, who also presented updates on the status of relief operations and restoration works in their respective departments.

CM, LG Condole Death of Shaleen Kabra's Father

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday offered his condolences on the death of the father of Shaleen Kabra, a senior bureaucrat. Abdullah prayed for strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also paid his condolences.

"My deepest condolences to Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, on the sad demise of his father Shri Ramprasad Kabra. I pray to the Almighty to grant strength to the bereaved family members to bear this loss. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace," he said on X. As per PTI, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said, "May the Almighty grant the departed soul eternal peace and give strength to Shri Shaleen Kabra and the entire bereaved family to bear this profound loss." (Observer News Service)

Israeli National Held with Suspected Narcotic Substances in Zanskar

ZANSKAR: Police in Zanskar have arrested an Israeli national after recovering suspected narcotic substances during checking at the Kargyak Check Post, officials said on Tuesday.

According to police, the foreign national was intercepted during routine checking at the Kargyak Check Post, where officers allegedly recovered substances suspected to be charas, ganja and a heroin-like substance from his possession.

Following the seizure, the accused was taken into custody and shifted to the police station for further legal proceedings.

Police have registered an FIR (No. 23/2026) under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the source of the contraband and whether the accused had any links to a wider narcotics network.

Officials said the seized substances have been taken into custody and will be subjected to forensic examination to determine their exact nature and quantity. As per KNT, Police said further investigation into the case is in progress. (Observer News Service)

J&K Gets 19 Crop Storage Projects: Centre

SRINAGAR: The Central government on Tuesday informed Parliament that Jammu and Kashmir has been sanctioned 19 crop storage infrastructure projects with a cumulative storage capacity of 99,937 metric tonnes under the Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) scheme as part of efforts to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure and reduce losses.

According to a written reply tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Centre is implementing the AMI sub-scheme under the Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to enhance warehousing, cold storage and marketing infrastructure for farmers across the country. The reply, accessed by KNO, stated that under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, Jammu and Kashmir has been sanctioned 33 cold storage and cold chain projects besides 16 warehouse projects.

It further said that under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Jammu and Kashmir has received approval for 76 cold storage projects with a combined storage capacity of 3,52,206 metric tonnes. These include nine projects supported by the National Horticulture Board and 67 projects under the National Horticulture Mission. (Observer News Service)

Modern Footbridge to Replace Sopore's Historic Bakhshi-Era Bridge

SOPORE: More than two decades after the historic Bakhshi-era Chankhan bridge was declared unsafe for vehicular traffic, and years after it was completely abandoned, Sopore town is set to get a modern footbridge. The new Chankhan to Ashpeer footbridge will replace the iconic bridge built over river Jehlum in 1953 during the tenure of the then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Mohammad Bakhshi.

MLA Irshad Rasool Kar, while calling the bridge a lifeline for the people, told KNO that the Rs 9.16 crore project would restore a vital pedestrian link and improve connectivity for thousands of residents living on either side of the river. The old Chankhan bridge had served the people of Sopore for decades before it was declared unsafe for vehicular traffic in 1999. Despite the restriction, it continued to be used by pedestrians until 2019, when authorities stopped movement after the bridge developed major cracks and its central pillar collapsed. (Observer News Service)

MD JPDCL Reviews Flood Restoration Works

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Managing Director JPDCL Gurpal Singh conducted an extensive inspection of flood-affected areas in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to assess the damage caused to the power infrastructure due to the heavy rainfall and flash floods during the intervening night of 18-19 July 2026.

The inspection commenced with a visit to the restoration site of the 33 KV Doongi-Keri, where restoration works are being carried out on a war footing. The Managing Director reviewed the progress of works and instructed the field officers to expedite restoration while adhering to prescribed safety standards.

The team also visited Dhangri, where the 33 KV Bypass Line and the dedicated 11 KV PHE feeder were extensively damaged in the flash floods. Officers informed the Managing Director that power supply to the area had been restored through the existing 33 KV network as an interim arrangement. Appreciating the prompt response of the field staff, he directed that permanent restoration works be completed at the earliest.

During the visit to Badala Mang, Panjpeer and Salani Bridge, the Managing Director inspected the ongoing restoration of the 33 KV and 11 KV Manjakote lines and reviewed the challenges being faced at various locations. At

Bela Bus Stand, Rajouri, he assessed the extensive damage caused to the 33 KV and 11 KV network, distribution transformers and associated infrastructure and directed the officers to mobilise all available resources for early restoration.

The inspection team later proceeded towards Thanamandi via Fatehpura, where unloading of poles and restoration materials was in progress. The Managing Director also visited locations where severe damage had occurred to the 132 KV transmission tower line of JKPTCL, resulting in disruption of power supply to Poonch district. He reviewed the restoration being implemented by the corporation concerned.

DC Budgam Visits Beerwah, Narbal Areas To Assess Flood Situation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan visited various flood-prone areas of Beerwah and Narbal areas to assess the situation following incessant rainfall and the rise in water levels in Nallah Sukhnag and its tributaries.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ground situation at Main Town Beerwah, Hanjigund, Makhama, Chawdara, Kanihama, Malpur, Sanoor, Narbal, Mazhama and inspected vulnerable locations, and took stock of the preparedness and response measures put in place by the district administration.

He directed high alert and immediate activation of all rescue and emergency response teams including Police, SDRF, Civil Defence, Fire & Emergency Services and other line departments, to ensure prompt response to any eventuality. He instructed officers to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of nallahs, drains and other vulnerable locations and remain fully prepared for emergency response.

The Deputy Commissioner said that Station House Officers (SHOs), field officers and rescue teams are on the ground, continuously monitoring the situation and advising residents in vulnerable areas to evacuate wherever necessary as a precautionary measure.

any measure.

Appealing to the public to extend full cooperation to the administration, the Deputy Commissioner urged people to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary and strictly avoid venturing near nallahs, embankments, breached spots and other flood-prone areas. He also advised people not to gather near water bodies out of curiosity, as such actions could endanger lives. He further urged residents living close to nallahs or other vulnerable locations to immediately comply with evacuation advisories issued by the police or local administration and shift to safer places until the situation improves.

UAPA Accused Nabbed in Anantnag Using Facial Recognition

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- A UAPA accused was apprehended after he was flagged by the facial recognition system deployed for the ongoing annual Amarnath yatra in Anantnag district in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Tuesday.

As part of the intensified security arrangements for the yatra, earlier, the police, with the assistance of FRS, apprehended an Over Ground Worker (OGW) on July 11 and three others on July 8.

He said the individual was identified as Danish Amin Reshi, a resident of Veersaran.

During verification, the FRS generated an alert indicating his involvement in a previous criminal case, the spokesman said.

Upon further verification, it was found that Reshi is involved in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at Police Station Pahalgam, the spokesman added. The accused was immediately taken into custody for further legal proceedings in accordance with the law, he said.

Anantnag Police continues to employ advanced technological tools, including the FRS, as part of the multi-layered security grid established for the yatra.



Residents make their way through a rain-drenched street in Srinagar's downtown amid fresh monsoon showers on Tuesday. PIC: ABID BHAT

Er Rashid Begins Barefoot March from Tihar to Parliament

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jailed Baramulla Member of Parliament Er Rashid on Tuesday began a symbolic barefoot march from Tihar Jail to Parliament while observing a day long hunger strike, pressing for a meaningful, time bound and result oriented dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir.

The AIP chief spokesperson Inam Un Nabi told KNO that the protest is aimed at urging the Government of India to initiate dialogue with elected representatives and other legitimate stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir to address the region's political issues.

The party said Er Rashid is also demanding the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A, along with the restoration of all democratic and constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT
INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, GANDERBAL
E-MAIL : iti-ganderbal@jk.gov.in/itiganderbalnew@gmail.com



No.ITI/GBL/Estt/2026/208-22

Dated: 21-07-2026

Selection List No. 01 of 2026 Dated:-20-07-2026

Candidates who had applied for online admission under various courses available at Govt. Industrial Training Institute, Duderhama, Ganderbal advertised vide Notification. No.: ITI/GBL/Trgs/2026/102-08 Dt. 30-05-2026 are informed that the Selection List Round 1 for the Academic Session 2026-27/28 stands generated and shall be available at Govt. ITI Ganderbal and on official website of this Institute i.e. www.itiganderbal.com.

Accordingly, the selected candidates are directed that the first round of admission process shall commence from 21th of July 2026 and will close on 30th July 2026. The selected candidates shall attend the Training section of ITI Ganderbal along with following documents in original as well as Xerox (in proper file) so that the admission formalities are completed.

1.

Date of Birth Certificate.

2.

Marks card of the qualifying examination.

3.

Domicile Certificate.

4.

Category Certificate (SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PWD/Ex-servicemen), if any.

5.

Discharge certificate of last school/college/institute attended.

6.

Photocopy of ADHAAR Card, self-attested.

7.

Two Passport Size Photographs.

Note: For any query contact on below mentioned contact No.'s

1.

Masood Ahmad Kawoosa, Senior Faculty (9906561844)

2.

Mohammad Kumail, Jr. Assistant (7006295889)

3.

Muzzafar Nazir Bhat, Jr. Assistant (7006836117)

4.

Rayees Ahmad Bhat, VI, Guest Faculty (7006271387)

DIPK-3547-26

Superintendent,
ITI Ganderbal.

DT: 21/07/2026



GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR
(ACADEMIC SECTION)



Subject: Engagement of Dr. Muzzamil Ahmad Andrabi as Senior Resident on Academic Arrangement Basis, in the Department of Nephrology, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Reference: i)This office Advertisement No. 07 of 2026 Dated. 07.05.2026.
ii)Character and Antecedent verification report received from CID, J&K vide Form No. 161032 Dated. 18.07.2026.

OFFICE ORDER NO: 721-RA OF 2026.

DATED: 21-07-2026.

Pursuant to the Selection list issued vide this office Notification No. 19-RA of 2026 Dated. 02.06.2026 and on the basis of Satisfactory verification report of Character & Antecedents by Criminal Investigation Department (CID), J&K, Dr. Muzzamil Ahmad Andrabi, DM, not In-service candidate is provisionally engaged as Senior Resident in the Department of Nephrology on Academic Arrangement Basis under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020 and Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024 initially for a period of one year, which is extendable upto maximum period of (03) years only on the basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD. The appointment of the above doctor is further subject to the following terms and conditions: -

1.

The selected candidate is supposed to submit his joining report alongwith affidavits in the office of the undersigned duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate to the effect that: -

a.

He is not In-service candidate, the information if found wrong the selectee shall be punished under Rules which includes confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.

b.

He will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of his tenure engagement. In the event he proceeds on strike, his tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.

c.

He shall remain disciplined during the whole tenure; any kind of misconduct shall make him liable for termination without any prior notice.

d.

He is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against him.

e.

He shall not claim any experience certificate in case he leaves Senior Residency before completion at least of six months.

f.

He will not indulge in any private practice. In case he is found doing private practice; his appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.

g.

He shall not claim for further extension beyond three years tenure under any circumstances.

2.

The above doctor shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on the prescribed format (Form A) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement same can be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar.

3.

The appointee is required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of this order; failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

4.

The Senior Resident appointed on an Academic Arrangement Basis shall be paid as per S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.

5.

The Senior Resident appointed on Academic Arrangement Basis shall be entitled for leaves as per the Government Order No. 451-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 08.07.2024.

No: GMCS/RA/SR/Neph/3785-90/MC

Dated: 21/07/2026

DIPK-3498-26

DT: 21/07/2026

Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College
Srinagar

Wangchuk Shifted to Medanta



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Activist Sonam Wangchuk was discharged from the Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday evening and shifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram for further treatment in compliance with a Delhi High Court order, officials said.

Wangchuk was brought to the Medanta Hospital in an ambulance at 7:28 pm under tight security. He has been admitted to ICU 8 and his treatment has begun under the supervision of Dr Sushila Kataria, an internal medicine specialist, said a Medanta Hospital official.

Earlier, the Delhi High Court ordered immediate shifting of Wangchuk, who has been on an indefinite fast since June 28 over alleged examination irregularities, from the Safdarjung Hospital here to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram.

"Sonam Wangchuk has been discharged from VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital today at 06:40 pm and has been handed over to the team of doctors from Medanta Hospital, Gurugram for further medical care as per the order dated 21.07.2026 of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi," a statement from the Safdarjung Hospital said.

"At the time of discharge, his vital parameters were stable. However, pancytopenia persists, and his serum potassium level was 3.4 mEq/L.

"Copies of all relevant medical records, investigation reports, and treatment documents have been handed over to the receiving medical team to ensure continuity of care," the statement said.

Following the court's order, the Gurugram police increased security in and around the Medanta Hospital.

Wangchuk was admitted to ICU 8 on the second floor of the hospital and he will remain in the ICU tonight, the Medanta official said.

Protesters Return To Jantar Mantar After Parliament March

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A day after their Parliament march, hundreds of students and supporters returned to Jantar Mantar on Tuesday, saying the "use of force by police" had only strengthened their resolve to continue the agitation.

The protest site remained packed through the afternoon as students, joined by parents and supporters, raised slogans over the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination and reiterated their demand for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Many protesters said Monday's confrontation with the security personnel had failed to deter them and instead drawn more people to the movement.

Delhi University student Sakshi Chanda, who participated in Monday's march to Parliament, alleged that the police action had only intensi-



fied the protest.

"The kind of police brutality we witnessed yesterday only strengthened our resolve. We have come back because this movement has been built through the sacrifices of so many. We cannot allow that to go in vain. We will continue until our voices are heard," she said.

Standing beside her, Chanda's mother said parents had a responsibility to stand with students.

"I came here today because this is about the future of our

children. If we do not stand with them now, who will? They are asking questions about their education and careers, and they deserve to be heard," she said.

Several students at the site said the protest had grown beyond the issue of the alleged paper leak and had become a broader movement for accountability in the education system, even as chants of "Dharmendra Pradhan, istifa do (Dharmendra Pradhan, resign)" and "not an inch backward" echoed across Jantar Mantar.

Ritika Sharma, a postgraduate student, said the protest was about transparency and fairness in competitive exams. "Many of us have spent years preparing for competitive examinations. We are not here for politics; we are here because students deserve transparency and fairness," she said.

The protest also drew participants from outside Delhi.

Aditya Singh, who had travelled from neighbouring Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, claimed the police action had failed to discourage protesters.

"We saw barricades, detentions and force yesterday, but none of that has reduced the turnout today. If anything, more people are joining because they feel students are being treated unfairly," he said.

"History shows that people in power often forget that when citizens take to the streets to ask questions, it is very hard to silence them," he added.

Netizens Hail Mumbai Man for Feeding Delhi Protesters



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A video of a food delivery boy arriving at the Jantar Mantar protest site with packets of food in the early hours of Tuesday has surfaced on social media, even as BJP's agitation demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged paper leaks continued a day after their protest stage was dismantled at the location.

The video, widely shared across social media platforms, shows a delivery partner associated with an online food delivery platform reaching the protest site amid heavy rain with packets of food ordered and paid for by a Mumbai resident.

Displaying the order details on his mobile phone, the delivery partner says the food was ordered by a person identified as Anuj Rawat from Mumbai, Maharashtra, with instructions to distribute it among anyone who was hungry at the protest site.

"Someone named Anuj Rawat from Mumbai, Maharashtra, ordered the food and asked us to distribute it to anyone who is hungry at Jantar Mantar. The payment has already been made online," the delivery partner says in the video. "He said that anyone who needs food or is hungry can have it," he adds.

The clip has since garnered widespread attention online, with many social media users praising the gesture. Several users described it as an example

Someone named Anuj Rawat from Mumbai, Maharashtra, ordered the food and asked us to distribute it to anyone who is hungry at Jantar Mantar. The payment has already been made online,"

of solidarity with the protesters, while others commented that "humanity is not lost."

The video surfaced a day after thousands of protesters participating in the Cockroach Janta Party's 'Sansad Chalo' march were stopped by police near Parliament Street amid heavy barricading.

Protesters alleged that police resorted to a lathi charge and used tear gas to disperse the crowd, allegations on which Delhi Police has not publicly responded.

The agitation continued on Tuesday, with hundreds of students and supporters returning to Jantar Mantar and reiterating that they would continue the protest until their demands, including Pradhan's resignation, were addressed.

Rahul, Priyanka, Akhilesh Detained Near PM's Residence

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In a dramatic turn of events, opposition leaders, including Congress's Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and Samajwadi Party's (SP) Akhilesh Yadav, were forcibly removed by police on Tuesday after they staged a dharna outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence here, demanding his resignation.

The surprise sit-in in the high-security zone sent the government into a tizzy, prompting it to rush Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh, along with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, to persuade the oppo-

sition leaders to vacate the sensitive site.

Gandhi's discussion with the minister lasted a few minutes, after which Singh and the home secretary left as the talks remained inconclusive.

Soon after Singh left the protest site, police forcibly removed and detained Gandhi and other leaders in the evening.

Congress leaders said Gandhi was taken to the Chhatrasal stadium in Model Town after his detention.

As police swooped down on the site, Gandhi, who is the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, was seen lying on the ground and resisting as the security personnel tried to pick him up. The

Congress leader was hurt in the process.

"Democracy in India is happening right now," Gandhi told reporters as police tried to remove him from the site.

An aide of the former Congress chief told PTI that Gandhi suffered an injury below the eye, as well as minor injuries on his hands and legs.

Later, Gandhi shared pictures on X of police removing him from the protest site and said, "Modiji, try every pressure, exert all your might -- this fight for justice for students will not stop now."

There were dramatic scenes, with Priyanka Gandhi hanging on the door of the police bus even after it started moving.

Govt Ready for Debate on NEET in Parliament

The government on Tuesday said it is ready to discuss all issues relating to the NEET exam and the movement associated with it in Parliament, after Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi sat on a dharna outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence.

In a strongly worded statement, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh, who along with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan met Gandhi and urged him to end his sit-in, alleged that the LoP "backtracked" from his earlier demand for a debate and said it does not befit a leader of his stature. (PTI)



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POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

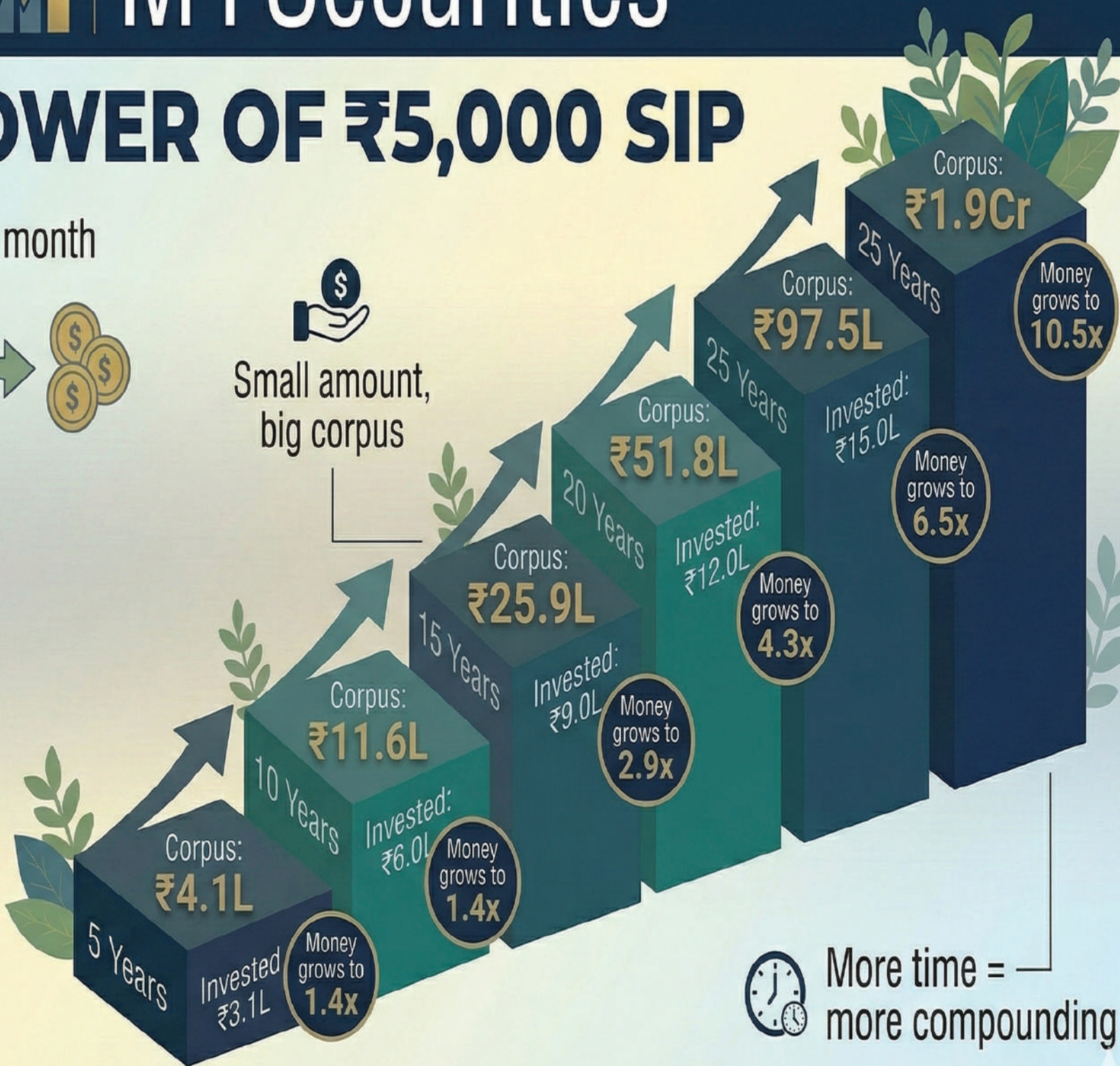
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
5	3.0L
10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus



More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.