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JKBOSE, KU Postpone July 23 Exams



Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education has postponed the Annual (Private)/Bi-Annual 2026 examinations of Class 11 (HSP-I), scheduled for July 23. Fresh dates for the postponed examinations shall be notified separately.

Examinations of the Jammu and Kashmir State Open School (JKSOS) for Classes 10 and 12 shall be held as per dates already notified.

The University of Kashmir also postponed all examinations scheduled to be held on July 23 in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions.

According to a notice issued by the Office of the Controller of Examinations, all University examinations slated for July 23, 2026, have been postponed.

The notice stated that the revised dates for the postponed examinations/papers will be notified separately in due course.

"In view of the inclement weather conditions, all University examinations scheduled to be held on

Heavy Rain Wreaks Havoc Across J&K, 5 More Killed

Roads closed, flood alerts issued; Jhelum remains below warning level, say officials



Photo : Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least five people were killed, key highways were shut, rivers and streams swelled dangerously, and widespread damage was

reported across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as incessant rainfall triggered flash floods, landslides and waterlogging, prompting authorities to intensify rescue operations and issue fresh

flood advisories.

While the worst impact was reported from the Jammu region, officials maintained that there was no immediate flood threat from the Jhelum in the | [More on P6](#)

Kathua Records Season's Heaviest Rain; Gulmarg Tops Kashmir

Katra records coldest July day on record; MeT warns of fresh downpour

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Widespread moderate to heavy rainfall lashed Jammu and Kashmir over the past 24 hours, with Kathua recording the highest precipitation in the Union Territory and Gulmarg receiving the maximum rainfall in the Kashmir Valley, even as the Meteorological Department forecast another spell of intense rain and thunderstorms across

several districts.

The prolonged rainfall also brought an unusual drop in daytime temperatures, with Katra recording its coldest July day on record amid persistent cloud cover.

Kathua Records Highest Rainfall

According to rainfall data shared by independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif of Kashmir Weather, Kathua | [More on P6](#)

9 Still Missing As Search Intensifies in Poonch

Joint teams of the police and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Wednesday continued an extensive search operation for nine people who remain missing after devastating flash floods struck Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district earlier this week. At least 16 people lost their lives while nine | [More on P6](#)

Chenab, Tawi Flow Above Danger Mark

The Chenab River at Akhnoor and the Tawi River in Jammu were flowing above the danger mark on Wednesday following incessant rainfall across the region, prompting authorities to issue fresh safety advisories and intensify monitoring of the flood situation. According to the | [More on P6](#)

Intensify Rescue, Relief Efforts: LG

Advises Against Unnecessary Travel in Vulnerable Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of the situation arising from heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides across the Union Territory, directing all concerned departments to intensify rescue operations, expedite restoration works and ensure public safety in vulnerable areas.

The Lieutenant Governor said he remained in constant touch with senior officials and received regular updates on the ground situation and relief efforts in the affected districts.

"I spoke with senior officials today to assess the ground situation in districts affected by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said in a post on X.

During the review, Sinha was briefed on the ongoing efforts of the district administrations, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Indian Army, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the Health, Public Works and Jal Shakti departments.

He directed all agencies to further | [More on P6](#)

ANANTNAG ATTACK

Police Warn Against Sharing 'Unverified' Content

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hours after a Jammu and Kashmir Police head constable was shot dead in a targeted terror attack in Anantnag, the Cyber Police on Wednesday urged media organisations and the public not to share or circulate unverified photographs, videos or other sensitive content related to the incident, warning that violators would face legal action.

In an advisory, the Cyber Police said the circulation of unverified or operationally sensitive material could hamper ongoing investigations, aid hostile elements and compromise public security.

"Strict legal action will be initiated against anyone found sharing | [More on P6](#)

Cop On Amarnath Duty Shot Dead In Anantnag

Over 2,000 OGWs Detained; TRF Claims Responsibility



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the first terror attack targeting police personnel in the Kashmir Valley this year, a lone terrorist, believed to be a Pakistani national, shot dead a Jammu and Kashmir Police

head constable deployed on Amarnath Yatra security duty in South Kashmir's Anantnag town on Wednesday, triggering a massive anti-terror operation and a Valley-wide crackdown in which nearly 2,000 suspected | [More on P6](#)

3 Decades Later, Another Coffin Returns Home

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Three decades after the Qureshi family of Lolipora in central Kashmir's Beerwah lost its patriarch in the line of duty, tragedy struck the household once again on Wednesday when terrorists

killed Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi while he was deployed on Amarnath Yatra security duty in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

For the family, the loss reopened wounds that had never fully healed.

Ashiq's father, Head Constable | [More on P6](#)

Heinous Act Will Not Go Unpunished: LG Sinha

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday strongly condemned the killing of a policeman in a | [More on P6](#)

BEERWAH FLOODS

Every Possible Assistance Will Be Provided: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday visited flood-hit Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district to assess the damage caused by flash floods that washed away a shopping complex and several shops, assuring affected traders that the government would provide compensation and rehabilitation to those who had obtained valid permissions for their establishments.

Massive flash floods triggered by torrential rainfall struck Beerwah on Tuesday afternoon, causing widespread devastation, washing away a shopping complex and around two dozen shops besides damaging public infrastructure.



Interacting with affected traders, Abdullah said owners and tenants should submit the relevant documents to the Deputy Commissioner's office so that their claims could be verified and processed. | [More on P6](#)

Ex-Policeman Chargesheeted In Fake HC Job Scam

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Crime Branch on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against a former policeman for allegedly duping several people by falsely promising them jobs in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and issuing forged appointment orders in exchange for money.

The chargesheet was filed by the Special Crime Wing (SCW), Jammu, before a Jammu court against former Selection Grade Constable Mohd Tahir, a resident of Mendhar in Poonch district, Senior Superintendent of Police (SCW) Sanjay Parihar said.

According to the police, the case was registered earlier this year under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS) following two written complaints alleging that Tahir had lured job aspirants with assurances of securing appointments in the High Court.

The complainants allegedly paid him money through bank transfers and cash. In return, they were handed appointment orders purportedly issued by the High Court. However, official verification later confirmed that the documents were forged.

During the investigation, the Crime Branch collected documentary, financial and oral evidence, including bank account statements, forged appointment orders seized during the probe, and witness statements recorded under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The High Court | [More on P6](#)

Things Moving Very Well: SC On Police Station CCTVs

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the nationwide drive to install CCTV cameras in police stations has "taken a positive turn" in recent months, while asking the Centre to address concerns related to funding and maintenance of the surveillance systems.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta made the observation while hearing a suo motu case on the lack of functional CCTV cameras in police stations across the country.

"It is heartening to note that in this matter, things are moving very well," the bench said, while appreciating

senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, the court-appointed amicus curiae, for his efforts in monitoring the implementation of its directions.

The court was informed that substantial progress has been made in installing CCTV cameras in police stations. Dave also placed before the bench a note based on a July 11 meeting attended by representatives of the Centre, states and Union Territories.

During the hearing, the bench highlighted two pending issues: the extension of the funding scheme for CCTV installation and the maintenance of cameras already installed. The law officer | [More on P6](#)

Cong, BJP Battle On Streets As Student Agitation Spirals



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The spiralling agitation over the NEET issue saw protests and counter-protests

by Congress and BJP across the country on Wednesday, with clashes and tense face-offs at many places, a day after Rahul Gandhi and | [More on P6](#)

Assure No Action Against Protesters, Will End Fast: Wangchuk

Press Trust Of India

Activist Sonam Wangchuk on Wednesday said he would end his indefinite hunger strike if the Centre gives an unequivocal assurance that no punitive or retaliatory action would be taken against students and youth who participated in the protest against alleged examination irregularities. He also said | [More on P6](#)



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2

Study Links Psychological Stress To Gut Microbiome Changes

Press Trust Of India

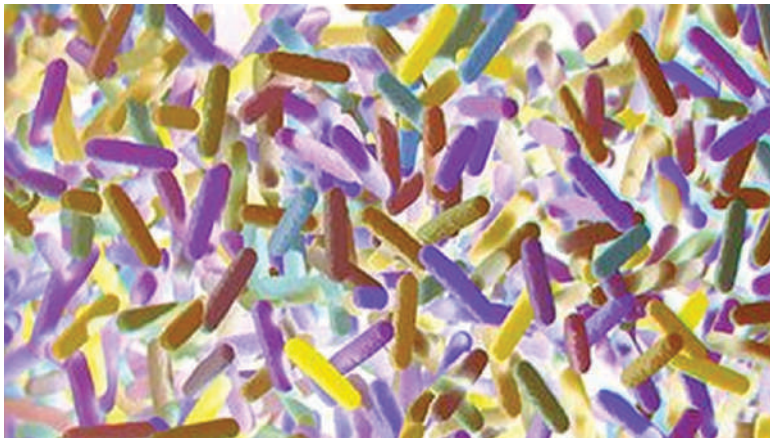
A study describes a mechanism in mice through which psychological stress can alter gut microbiome and thereby can increase risk of health conditions including heart disease and diabetes.

Findings published in the journal Cell Stem Cell psychological stress speeds up aging-like changes in the body's blood-forming stem cells in the bone marrow -- called hematopoietic stem cells -- by altering the intestinal microbiota.

"Our research shows how stress-responsive brain regions regulate the balance of the intestinal microbiota, which ultimately affects the function of hematopoietic stem cells," senior author Meng Zhao of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, said. They added previous studies have shown that chronic stress can influence immune function and immune cell formation in the bone marrow through inflammatory pathways and adrenergic receptors, which drive the body's 'fight-or-flight' response. However, how the stress signals were transmitted from the brain to the bone marrow was unclear, the team said.

Four varied mouse models of stress were analysed to study interactions among the brain, intestine, and bone marrow.

Chronic stress was found to reduce activity in two brain regions -- the medial prefrontal cortex, which integrates emotional and cognitive information, and the periaqueductal gray, important for pain modulation.



The reduced brain activity in turn induced a number of changes in the physiology of the mice, including loss of hematopoietic stem cells and reduced lymphocyte production, the researchers found.

They also observed changes in signals sent to the intestines. For example, the stressed mice had a loss of Lactobacillus reuteri -- a species important for maintaining a healthy balance of gut microbes -- and lowered levels of spermidine, a naturally occurring compound crucial for clearing out damaged cells.

"One surprising finding of our study was that suppression of only two specific brain regions was sufficient to produce many of the hematopoietic defects caused by psychological stress," author Linjia Jiang, also of Sun Yat-sen University, said.

"Alterations in the gut microbiota and in the microbial metabolite sper-

midine played a crucial role in mediating communication between the brain and the bone marrow," Jiang said.

How psychological stress alters the neural circuits in different disease settings and whether similar mechanisms operate in humans are some of the questions that remain and the team plans to study.

They may also look at whether interventions could be developed to improve bone marrow function in aging or during times of chronic stress.

The findings provide a conceptual framework for developing new approaches to mitigate immune ageing and stress-associated immune dysfunction, Zhao said.

"Our findings raise the possibility that managing psychological stress may not only improve mental well-being but also help preserve immune function and promote healthy aging," Jiang said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Faisal Abass, S/o Showkat Ali Bhat, R/o Qasba Malmoh, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for issuance of my Date of Birth Certificate, showing my date of birth as 07-05-2013.

If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of the said Date of Birth Certificate, he/she may file the objection before the concerned office/authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the certificate shall be issued in my favour and no further claim or objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Faisal Abass
S/o Showkat Ali Bhat
R/o Qasba Malmoh, Tehsil Pattan
District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mubeena Bano, W/o Bilal Ahmad Kumar, R/o Kanhama, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby notify for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly entered in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. XXXX XXXX 9491 as "Sumiya Bilal". However, her correct name as per the Birth Certificate is "Sumaiya Jan".

Both names, "Sumiya Bilal" and "Sumaiya Jan", refer to one and the same person. An affidavit regarding this correction has been executed before the competent authority.

If any person has any objection to the proposed correction/change, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the name correction shall be deemed to have been accepted and processed accordingly.

Sd/-
Mubeena Bano
R/o Kanhama, Tangmarg
District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Moomin Mehraj Dar s/o Mehraj Ud din Dar R/o Amargrah Sopore tehsil Sopore district baramulla with verified date of birth 08/07/2008 occurred at SDH pattan . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance Of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the General Public that my Ward's Date of Birth in my Service records has been wrongly entered as 14-10-2019 while my Ward's correct Date of Birth as per Birth Certificate is 14-10-2021. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the 21 FAD Khundroo Shangas Anantnag, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Arflen Khanday
F/O Muqadus Arflen
R/O Khanday Pora Pahloo Shangas Anantnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the General Public that my Ward's Date of Birth in my Service records has been wrongly entered as 12-09-2021 while my Ward's correct Date of Birth as per Birth Certificate is 12-09-2023. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the 21 FAD Khundroo Shangas Anantnag, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Arflen Khanday
F/O Mohammad Azhan Khanday
R/O Khanday Pora Pahloo Shangas Anantnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost Number plates of my vehicle (Belaro) while travelling from Khag To Magam bearing registration JK04K1274. Now, I have applied for its duplicate. Anybody having objections may file the same to ARTO Budgam within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Jan Mohammad Dar
S/O Ab Gani Dar
R/O Peth Makhama Tehsil Magam

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mudasir Hussan Bhat, F/o: Mohammad Izhan Bhat R/o: Dangerpora Malla Bagh, Hazratbal, Srinagar, do hereby certify that I am applying for the correction of the father's name in the school records of my Son, who is studying in Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahi Bagh .

Incorrect Father's name: Mudasir Hussain Bhat

Correct Father's name: Mudasir Hussan Bhat

If anybody having any objection to the said correction, he/she may contact the office of the Principal Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar within 7 days of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mudasir Hussan Bhat,
F/o Mohammad Izhan Bhat
R/o Dangerpora Malla Bagh, Hazratbal, Srinagar

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mudasir Hussan Bhat, F/o: Mohammad Abaan R/o: Dangerpora Malla Bagh, Hazratbal, Srinagar, do hereby certify that I am applying for the correction of the father's name in the school records of my Son, who is studying in Ingenious School, Mallah Bagh .

Incorrect Father's name: Mudasir Hassan

Correct Father's name: Mudasir Hussan Bhat

If anybody having any objection to the said correction, he/she may contact the office of the Principal Ingenious School, Mallah Bagh, Srinagar within 7 days of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mudasir Hussan Bhat,
F/o Mohammad Izhan Bhat
R/o Dangerpora Malla Bagh, Hazratbal, Srinagar

Media line advt

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the candidate, whose particulars are given below, has reported the loss of his/her original Qualification Certificate(s) issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) and has applied for the issuance of a Duplicate Qualification Certificate(s).

PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE	
Name	Mysara Bashir
Father's Name	Bashir Ahmad Mir
Mother's Name	Hasena Begum
Roll No.	5223245
Class	10 th
Year & Session	Annual Regular: 2019
Registration No.	N184810000288
Date of Birth	25/04/2005
Residence	Pandith Pora Langate

Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the duplicate certificate(s) in favour of the above-named candidate may submit the same, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates, Kashmir Division, JKBOSE, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar, within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the case shall be processed under the relevant rules, and the duplicate certificate(s) shall be issued. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

It is further notified that the original Qualification Certificate(s) bearing Serial No(s). 19ARKAM-5033337 reported as lost, shall be treated as CANCELLED.

No. F.(Certs-KD-DQC)/8/KD/22
Date:
Sd/-
Deputy Secretary
Certificates, Kashmir Division
Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education
New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SHADIPORA

(NEAR INDOOR STADIUM SHADIPORA 193501 Email:midshadipora@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 08 OF 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State, e-tenders (in two cover system) are invited on

Percentage (%) basis from approved and eligible bidders as defined in the SBD for the following works: -

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	AAA	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Security (Rs. in lacs)	Time of Completion	M.H of Account
01.	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 20 Cusec Horizontal type pumping Equipment and allied items at Lift Irrigation Scheme Shadipora Main Under of MISD Shadipora	30.00	Accorded	1000/-	60000/-	90 days	4702

Position of Funds	committed
Position of AAA	Accorded By Chief Engineer I&FC Department Srinagar Vide No. KMR I&FC/DB/08 of 2026-27 Dated: 09/07/2026
Position of Technical Sanction	Executive Engineer MID Shadipora Vide No. 04 TS of 2026-27 Dated:- 18/07/2026

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

Key/critical Dates:

Date of Hosting in Website/ Publish date		20/07/2026 (1800Hrs)	
Document download/sale start date		20/07/2026 (1800Hrs)	
Bid submission start date	20/07/2026 (1800Hrs)	Bid submission end date	04/08/2026 (1500 Hrs)
Bid opening date		05/08/2026 (1100 Hrs.)	

- The bids received shall be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Shadipora on the date given above; the bids shall be evaluated online/offline thereafter.
- Bids must be accompanied with online transaction receipt of bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table above payable to the account details mentioned below:-

Account Name	Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and Flood Control
Account Number	036701020000608
IFSC Code	JAKAOTANKEE
Bank	J&K Bank Ltd., Tankipora Branch

2

- Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial bids as per Finance Department O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dt: 07-06-2018.

- Further details can be seen in bidding document available on website www.jktenders.gov.in
- Subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum if any shall be published on above website.
- The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

SD/-

NO: MIDSh/TS/1508-13

DIPK-3563/26

Dated:-22/07/2026

Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Shadipora

Srinagar MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO:21 e-Tendering/2026-27

Dated: 18-July-2026

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
01.	Construction of lane drain near the House of Abdul Majeed Sheikh Ghulam Nabi Rah at Chana Mohalla Chhatral	Rs. 1.91/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3820/-	DEE	197 Dated: 18-07-2026	CDF
02.	Construction of lane drain near the House of Nazir Ahmad Reshi and Javid Ahmad Shah at Shah Kadal Watal Kadal	Rs. 4.00/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8000/-	DEE	198 Dated: 18-07-2026	CDF
03.	Construction of lane drain near the House of Mohammad Shafi Lone Basharat Ali and others at Dal Hassanyar Habba Kadal	Rs. 3.00/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6000/-	DEE	199 Dated: 18-07-2026	CDF
04.	Construction of lane drain near the House of Javid Ahmad Muzamil Ahmad Bhat at Dalal Mohalla	Rs. 2.88/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5760/-	DEE	200 Dated: 18-07-2026	DISTRICT CAPEX BUDGET
05.	Upgradation of lane by way of tilling and drain from main road Maharaibazar to Goni Khan via Bandook Chavni	Rs. 1.99/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3980/-	DEE	201 Dated: 18-07-2026	DISTRICT CAPEX BUDGET
06.	Reconstruction Surface drain at Urdu Bazar near Post Office	Rs. 4.14/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8280/-	DEE	202 Dated: 18-07-2026	DISTRICT CAPEX BUDGET
07.	Development of lane from H/o Ab Hamid Bhat to Ali Mohammad Reshi & Suhail Ahmad Patoo to Ab Roof Pandit at Milat lane Lal Nagar Chanapora	Rs. 1.78/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3560/-	DEE	203 Dated: 18-07-2026	AFA
08.	Construction of RCC protection bund along with repair of steps near foot bridge Mehjoor Nagar on Jawahar Nagar side near Masjid Usman	Rs. 24.79/-	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 49580/-	BEE/ CEE	204 Dated: 18-07-2026	AFA

• Accord of Administrative Approval:)Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -
CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	18-07-2026
2	Document download date	20-07-2026 02:00 PM To 30-07-2026 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	20-07-2026 02:00 PM To 30-07-2026 06:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	31-07-2026 11:00 AM
5	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	01-08-2026 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- As Per the Government Circular No. 01 (ADM) FD of 2025 Dated: - 08.07.2025 Endorsement No. FD-ST/75/2025-03 Dated: - 08-07-2025 issued by the J&K UT Finance Department. "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose/Upload the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder."

- The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Left River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.

- The Lowest successful bidder shall have to submit performance security guarantee in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to executive engineer LRWD (SMC) after opening of tenders. The value of performance security shall be as per the Circular issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government Finance Department under endorsement No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 and amendment made by the Government Finance Department (J&K) time to time illustration (enclosed).

- Circular issued by the Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Housing & Urban Development Department (J&K UT) vide No: -7760278-hud-plan/106/2026-01 Dated: - 06.06.2026

- That Pre/Post Geo-Tagged Photographic evidence of the instant work(s) shall be maintained.

- That the work or part of the work is not reflected in State/District Sector Plan/CDP/MPLADS/AMRUT or any other programme nor have the works or part of the works earlier executed by the SMC or through any other Agency.

SD/-

Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No.SMC/EELRWD/844-53

DIPK-NB-1174/26

Dated:22 -July-2026.

KU's CCAS Begins National Seminar on India's Foreign Policy & Central Asia

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir (KU), commenced a two-day national seminar on 'The Political Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy: State, Society and Cultural-Economic Relations with Central Asia' in col-

of these relationships.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that such seminars provide valuable opportunities for scholars and students to engage with diverse perspectives on global affairs.

Dean, School of Social Sciences KU, Prof. Sabeha Mufti, emphasized the need for sustained research on India's evolving relations



laboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR-NWRC) at the Main Campus.

The seminar aims to examine the changing dynamics of India's engagement with Central Asia by exploring the social, cultural and economic dimensions of these relationships. It seeks to provide a platform for academics, researchers and policymakers to deliberate on contemporary developments and emerging opportunities in India's ties with the region.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan while referring to the theme of the seminar said that the study of foreign policy requires continuous academic engagement in view of evolving regional and global realities.

"Universities have an important responsibility to facilitate informed discussions on issues of regional and international significance. Such academic forums encourage research, dialogue and a deeper understanding of India's engagement with neighbouring regions and beyond," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that Central Asia continues to occupy an important place in India's strategic and cultural outlook and interdisciplinary research can contribute to a better understanding of the historical and contemporary dimensions

Universities have an important responsibility to facilitate informed discussions on issues of regional and international significance

with Central Asia, noting that academic institutions have an important role in generating evidence-based scholarship on regional and international issues.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, CCAS KU and Convenor of the seminar Prof. Wahid Nasaru, outlined the objectives of the seminar. He said the event has brought together scholars from different parts of the country to deliberate on the cultural and economic dimensions of India's engagement with Central Asia and to promote meaningful academic exchange in the field.

The two-day seminar features keynote lectures, research paper presentations, panel discussions and interactive sessions focusing on various aspects of India's foreign policy and its relations with Central Asia. The latest edition of 'Central Asian Digest' was also released on the occasion.

The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Dr. Zohra Batul, faculty at CCAS KU and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Parvana Bhatt, faculty at CCAS KU.



Rotary Club Must Champion Youth, Environment and Drug-Free J&K: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, attended the Rotary Club of Kashmir's installation ceremony on Wednesday. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the new President and team and best wishes to the outgoing President. The Lieutenant Governor said that for over 100 years, Rotary has put humanity first through dedicated, selfless service and today it stands as a global force for human welfare, driving positive change across our country through thousands of active clubs.

"Since 2019, as Jammu Kashmir advances with unified momentum, we have also seen the Rotary Club's spirit of service in action, notably through their selfless medical initiatives across North, South Kashmir and Jammu Division. I want to tell the incoming President and executive team that they are entrusted with a vital torch, and carrying it forward with tangible impact is a profound duty placed upon their shoulders," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted three specific areas which

require Rotary Club's attention.

"I appeal to the Rotary Club of Kashmir not to limit itself to scholarships or book distribution alone, but to create a professional guidance chain, a network that connects young talents living in remote areas with experienced professionals. I want the Rotary Club of Kashmir to provide opportunities in digital education and skill development that prepare young people for a changing world," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that second important area is environment protection and urged the members of Rotary Club of Kashmir to act as guardians of nature.

"We can no longer confine ourselves to tree-planting drives. We must develop an environmental protection model based on scientific methods, long-term planning and the participation of local communities, which will inspire future generations. I want the Rotary Club of Kashmir to involve youth in this campaign and to partner with educational and research institutions. I wish to see the Rotary Club of Kashmir remembered for conserving rivers and lakes

and for restoring forests to life," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the third and most important area concerns the campaign for a drug-free Jammu Kashmir. He highlighted the achievements of 100-day drug-free J&K campaign and called upon Rotary Club of Kashmir to become an active and full partner in this public campaign, because this is a fight for the future of coming generations.

"The Rotary Club possesses medical expertise and enjoys public trust. It can launch de-addiction camps, awareness drives in colleges and universities, and livelihood and skill-development programs for youth. I know Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self,' is a pledge to a better public life, and contributions in these three areas will bring real change. Your work over the past two decades has proved that Rotarians in Kashmir are dedicated to selfless service. Now, as this responsibility passes into new hands, I entrust to you the task of working for a prosperous, peaceful and drug-free Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

EOW Chargesheets Four in Airport Job Scam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir on Wednesday filed a charge-sheet against four accused for their alleged involvement in an airport job scam in which several job aspirants were duped on the false promise of securing employment at Srinagar Airport.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, of the Crime Branch J&K filed the charge-sheet before the Court

of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, in connection with FIR No. 36/2018 registered under Sections 420 and 120-B RPC read with Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act.

The spokesperson said the accused have been identified as Mohit Sharma alias Bhardwaj, son of Subash Chand Sharma, a resident of 96-B, Baraula, Sector-49, near Government Primary School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh; Mukesh Kumar, son of Harday Ram, a resident of P/S Sadar Thana Road, Bara Tooti, New Delhi; Mehmood Khan, son of Wakeel Khan, a resident of H. No. 95, Hadoo Mohalla, H-Block,

Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi; and Ram Lakhan, son of Ram Milan, a resident of H. No. 2862/1-B, Singharas Nash, Karim Paharang, Tehsil Dumariyaganj, New Delhi.

"The case pertains to complaints received from several districts of the Kashmir Valley alleging that the accused duped unsuspecting job seekers of lakhs of rupees on the false promise of securing employment in the Airports Authority of India. Following a thorough investigation, the allegations were established and the case has been charge-sheeted in the court of law," the spokesperson said.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS
• SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
• BIJBHARA: 01932-228243
• PAMPOR: 01933-294132
• PATTAN: 01954-293507
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
08 Safar
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 56
ZUHR	12: 37
ASR	5: 34
Magrib	7: 42
ISHA	9: 18

This Day In History

- 1793 - The Prussians conquer Mainz
- 1798 - Napoleon captures Alexandria, Egypt
- 1812 - Battle of Mogilev Russia-Napoleon fights Tsar Alexander I
- 1914 - Austria-Hungary presents an ultimatum to Serbia; demanding acceptance within 48 hours making peacekeeping difficult
- 1929 - The Fascist government in Italy bans the use of foreign words
- 1930 - Earthquake strikes Ariano Italy, 1,500 killed
- 1942 - German troops conquer Rostow
- 1942 - World War II: Operation Edelweiss (a German plan to gain control over the Caucasus) begins.
- 1943 - Battle of Koersk, USSR ends in Nazi defeat (6,000 tanks)
- 1944 - Soviet Army marches into Lublin Poland
- 1944 - US forces invade Japanese-held Tinian in WW II
- 1944 - US troops occupy Pisa Italy

بڑا دل میں آتی ہے فوری پر روتی ہے
بڑی مشکل سے ہوتا ہے مٹن میں دیدہ ور پیدا

45 ویں برسی
جناب غلام نبی وانی سوگامی

فاتحہ خوانی
بیتقام: آیاتی قبرستان، سوگام، لولاب، گہواڑ
ہروز جمعرات، 23 جولائی 2026
وقت: صبح 11:30 بجے
تمہ انہیں، عزیز و ناقد سے
فاتحہ خوانی میں شرکت کی مودت گزارش ہے۔

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

SAD DEMISE

Raja Begum
Wife of Late Mohammad Sultan Sheikh
Resident of Mini Colony, Chanapora, near Masjid Bilal, Srinagar.
Passed away on 21 July 2026.

Rasm-e-Chahrum
will be held on
24 July 2026 (Friday) at 2:00 PM
at her ancestral graveyard located at Mini Colony, Chanapora, near Masjid Bilal.

BEREAVED FAMILY
Contact: 6006644734

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CONDOLENCE MEETING
In Loving Memory of
Mr. Sajad Khan
Renowned TV & Radio Artist

You are cordially invited to join us in offering prayers and paying tribute to the cherished life and enduring legacy of Mr. Sajad Khan.

Date: 23 July | Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: Seminar Hall, Tagore Hall

Organised by
Firdous Dramatic Club
Yamberzal Youth Club
Artists Collective Guild

In Collaboration with
J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages
May Allah (SWT) grant him highest place in Jannah and give strength to the bereaved family. Ameen.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
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Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

The Nuclear Handshake

Behind the atomic negotiations lies a larger geopolitical shift as Washington recalibrates its strategy and the global balance of power enters a new phase.



Wajahat Qazi



“The war against Iran and its able and successful resistance appear to be one important variable in the new grand strategic paradigm in the offing. The other appears to be the middle powers banding together and balancing against the United States.

and of course China.
What is meant by this?
It means, by all metrics and indices, the US is bound to lead. But it cannot and will not lead by the yardsticks of the past.
The world in 2026 is a very different place. It calls for different paradigms and grand strategies. It is here that the US-Saudi deal assumes significance.
Broken down, it clearly means balance of power politics. The US, post its Iran war debacle, is balancing against the new regional hegemon, Iran. Two, while this may be a bit of a stretch, the US is donning the avatar of an offshore balancer.
That is, it may reduce its overt and visible footprint in the Middle East, in the meantime retaining its options.
Three, at another level of analysis, the US-Saudi deal is in the nature of cocking a snook at “middle power balancing.”
All these cross-cutting themes pertain to regional orders and how they will relate to the new world order. Are there any implications for world politics and international relations?
Yes. Indeed.
The world order that will emerge from the churn will be one with elements of shared hegemony. This harks back to the “hegemonic stability theory,” which postulated that, given anarchy in international relations and the bleak possibility of global governance, a benign hegemon was good for world peace and stability.
But the referent for the HST was the US. Given the churn in international politics and with China emerging as a distinct pole in international relations, there is an odd combination now.
In this matrix, there are two scenarios that may pan out and denoue. One is the famed, hoary Thucydides Trap.

In this schema, roughly, when a challenger power and a status quo power close the power gap, war ensues. The other is a novel idea and concept that possibly gives short shrift to war: co-hegemony.
Disaggregated and reified, this refers to a world order where China and the US both become custodians of world order, peace, and stability.
Can this happen? Can two swords remain in the same sheath?
This is a billion-dollar question.
However, given the drift of world politics and international relations, co-hegemony appears to be crystallizing. Ultimately, in real terms, whether it will remain a practical concept or not, co-hegemony implies and means conflict management by the US and China in given issue areas.
While the overall framework will be that of global and regional balances of power, the holders of the balance, in the great Hans Morgenthau’s formulation, might be both China and the US.
By way of a metaphor, this means mixing chalk and cheese.
But stranger things have happened, and do happen, in history. It is to state a cliché that the US-China relationship will be the determining one for 21st century world politics and order.
While this is a given, in the meantime, deal or no deal with the US, the Saudis must grow up culturally, economically, and politically. It really is high time!

—
The author holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and combines scholarship with real-world engagement. He has worked in academia and media, including as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Own The Response

As the situation turns dire and distressing throughout Kashmir because of the ongoing summer showers, experts say the time has come for communities to handle this crisis with tested methods that other disaster-prone countries have already put into practice.
Landslides keep burying homes in Poonch, Rajouri, and Doda, rivers keep swallowing roads and vehicles, and families keep losing everything within hours.
The valley cannot keep treating each monsoon as a fresh shock when so many nations facing similar threats have already built working systems worth studying closely.
Japan gives the clearest example of what early warning can achieve when governments and citizens trust each other.
Its rainfall and seismic sensors send alerts straight to phones within seconds, and schools drill children so regularly that evacuation becomes second nature rather than a scramble.
Kashmir could install a similar sensor network along its most vulnerable slopes and riverbanks, feeding real-time readings to local administrations that then push alerts directly through simple text messages, since most households already own basic phones.
Bangladesh gives another example worth borrowing.
Cyclone shelters built on raised platforms, volunteers trained to warn neighbourhoods house by house, and a culture where people check on each other before water rises have cut flood deaths sharply over the decades.
Kashmir’s mountain villages could build similar raised shelters near landslide-prone slopes, and young volunteers from these same villages could take charge of alerting families the moment rainfall crosses a dangerous threshold.
Switzerland manages its alpine landslide risk through strict land planning, keeping construction away from unstable slopes and maintaining forests that hold soil together.
Kashmir’s unchecked construction on riverbanks and steep hill-sides keeps making every monsoon worse. Local bodies could enforce building codes properly, and residents themselves could push back when illegal construction threatens shared land, rather than staying silent until disaster strikes again.
Chile, among the most disaster-prone nations on earth, runs regular drills for entire towns and trains ordinary citizens as first responders.
Kashmir could set up similar volunteer brigades in every panchayat, teaching young people basic rescue skills, first aid, and evacuation co-ordination, so help reaches remote villages before official teams arrive.
This entire effort collapses if people keep dumping waste into streams, building on floodplains, cutting trees on unstable slopes, and treating every warning as someone else’s problem.
The administration surely holds a large share of responsibility, but ordinary citizens hold a share too, through their daily choices about where they build, how they use land, and whether they take alerts seriously.
Sharing videos of flooded streets and buried homes on social media raises awareness, but it changes little on its own.
Real change grows when governments and communities work side by side, borrowing methods from places that have already fought these same battles and found ways through them.

Kashmir Is Losing Its Best Minds

A generation with degrees is boarding flights out of the valley, and officials keep mistaking their departure for opportunity.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

The other day I drove a friend’s son to the airport. He was boarding a flight to Chennai, having accepted a position with a modest five-figure salary, more than half of which will disappear into rent alone.
He left anyway, because he believes an idle mind invites trouble.
Watching him walk through security, I understood something painful: our educated youth are not choosing to leave. Circumstance is pushing them out.
A demographic imbalance is forming gradually, and it should alarm anyone paying attention.
Young, educated people keep leaving, and what stays behind is an aging population and a shrinking pool of skilled workers.
When talented young people see departure as the only route to success, confidence in the region’s future erodes with them.
Unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir has become one of society’s biggest tests. Official data presented in the Legislative Assembly show that more than 3.57 lakh unemployed youth were registered with employment exchanges by late 2025.
The government’s own figures put overall joblessness at 6.7 percent, well above the national average.
Numbers on that scale should force an introspection rather than another round of press releases.
The quality of that unemployment worries me more than



“A society that spends years educating its youth cannot let them drift into unemployment or push them toward migration as the only path to survival.

the headline figure.
Under the government’s Mission YUVA survey, nearly 4.74 lakh people described themselves as willing to work but unable to find it.
Among them were more than 98,000 graduates and over 70,000 postgraduates, proof that joblessness now cuts deepest

into the class of people the state spent the most educating.
Many young people believe that while they wait, jobs, contracts and business opportunities keep going to people from outside the Union Territory.
Whether that belief holds up under close scrutiny or not, it has taken hold widely, and it calls for a transpar-

ent policy response.
Public confidence depends on recruitment that is fair, merit-based and visibly impartial, and right now that confidence is thin.
Equally troubling is the ongoing practice of extending the service of selected employees and reappointing retired officials, particularly inside educational institutions.
Unnecessary extension shuts the door on a young graduate waiting for a first opportunity.
Extensions should stay exceptional. Instead they have become routine, and routine is precisely the problem.
Entrepreneurship gets presented as the alternative path, the escape hatch for anyone unwilling to leave. Still, for many young people, securing a bank loan is only the beginning of another struggle.
Interest payments, processing charges and repayment obligations pile up fast, often before a new business finds its footing.
Banks are commercial institutions and must protect their own financial interests. Governments, though, must make sure aspiring entrepreneurs get real support, mentoring and market access. Loans alone solve nothing.
A society that spends years educating its youth cannot let them drift into unemployment or push them toward migration as the only path to survival.
Young people leaving the state take with them talent and hope in equal measure.
Development gets measured by roads and buildings far too often, but it should also be measured by the honour of work available to local people.
The youth of Jammu and Kashmir want no favours. They want a fair chance to compete, work, build businesses, and create the prosperity of their own homeland.
Giving them that chance is the first responsibility of good governance, and so far, that responsibility is going unmet.

—
The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir. He can be reached at mbhatiliyas@gmail.com.

The Kashmiri Who Made Europe Believe in Magic

Long before television turned illusionists into celebrities, a boy from a Kashmiri saffron-growing family crossed continents, baffled scientists, captivated Europe and America, and slowly disappeared from the memory of the place he called home.



Haziqah Showkat

The story begins with an absence.

Kashmir remembers its movers and shakers, but it has almost forgotten the man who stopped traffic in London, baffled scientists at the University of London, walked barefoot across burning coals before physicians, inspired Roald Dahl and rose to become one of Europe's most celebrated illusionists.

His name was Kuda Bux.

He was born Khudah Bukhsh in 1905 in Akhnoor, then part of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, into what he later described as a prosperous Kashmiri family, rooted in Pampore, whose livelihood came from saffron cultivation.

That single biographical detail appears repeatedly in books, newspapers and archival records. But the valley that celebrates its poets, saints and political icons has almost erased one of its earliest global celebrities.

How does an international sensation vanish from the place where his story began?

That question is perhaps more intriguing than any of Kuda Bux's famous illusions.

At thirteen, the boy abandoned comfort for obsession.

According to the longest surviving account in his own words, recorded

by Roald Dahl for Argosy magazine in 1952, young Khudah Bukhsh ran away from home after watching a traveling magician called Professor Moor. He imagined magic to be something mystical. Reality disappointed him.

"But then what a terrible disaster," Bux recalled, "when it comes to me that there is no real magic... that all is trickery."

Instead of returning home, he went searching for what he believed was genuine spiritual power.

That journey carried him through Lahore and eventually to Haridwar, where he persuaded a yogi to accept him as a disciple.

Years later he admitted, with remarkable honesty, that his ambitions were neither enlightenment nor salvation.

"I wanted to acquire yoga powers for two reasons and two reasons only: Fame and Fortune."

Few performers have confessed their motivations so plainly.

By the early 1930s he had reinvented himself, first in Bombay and later in London, adopting the stage name Kuda Bux.

Europe proved fertile ground.

Britain between the wars was fascinated by everything marketed as "Oriental mystery."

Spiritualism flourished, psychical research attracted respected academics, and newspapers competed for spectacles that blurred the boundary between science and belief.

Kuda Bux understood his audience.

He advertised himself as the man who could see without using his eyes.

His signature performance bordered on the impossible.

Soft dough filled his eye sockets, cotton pads followed, layers of bandages wrapped his head, and a final black cloth covered everything except his nose and mouth.

Then he read books, threaded needles, identified coins, and rode bicycles through crowded city streets.



“THE MYSTERY WORTH INVESTIGATING TODAY IS NO LONGER WHETHER Kuda Bux truly saw without his eyes. It is how Kashmir lost sight of one of its own.”

The act generated enormous publicity because Bux welcomed scientific scrutiny rather than avoiding it.

Harry Price, Britain's most famous paranormal investigator, invited him to the University of London's Council for Psychical Investigation in 1935. Researchers sealed his eyes with dough, tape and multiple layers of cloth before testing his extraordinary claims.

Price remained unconvinced. His published conclusion was

cautious rather than sensational. The investigators believed Bux could probably see through tiny gaps beside his nose rather than possessing supernatural vision.

Many performers would have disappeared after such criticism, but Kuda Bux did the opposite.

Weeks later he staged another public demonstration, this time walking barefoot across glowing coals heated to extraordinary temperatures while physicians,

journalists and scientists measured his feet before and after the crossing.

The experiment made headlines. Even Nature and the British Medical Journal published accounts of the demonstration, an extraordinary distinction for what was essentially a theatrical performance.

His fame exploded.

British Pathé filmed him, while American newspapers followed him in depth and detail.

He crossed Broadway blindfolded. Radio invited him, television sought him, and for decades he remained one of the world's most recognizable illusionists.

But through all those years something curious happened

Kashmir almost disappeared from his public identity.

The surviving interviews reveal remarkably little about his birthplace. They dwell instead on yogic concentration, firewalking, blindfold vision and stagecraft. His homeland survives mostly as a biographical footnote: a prosperous Kashmiri family, saffron fields, an adventurous boy who ran away.

Silence can be historically revealing.

Perhaps Kuda Bux understood that Europe preferred an exotic "Indian mystic" to a more specific Kashmiri identity. Imperial Britain consumed generalized images of the East far more readily than complicated regional histories.

A magician from mysterious India sold tickets, while a performer explaining the geography of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir did not.

John Zubrzycki, whose Empire of Enchantment reconstructs the forgotten history of Indian magic, argues that performers such as Bux mastered the art of turning Western fantasies about the East into commercial success.

Roald Dahl played an unexpected role in preserving Bux's story.

After interviewing him in 1952, Dahl later transformed much of that conversation into fiction. The magician became Imhrat Khan in "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar."

Entire passages echo Bux's recollections almost word for word, introducing millions of readers to a fictionalized version of the Kashmiri illusionist while the original faded into obscurity.

Ironically, fiction outlived history.

Kuda Bux eventually settled in the United States, performed regularly at Hollywood's Magic Castle, appeared on television and continued astonishing audiences until cataracts impaired his eyesight.

Friends remained puzzled by his blindfold act even after decades of watching it. Fellow magicians admired his mastery without agreeing on how he achieved it.

He died in California in 1981.

His grave stands thousands of miles from the saffron fields his family once cultivated.

Back in Kashmir, the son of the soil left scarcely a trace. Neither legend remembers him nor does any landmark bear his name.

Cultural histories rarely stop for the boy who walked out of Akhnoor and into the world's imagination, surviving instead in scattered foreign archives and fading newspaper clippings.

Perhaps that is the final illusion.

Kuda Bux spent a career persuading audiences to question what they saw. Time performed the greater trick. It made a man who astonished the world almost invisible to the place that first gave him a name.

The mystery worth investigating today is no longer whether Kuda Bux truly saw without his eyes.

It is how Kashmir lost sight of one of its own.

— The author is a practicing advocate engaged with the corporate ecosystem. She can be reached at haziqahshowkat@gmail.com.

Blamed for Biology

A missed period turns into a family trial way before any doctor runs a single test.



Palveen Kour

A young bride in Baramulla smiles through her cousin's wedding, knowing the question will find her before the evening ends: when is the good news coming?

She has stopped hoping for kindness at these events, and braces herself instead, the way people brace for weather they already know is on its way.

Doctors resolved this argument long ago.

Infertility can come from the man, the woman, both of them, or sometimes a cause nobody can pinpoint.

Kashmiri households rarely act like they got that message. The woman still carries the full weight of suspicion while her husband walks through the same room untested and unquestioned.

She gets labelled unlucky or cursed, and somehow nobody raises the possibility that he might be the reason.

That imbalance builds a second wound on top of the first one.

She hears comparisons to other women again and again until her confidence wears thin.

Festivals stop feeling festive. Family functions turn into events she survives rather than enjoys, because she

already knows what waits for her the moment she walks through the door.

Over months and years, that pressure pushes many women toward anxiety, depression, and a slow retreat from the very people who claim to love her.

Husbands often make this worse instead of better.

Marriage runs on partnership, but plenty of men step back the moment fertility becomes the topic, letting parents and relatives push them toward frustration rather than standing beside their wives.

Talks turn into arguments. Failed treatments become fresh grievances instead of shared disappointments.

Somewhere in that slow drift, a marriage built on love starts running on blame.

In-laws frequently pour fuel on this fire. She goes through test after test and procedure after procedure while nobody suggests her husband get checked too.

Some women get told directly that their husband should remarry, or worse, that abandonment waits if she cannot produce results soon enough.

None of that comes from a failure on her part. It comes from a failure of basic humanity treated as family tradition.

Divorce becomes the next chapter for many of these women, and it rarely happens because of infertility itself.

It happens because compassion never came when the marriage needed it most.

A woman who married expecting companionship ends up abandoned and blamed for something no test could have predicted, then left to rebuild her life while carrying trauma nobody helped her process.

Kashmiri society celebrates motherhood as the ultimate achievement



“BEYOND CHILDLESSNESS, THE REAL CURSE WAS ALWAYS A COMMUNITY THAT VALUED A WOMB OVER A WOMAN'S WELLBEING, blamed her for circumstances she never controlled, and said nothing while she absorbed all of it by herself.”

for a woman while ignoring everything else she brings to the table.

Her intelligence, humour, and strength as a person barely register once children enter the conversation.

Some husbands take this further and marry a second time, convinced a replacement will fix what real compassion should have addressed from the start.

That decision earns honest scrutiny rather than acceptance.

Ask yourself what type of love only survives as long as a woman can conceive. Ask whether a marriage built on conditions was ever built on love in the first place.

Real partnership shows itself when life gets hard rather than when everything goes according to plan.

Medicine has come a long way, offering fertility treatments, assisted reproduction, adoption, and surrogacy to families who want them.

None of that touches the damage caused by social stigma, though.

Emotional support has to move alongside medical care rather than trail behind it as an option. Families need to swap blame for empathy.

Husbands need to show up as partners instead of watching from the sidelines while their wives carry the entire weight alone. Communities need to stop treating weddings and family gatherings as chances to interrogate couples about their fertility, and start building spaces where people can talk about these struggles without becoming the evening's main topic of gossip.

None of this changes until Kashmiri families stop measuring a woman's worth by her ability to conceive.

Her value comes from her character, judgment, and presence in the lives of people who claim to love her rather than from what her body can or cannot do.

Take that recognition away, and infertility stops being a medical situation altogether. It turns into a punishment handed down by the very people who were supposed to protect her from exactly this pain.

Beyond childlessness, the real curse was always a community that valued a womb over a woman's wellbeing, blamed her for circumstances she never controlled, and said nothing while she absorbed all of it by herself.

The day families across Kashmir start treating infertility as the medical condition it actually is, women stop needing to survive judgment layered on top of grief.

They finally get the one thing they needed from the beginning: someone willing to sit down and listen.

— The author is a Srinagar-based Biotechnology postgraduate student and the writer of three books. She also volunteers with NGOs, teaching children in rural Kashmir. She can be reached at palveenkour7@gmail.com.

HC Rejects Compensation Plea In Closed NDPS Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a petition seeking quashing of an FIR registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and compensation of Rs 50 lakh each for four accused persons, holding that the police acted within the framework of law and that there was no material to establish mala fides or violation of fundamental rights.

A bench of Justice Shahzad Azeem observed that although the investigation had already been closed as "not admitted" for want of sufficient admissible evidence, the petitioners were not entitled to compensation merely because no charge sheet was filed.

The petition had been filed by Javid Ahmad Lone, Raja IkhlAQ Akbar, Safer Ahmad GAdwal and Basit Khan, all residents of Kamah in Kupwara district. They had challenged FIR No. 11/2023 registered at Police Station Kamah under Sections 8A, 27B and 29 of the NDPS Act and sought compensation, alleging that the case was fabricated and instituted to harass them.

According to the police, the FIR was registered on January 23, 2023, on the basis of reliable source information alleging that the accused were involved in smuggling narcotic drugs from across the Line of Control (LoC) and investing the proceeds in movable and immovable properties to conceal their illicit origin.

During the investigation, search warrants were obtained from the Executive Magistrate, 14 vehicles were seized in the Magistrate's presence, witnesses were examined and mobile phones were sent for forensic analysis. However, the investigating agency ultimately closed the case "not admitted" after concluding that sufficient admissible evidence was not available to file a charge sheet.

The petitioners argued that no contraband had been recovered, the allegations were vague and one of the named accused had already been in jail since 2018, indicating that the FIR had been lodged with an ulterior motive.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heavy Rain Wreaks

Kashmir Valley, with the river continuing to flow well below the warning and danger levels.

According to officials, two people died in Ramban district after a Tempo Traveller was struck by falling stones at Gangroo along the highway.

Three more deaths were reported from Kashmir. In Bandipora, 14-year-old Amir Khatana and his mother, residents of Guzarbal, were swept away by a flooded nallah while attempting to retrieve firewood being carried downstream. Their bodies were later recovered.

In Budgam district, Shabir Ahmad Poswal of Drang died after being swept away by a swollen nallah. Rescue teams later retrieved his body.

Road Connectivity Hit, Search for Missing Continues

Heavy rainfall forced the temporary closure of the Batote-Kishtwar National Highway (NH-244), while landslides and shooting stones disrupted traffic at several vulnerable stretches across the Union Territory.

Kathua Records

received the highest rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir with 153.4 mm during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Wednesday.

Other major rainfall figures from the Jammu region included Samba (133 mm), Udhampur (132.6 mm), Jammu Airport (67.7 mm), Jammu city (62.1 mm), Katra (58.5 mm), Poonch (51 mm), Ramban (49 mm), Batote (46.1 mm), Reasi (44.5 mm), Rajouri (40.8 mm), Bhaderwah (36.8 mm), Banihal (25.3 mm), Doda (24 mm) and Kishtwar (23 mm).

In the Kashmir Valley, Gulmarg received the highest rainfall at 55 mm, followed by Baramulla (37.5 mm), Tangmarg (28.2 mm), Pahalgam (23.8 mm), Lolab (22.4 mm), Nowgam Handwara (21.2 mm), Awantipora (21 mm), Bumhama Kupwara (19.8 mm), Qazigund (19.6 mm) and Kokernag (17 mm).

Other stations recorded Srinagar city (8.5 mm), Srinagar Airport (5.9 mm), Kupwara (13 mm), Pulwama (13.4 mm), Shopian (11 mm), Kulgam (10.2 mm), Sopore (10.2 mm), Sonamarg (10 mm), Asham (10 mm), Charar-i-Sharief (9.4 mm), Khudwani (9.5 mm), Sangam (8.5 mm), Wular (8 mm), Batkoot (15.5 mm), Verinag (5.3 mm), Babapora (11.4 mm) and Ganderbal (7 mm). Rainfall data for Anantnag, Budgam and Bandipora was unavailable.

Leh in Ladakh recorded 5.2 mm of rainfall, while data from Kargil was not available.

Rain Continues Through the Day

Rainfall persisted through Wednesday, with fresh precipitation recorded between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm.

Bhawan (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi) received the highest rainfall during this period at 109 mm, followed by Reasi (94.5 mm), Katra (91.4 mm), Bakore (50.5 mm), Jammu (47 mm), Ramban (43.5 mm), Banihal (37.2 mm), Rajouri (36 mm), Gulmarg (35 mm), Qazigund (33.2 mm), Kokernag (32.2 mm) and Baramulla (30 mm).

Chenab, Tawi Flow

latest flood monitoring data, the Chenab at Akhnoor touched the danger mark by 5 pm, with the water level reaching 35.8 feet, above the danger level of 35 feet. The river had already crossed the alert level of 32 feet, while the evacuation level has been fixed at 42 feet.

Officials said the water level in the river was continuing to rise and was being closely monitored by all concerned agencies.

"The water level is continuously increasing. All agencies are monitoring the situation," officials said.

The Tawi River was also flowing above the danger mark in Jammu, prompting the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to launch public awareness campaigns at vulnerable locations.

NDRF personnel equipped with loudspeakers were deployed near the Gujjar Nagar bridge, urging people not to venture close to the swollen river. They warned residents against stopping on bridges, parking vehicles along riverbanks or attempting to take selfies near the fast-flowing waters.

The force appealed to the public to remain vigilant and strictly follow official safety advisories to avoid any untoward incidents.

Meanwhile, other rivers and streams in the Jammu region also witnessed a sharp rise in water levels.

The Ujh River in Kathua district continued to flow above its danger level of 20 feet, while the Tarnah Nallah reached its danger mark of 4.5 feet. The Basantar River in Samba district also touched its danger level of 4.6 feet, officials said.

Weather observers warned that water levels in rivers and streams across Kathua and Samba districts could rise further as persistent cloud cover and continuing rainfall indicated no immediate relief from the wet spell.

The district administrations, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NDRF and other emergency agencies are maintaining a close watch on the situation.

Authorities have appealed to people to stay away from rivers, nallahs and other water bodies, avoid unnecessary travel in flood-prone areas, and strictly comply with official advisories until the weather improves.

9 Still Missing As Search

others went missing after torrential rains triggered flash floods and landslides across

the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri on Sunday and Monday. The disaster caused widespread damage to roads, houses and other public and private infrastructure.

Officials said search teams are combing both banks of the nallah from Buzliaz to Pradhan Ali despite difficult terrain, swollen streams and adverse weather conditions.

The police said the operation is being carried out in coordination with all concerned agencies and will continue until every missing person is traced.

The worst-hit area was Buzliaz in Surankote, Poonch district, where flash floods claimed eight lives and left five people missing. Rescue and search operations have been underway on a war footing since the tragedy.

Meanwhile, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has restored road connectivity at several locations in the twin districts after heavy rains triggered multiple landslides, disrupting vehicular traffic.

Officials said the BRO, under Project Sampark, deployed personnel and heavy machinery to clear debris from strategic roads, ensuring the movement of security forces and the uninterrupted supply of essential services. Teams have been working round the clock despite challenging weather conditions to keep key border roads open.

Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti on Wednesday visited the flood-hit areas of Poonch to assess the situation and review relief and restoration efforts.

The two officers met families who lost their loved ones in the disaster, expressed their condolences and assured them of all possible assistance from the administration.

They also reviewed the progress of restoration works and directed officials to expedite the repair of damaged infrastructure and the restoration of essential services.

The divisional commissioner instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely relief and extend all necessary support to the affected families while taking every possible measure to safeguard the well-being of residents in the affected areas.

Intensify Rescue

intensify rescue and relief operations, particularly in the worst-hit districts of Poonch and Rajouri, where joint teams continue search and rescue efforts.

"Directed teams to intensify rescue operations. Joint operations continue in Poonch and Rajouri and over 400 damaged roads in Jammu Division have already been restored," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also instructed officials to strategically position manpower, machinery and emergency equipment at vulnerable locations to ensure a swift response in the event of fresh incidents.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed the need for timely weather advisories and appealed to people to avoid unnecessary travel, especially in landslide-prone and flood-affected areas.

He said precautionary measures and public cooperation were essential to prevent any further loss of life or damage to property.

Condoles Ramban Victims

Expressing grief over the shooting stone incident in Ramban district that claimed two lives, Sinha conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.

"I also spoke with the Deputy Commissioner of Ramban regarding the tragic shooting stones incident in which two precious lives were lost. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family members and prayers for the speedy recovery of those injured," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the district administration and health authorities to ensure the injured receive the best possible medical treatment and that all necessary assistance is extended to the affected families.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to restoring normalcy, Sinha said all departments have been instructed to work in close coordination to restore essential services and provide timely relief to those affected by the ongoing spell of adverse weather.

He said the government remains fully committed to safeguarding lives, restoring connectivity and public services at the earliest, and ensuring prompt assistance to people affected by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir.

Police Warn

such content in violation of the relevant provisions of law," the advisory said.

The warning comes amid an intensified anti-terror operation across the Kashmir Valley following the killing of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was shot at close range while on Amarnath Yatra security duty in Anantnag earlier in the day.

Police said the advisory is aimed at protecting the integrity of the investigation and preventing the spread of misinformation that could interfere with security operations.

The Cyber Police also referred to a similar advisory issued by the Anantnag Police, which cautioned against sharing sensitive operational content, saying such material could adversely affect national security and ongoing law enforcement efforts.

Cop On Amarnath

overground workers (OGWs) were detained for questioning.

The attack on Head Constable Ashiq Hussain

Qureshi took place around 12.30 pm near Lal Chowk in Anantnag.

Qureshi, a resident of Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district, was posted with the IRP 3rd Battalion and was on Amarnath Yatra security duty when the terrorist opened fire at close range.

He was critically injured and rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital in Anantnag, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, officials said.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the targeted killing through a social media post shortly after the attack.

Officials said the attacker had been standing outside a nearby shop with an assault rifle wrapped in a piece of cloth. Unaware of the terrorist's intentions, the shopkeeper reportedly asked him whether he wanted to buy anything, as he had been waiting outside the shop for quite some time. Moments later, the attacker pulled out the weapon, shot the policeman and fled the scene.

The attack has sparked concern within security agencies as it occurred in a heavily secured area during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

Immediately after the shooting, security forces sealed the area and launched a massive manhunt to track down the assailant. Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat rushed to Anantnag and visited the attack site to review the situation and oversee the security response.

Simultaneously, security forces launched an extensive anti-terror crackdown across the Valley to prevent any further attacks and dismantle militant support networks.

According to police, coordinated operations were carried out in Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal and several other districts on the basis of specific intelligence inputs following the attack.

Police said nearly 2,000 suspected OGWs were detained for questioning and verification during raids conducted in accordance with established legal procedures.

In Srinagar, nearly 700 suspects were detained during coordinated raids at multiple locations. Police said the operation was aimed at identifying and dismantling networks that provide logistical, financial, communication, transportation, shelter and other forms of support to terrorist organisations. Searches were also conducted to gather evidence and prevent militant groups and their facilitators from carrying out unlawful activities.

In Budgam, police detained more than 200 suspects during a district-wide preventive operation. In Baramulla, 178 suspected OGWs were taken into custody for sustained questioning based on intelligence inputs, while in Ganderbal, police detained more than 100 suspects during simultaneous raids across the district.

Earlier, in Pulwama, police established mobile checkpoints at several locations to restrict the movement of suspected militants and their associates. Additional Superintendent of Police Shafat Najar supervised frisking and search operations launched soon after the attack.

In Shopian, police carried out extensive security and counter-terror operations to maintain law and order and prevent any attempt to disturb peace. Similar operations were conducted in Anantnag and neighbouring Kulgam, with senior police officers personally monitoring the operations in their respective jurisdictions.

"The detained individuals are being questioned in accordance with the law to ascertain their role, if any, in activities prejudicial to the security of the Union Territory," police said, adding that the exercise forms part of sustained efforts to identify, disrupt and neutralise terror support structures while ensuring public safety.

Officials said the crackdown also serves as a preventive measure to maintain public order, enhance security and deter anti-national elements from exploiting the prevailing situation. Police said intelligence-based operations would continue in close coordination with other security and intelligence agencies to eliminate the ecosystem supporting militancy.

Security forces remained on high alert across the Valley throughout the day.

At the district police lines in Anantnag, officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and Central Armed Police Forces paid floral tributes to the slain head constable during a wreath-laying ceremony.

The grief was most profound at Qureshi's farewell. As his tricolour-draped coffin was lifted into an ambulance for the journey to his ancestral home in Beerwah, his mother and brother clung to the coffin, weeping inconsolably as it left for his native village.

The targeted killing drew widespread condemnation from political leaders across the spectrum.

3 Decades Later,

Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, died in 1990 after coming under a landslide in Ramban district while on official duty. Following his father's death, Ashiq joined the Jammu and Kashmir Police under the SRO-43 compassionate appointment scheme, carrying forward a legacy of service that ultimately ended in the same sacrifice.

The 45-year-old policeman had spent years serving in the force while quietly supporting his widowed mother and raising his own

family.

Residents of Lolipora remember him as a man whose identity extended far beyond the uniform.

"He was a brave and noble soul. Everyone in the village respected him because he was honest, kind-hearted and always ready to help others. We have lost not just a policeman but a brother," said Zubair Ahmad, a resident of the village.

Ashiq is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, his widowed mother, a brother and three married sisters.

The Last Phone Call

According to officials, suspected terrorists opened fire on a police party near Lal Chowk in Anantnag on Wednesday afternoon.

Ashiq sustained critical injuries and was rushed to the Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Family members said he had spoken to them over the phone barely an hour before the attack.

None imagined it would be their final conversation.

By the time Ashiq's tricolour-draped coffin reached Lolipora on Wednesday evening, the entire village had gathered to receive him.

Silence soon gave way to grief as women wept openly and men struggled to contain their emotions while hundreds lined both sides of the road.

The air echoed with slogans of "Ashiq Tere Khoon Se Inqilaab Aayega" and "Shaheed Ki Jo Maut Hai, Woh Qaum Ki Hayat Hai," as mourners bid farewell to one of their own.

Thousands of people from Beerwah and adjoining areas attended the funeral prayers, making it one of the largest gatherings the village has witnessed in recent years.

Senior police officers, including Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Kashmir Range, Rajiv Omprakash Pandey, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, Hariprasad K.K., joined the funeral, shouldering the coffin and expressing solidarity with the bereaved family.

For neighbours, Ashiq's death was more than the loss of a police officer.

"He was the breadwinner of his family and fulfilled every responsibility with dignity. The government should stand firmly with his family and ensure they receive all possible support. It is impossible to compensate such a loss, but justice should be done to those he left behind," said another resident, Rafiq Ahmad.

As darkness descended over Lolipora, the crowds gradually dispersed, but the grief lingered.

In one modest home in Budgam, history had repeated itself. Thirty years after a father laid down his life while serving the nation, his son returned home wrapped in the national flag, becoming the second generation of the family to make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. (inputs from KNO)

Heinous Act

terrorist attack in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, asserting that the "heinous act" would not go unpunished.

Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, posted with the IRP 3rd Battalion and deployed on Amarnath Yatra security duty, was shot dead by a terrorist near Lal Chowk in Anantnag around 12.30 pm.

Every Possible

"Those who were operating shops here with valid permissions will be provided compensation and every assistance from the government," he said.

The Chief Minister said the traders had sought temporary relocation of their businesses and permission to rebuild the damaged shops.

Ex-Policeman

also confirmed that the appointment orders produced by the accused were fake, while investigators traced the money trail through bank transactions, corroborating the allegations made by the complainants.

Police said Tahir repeatedly evaded the investigation despite being served notices under the BNS.

Officials further revealed that Tahir is also an accused in another similar cheating case registered in 2024. He has been absconding in that case, and warrants for his arrest have already been issued by the competent court.

Things Moving

appearing for the Centre sought time to obtain instructions on both issues.

Granting two weeks' time, the court posted the matter for further hearing on August 5.

The bench noted that on May 13, the amicus had informed the court that most states were moving in the right direction and had made substantial progress in implementing the CCTV installation project.

Earlier hearings had also focused on the utilisation of central funds for the project. The court was informed that the Centre bears the entire cost in Union Territories, 90 per cent in hilly states, and 60 per cent in other states, with the remaining amount contributed by the respective state governments.

The Supreme Court had initiated the suo motu proceedings after taking cognisance of a media report highlighting the absence of functional CCTV cameras in police stations.

In 2018, the apex court directed that CCTV

cameras be installed in all police stations to help prevent human rights violations. In December 2020, it expanded the directions to cover the offices of central investigating agencies, including the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and National Investigation Agency.

The court has also mandated that CCTV cameras cover all key areas of police stations, including entry and exit points, lock-ups, corridors, reception areas and spaces outside lock-up rooms. It has further directed that the systems should have night vision, audio and video recording capabilities, and storage capacity to preserve footage for at least one year.

Cong, BJP Battle

other opposition leaders were forcibly removed from a dharna outside the prime minister's residence.

While Congress leaders and workers were angry over the police "high-handedness" and "ill-treatment" of party leaders, who were detained and later released on Tuesday night, the BJP protested against what it said was "unruly and anarchist behaviour" of Gandhi and opposition leaders.

Due to heavy deployment of the police force, neither the BJP could reach the Congress office nor could the Congress reach the CM's residence at 5, Kalidas Marg.

Assure No Action

that Union ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh had already assured him that the government would positively consider his two other key demands.

In a letter addressed to the two ministers, Wangchuk said that Nadda and Singh, who visited him at the Medanta Hospital on Tuesday night, assured him that the government would positively consider providing adequate compensation to the families of students who died by suicide following the NEET paper 'leak', and holding a meaningful discussion in Parliament to ensure accountability for exam 'irregularities', including considering the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

"Therefore, I respectfully request an unequivocal assurance from the government that none of the young protesters will face any punitive or retaliatory legal action for participating in this movement. Their only 'offence' has been to raise their voice for a fair and accountable education system," Wangchuk wrote.

"If such an assurance is given, I shall end my fast with faith that the government has heard not only my appeal but also the aspirations of lakhs of young Indians. In the absence of such an assurance, I will be forced to continue my fast indefinitely," he wrote.

Sharing the letter on X, Wangchuk said, "An appeal to the government regarding breaking my fast... Once the assurance from the government comes, I will also appeal to the peacefully protesting students to halt the movement for now and enter into dialogue with the government."

Referring to the July 20 'Chalo Sansad' march, Wangchuk said it "remained very peaceful despite the atrocities and disproportionate use of force by the police".

"The entire nation and the world witnessed their patience and commitment to democratic protest. I sincerely hope that this faith in democratic institutions is not further undermined by any legal cases, harassment or vindictive action against those who participated," he said.

Around 65 MPs from different political parties had written to him, while several met him personally and urged him to end his fast, Wangchuk said.

"They have all urged me to end my fast, reminding me that I still have much work to do in the service of our nation. I agree with them. I want to live.

"I want to return to my students, to education, and to the work that has defined my life. But I cannot do so at the cost of the very young people for whom this movement began," he said.

"The future of our democracy depends not on how it treats those who agree with it, but on how it treats its young citizens when they dare to speak with courage, hope and conviction," he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, a delegation of opposition MPs, including Congress' Vivek Tankha, CPI(M)'s John Brittas and TMC's Sagarika Ghose, met Wangchuk at the Medanta Hospital and appealed to him to end his fast.

In a letter signed by the MPs from several opposition parties, they assured him that the issues of examination reforms and accountability in the education sector would be taken up in Parliament.

"The nation, especially its youth, needs your wisdom and guidance far more than your sacrifice... Just as the Union Territory of Ladakh needs Sonam Wangchuk, India needs you too – not in suffering, but in service," the MPs told him, while also assuring that they would press the government against any coercive action against the peaceful protesters.

Wangchuk has been on an indefinite hunger strike since June 28 after joining the Cockroach Janta Party-led agitation demanding accountability over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, reforms in the education system and the resignation of Pradhan.

He is currently admitted to the Medanta Hospital after being shifted from the Safdarjung Hospital following a Delhi High Court order.

J&K Steps up Fight against Cyber Fraud as CS Reviews Prevention Framework

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Home Department to review the measures undertaken for prevention of cybercrimes in the Union Territory, with particular focus on safeguarding citizens against emerging cyber threats, including Digital Arrest scams, phishing, online financial frauds, cyber slavery, identity theft and other cyber-enabled offences.

The meeting also reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the directions issued during the previous review and assessed the progress achieved in strengthening the institutional framework, investigative capacity, public awareness and inter-agency coordination for combating cybercrime in Jammu and Kashmir.



Those who attended the meeting includes Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Scientists from NIC and officers from the Department of Public Grievances.

Chief Secretary while chairing this meeting observed that while the Government has created a comprehensive institutional framework to combat cybercrime in the Union Territory,

its success would lie in its effective implementation and its ability to provide timely relief to citizens affected by cyber frauds.

Emphasising the need for sustained oversight, the Chief Secretary directed the Principal Secretary, Home, to undertake regular and comprehensive reviews of the functioning of the cybercrime prevention and response framework to ensure that all stakeholder departments and agencies work in close coordina-

tion. He stressed the importance of fostering seamless synergy among the Police, banks, financial institutions, telecom service providers, Information Technology Department and other concerned agencies to strengthen preventive mechanisms, expedite response to cyber incidents and safeguard citizens' hard-earned money from organised cyber fraudsters.

Referring to the recently established Jammu & Kashmir Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (JK4C), the Chief Secretary said that the institution has been envisioned as the nodal mechanism for coordinated action against cybercrime in the Union Territory and should emerge as a robust, technology-driven platform for prevention, intelligence sharing, investigation, capacity building and inter-agency coordination.

He directed that the JK4C, headed by an Inspector General of Police and supported by senior police officers and technical experts, be provided with the requisite space and support to enable it to function to its fullest potential and effectively discharge its mandate in the service of the people.

Emphasising continuous capacity building, the Chief Secretary directed all Law Enforcement Agencies to ensure time-bound completion of CyTraincourses by police personnel and expedite the exposure visits of officers to States having established best practices in cybercrime prevention and investigation.

He observed that continuous upskilling of investigators and adoption of modern investigative techniques would significantly enhance the effectiveness of cybercrime investigations.

Hill Top Road Caves in After Landslide



BARAMULLA: Continuous rainfall triggered a landslide, causing a portion of the road at Hill Top Colony in Baramulla to cave in on Wednesday, creating panic among residents and prompting an immediate response from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the district administration.

Officials said the incessant rainfall weakened the slope, leading to the collapse of the road. The affected stretch was immediately barricaded to prevent any untoward incident while officials assessed the damage and initiated restoration measures.

Speaking to reporters, the BRO Project Manager, as reported by KNO, said the road collapsed due to continuous rainfall and assured that permanent restoration work would be taken up once weather conditions improve.

"The slide occurred because of continuous rainfall. As an immediate measure, sandbags will be installed to stabilise the affected portion. Permanent concrete work will be undertaken after the weather improves," the manager said.

He said the road will be restored and reopened for normal movement after the completion of the concrete protection work and other necessary restoration measures.

Meanwhile, socio-political activist Touseef Raina has sought a probe into the functioning of the construction company involved in the bypass project. He urged Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to take note of the matter and initiate immediate measures.

Raina, a former municipality president while citing the recent collapse of a Vehicle Overpass (VOP) at Cheradari, where several labourers were injured, called for scrutiny of the quality of construction works being carried out by RIPL company in the district.

Residents said the incident caused panic in the area and urged the authorities to take long term measures to strengthen vulnerable slopes and prevent similar occurrences during periods of heavy rainfall. (Observer News Service)

Amarnath Yatra Suspended for Fourth Day Due to Bad Weather

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday due to adverse weather conditions in the Trikuta Hills.

With the pilgrimage on hold as a precautionary measure, Katra, the base camp for the revered shrine, witnessed a noticeable decline in the movement of devotees. Usually crowded with pilgrims, the town wore a deserted look as many visitors stayed back awaiting an improvement in the weather.



KINS reported that the authorities have advised devotees to follow official weather updates and avoid travelling towards the shrine until the Yatra is officially resumed.

Officials said the pilgrimage will restart once weather conditions improve and it is considered safe for devotees to proceed to the holy cave shrine.

J&K Govt Approves Two Unity Malls at Rs 255 Cr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government has approved construction of two Unity malls at a cost of Rs 255 crore to provide a platform for local artisans and entrepreneurs, chief minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday.

"The Government has approved the construction of two Unity Malls, one each in Srinagar and Jammu, at a cumulative cost of Rs 255 crore," Abdullah said in a post on X.

PM Ekta Mall or Unity Mall were announced in the Union Budget 2023-24, for the promotion and sale of One District-One Prod-

uct, Geographical Indication (GI) products, and other handicrafts from across the country.

The chief minister said the malls will create vibrant commercial spaces for promoting tourism, trade and employment across Kashmir he union territory.

"These landmark projects will provide a dedicated platform for local artisans, handloom and handicraft products, GI-tagged goods and regional entrepreneurs, while creating vibrant commercial spaces that will promote tourism, trade and employment across Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Railways Introduces Four New Train Services in Jammu Division

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Indian Railways has introduced four pairs of new train services, including two pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains, in Jammu Division during 2025-26 to improve rail connectivity in the region.

This information was given by the Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written reply to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha today.

The Minister informed that Jammu Division, the 70th Division of Indian Railways, was created in January 2025. The newly introduced train services include the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Budgam Express,

Amritsar-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express, and two pairs of Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express trains.

The Minister further stated that Jammu Tawi railway station is presently served by 114 train services, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station by 46 train services and Badgam station by 19 train services.

Regarding the introduction of additional train services, the Minister said it is an ongoing process and depends on various operational factors, including line capacity, availability of train paths, rolling stock, supporting infrastructure, maintenance requirements of railway tracks and other assets, as well as passenger occupancy and traffic demand on the section.

Rakesh Bedi Shares Memories at Chinar Book Festival

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Veteran actor Rakesh Bedi urged the youth to stay away from narcotics during a session at the Chinar Book Festival here on Wednesday, where he also expressed a desire to return to the Valley to conduct theatre workshops with local artists.

Sharing a childhood memory during the special session, titled 'Drama, Dhamaal and Dialogue', the 'Dhurandhar' star recounted what drew him to theatre and subsequently to movies.

Bedi said he became interested in acting when as a kid he saw ordinary people transforming into revered characters on stage during a Ramlila performance. "It felt absolutely magical to me. And it was this magic that inspired me to enter the world of acting," Bedi said.

Responding to a question from a Kashmiri theatre artist, he expressed his wish to return to the Valley and conduct theatre workshops with local artists. He remarked that while textbooks build careers, literature shapes one's personality.

EOW Chargesheets Four in Airport Job Scam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir on Wednesday filed a charge-sheet against four accused for their alleged involvement in an airport job scam in which several job aspirants were duped on the false promise of securing employment at Srinagar Airport.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, of the Crime Branch J&K filed the charge-sheet before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, in connection with FIR No. 36/2018 registered under Sections 420 and 120-B RPC read with Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act.

The spokesperson said the accused have been identified as Mohit Sharma alias Bhardwaj, son of Subash Chand Sharma, a resi-

dent of 96-B, Baraula, Sector-49, near Government Primary School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh; Mukesh Kumar, son of Harday Ram, a resident of P/S Sadar Thana Road, Bara Tooti, New Delhi; Mehmood Khan, son of Wakeel Khan, a resident of H. No. 95, Hadoo Mohalla, H-Block, Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi; and Ram Lakhan, son of Ram Milan, a resident of H. No. 2862/I-B, Singharas Nash, Karim Paharang, Tehsil Dumariyaganj, New Delhi.

"The case pertains to complaints received from several districts of the Kashmir Valley alleging that the accused duped unsuspecting job seekers of lakhs of rupees on the false promise of securing employment in the Airports Authority of India. Following a thorough investigation, the allegations were established and the case has been charge-sheeted in the court of law," the spokesperson said.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE SRINAGAR
10-KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR, J&K-190010

Subject: Engagement of Data Entry Operator on monthly remuneration under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonosis in the Department of Microbiology Govt. Medical College, Srinagar.

Ref : Form No: 160229 Dated: - 18-07-2026 of Criminal Investigation Department.

OFFICE ORDER NO: 156 -GS OF 2026
DATED: 21 -07-2026

Pursuant to the Selection list issued vide Notification No. 17-EC of 2026 dated: 25.05.2026 and in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines of the Project, sanction is hereby accorded to the hiring/engagement of the following candidate as Data Entry Operator on the monthly remuneration of Rs. 20,000/- per month for a period of one year or till continuation of the scheme/availability of funds, whichever is earlier under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonosis in the Department of Microbiology, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar:

Name : Ms. Huzaifa Javid D/O : Javid Ahmad Mir
R/O : 25 Lane No: 03 Taqwa Enclave Ahmad Nagar, Srinagar.

The said incumbent is directed to report to the Head, Department of Microbiology, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar for further duties.

Terms and Conditions: -

1) The engagee shall have to join her assignment within a period of (21) days, failing which her engagement as such shall be cancelled without any further notice and the candidate falling in waiting list shall be considered for such engagement in her place.

2) The engagee shall be required to submit the following documents/certificates in the Office of Head, Department of Microbiology, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar: -
I. Date of Birth Certificate.
II. Domicile Certificate.
III. Qualification Certificate and;
IV. Any other document as required under rules.

3) This engagement is not being made against any substantive post and as such will not in any case confer any right upon the engagee to claim regular appointment or seek extension when the scheme gets over/funds get exhausted, whichever shall be earlier.

4) The term of one year is terminable even before her term expires without any notice/citing any reason in case the performance is not found satisfactory.

5) The engagement will be for a period of one year or till continuation of the scheme whichever is earlier and will be extended further subject to the good performance of the candidate/approval of the competent authority and: -
a) Availability of Budget;
b) Continuation of this scheme.

6) The engaged candidate shall have to execute an agreement that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of one year's term. However, abandoning/termination of the engagement under the scheme will require one month's prior notice on either side, failing which the remuneration shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the Department and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.

7) The engagee has to work as per the job assigned under the above referred project/scheme.

8) If the engagee at any point of time willfully neglects or refuses to perform the assigned duties, his/her engagement shall be terminated forthwith without any notice and she shall not be entitled to any remuneration for such period.

9) The engagee shall also submit an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit duly attested by the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect: -
i) That in case an adverse report about her Qualification, Date of Birth, Domicile Certificate etc. if any, is received from the competent authority to whom the references shall be made by this office, the candidate shall have no right to claim her engagement as Data Entry Operator and her engagement as such shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and she shall have no claim for any dues from Govt. Medical College, Srinagar as well in that case and next candidate falling in the waiting list will be considered for engagement as Data Entry Operator.
ii) That she has fully understood the terms, conditions and nature of her engagement in Govt. Medical College, Srinagar under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonosis and will not claim for regularization after completion of the term or at any point of time/nor will seek extension when the scheme gets over/funds get exhausted.

No: GS-MC/DEO/Zoonosis/Micro/26/4135-40
Dated: 21 -07-2026

DIPK-3588-26
DT: 22/07/2026

Sd/-
Principal/Dean,
Govt. Medical College, Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

Phone:- 01933-295302

TENDER NOTICE
E-NIT No: 75 /EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/ 3893-3903 Dated: 21 /07 /2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work: -

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Restoration of Ziyarat Hazrat Sheikh Attaullah (RA) Drabgam Pulwama	88.05	1600/-	2% of ADV. cost	150 working days	AAY	MH: Archealogy	AAA: DAA&M-176 of 2026 Dated.01.06.2026	1st call

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21 -07-2026
2. Bid downloading Start Date	21 -07-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	21 -07-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4. Bid Submission End Date	13 -08-2026 upto 04:00 P.M
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14 -08-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6. Submission of Performance Security(PS)	Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKAOLALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South

In light of Circular issued by Finance department Vide No:FD-code/290/2026 Dated 22.05.2026 and circular issued by worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department South Kashmir Vide order No:CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated: 05.06.2026, the following conditions are mentioned below:-

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).

2. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).

3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 .IFSC: JAKAOGOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period..

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

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

Head Draftsman
DIPK-3558-26
DT: 22/07/2026

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama

Fear Of Failure Has No Place In This Team, Says India Skipper Shreyas Iyer

Press Trust of India

HARARE: India captain Shreyas Iyer wants his players to play fearless cricket and not be weighed down by criticism after the team's disappointing run in England, saying the recent setbacks have only brought the squad closer ahead of the three-match T20 series against Zimbabwe.

India arrive in Zimbabwe after enduring a winless white-ball tour of England and Ireland, but Iyer said the team has identified the areas it needs to improve on.

"We had a rough patch in England, but there were a lot of positives out of that. We got to know what we have to build as a team going forward, what kind of presence of mind, awareness and adaptability we need once we step onto the field," Iyer said on the eve of the opening T20I here.

The series in England and Ireland was also Iyer's first assign-

ment as captain.

The skipper, who is touring Zimbabwe for the first time, said the biggest challenge would be adjusting to the conditions in a short span of time.

"Some of us are playing here for the first time, so the quicker we adapt, the better results we will get."

Iyer also urged the young members of the squad to play without the fear of failure despite recent scrutiny following India's performances.

"I don't think they should fear failure because when you have such thoughts at the back of your mind, then you play to save yourself. When you don't have that fear, you can get the best out of yourself."

"We don't have to think much about what people are saying outside. We have to stay in the present. The more we play good cricket and play together as a unit, the better it will be for the team."



The captain acknowledged the demanding schedule after India's players travelled directly from England, with just one training session before the series opener.

"It is definitely very challenging. We came yesterday, today is practice and tomorrow is the

match. But it is fun, and if you perform well in these situations, you will definitely be happy with yourself."

Iyer said India's overseas assignments in Ireland, England and now Zimbabwe have provided valuable exposure.

"The results didn't go our way, but that has brought the team closer to each other. We've been having a lot of discussions about how we're going to play as a unit going forward."

"It's a great exposure because you don't get this often. This is a challenging phase, and the quicker you overcome it, the better you become as a team."

The 31-year-old also praised Zimbabwe, describing them as a competitive side with several players carrying IPL experience.

"They have an amazing team and a good lineup. A couple of them have also played in the IPL, so they carry immense experience."

Reflecting on his own comeback from injury, Iyer said the rehabilitation period had strengthened him mentally.

"It has made me more confident as an individual. When you overcome the injury phase, mentally it makes you very positive. Whatever challenges you face on the field, you know how quickly you can overcome them."

"There can be ups and downs, but the quicker you analyse and execute what you want to do, the better it is for the team," he said.

15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's historic India debut did not go as per script. Iyer said Sooryavanshi and other youngsters in the team would be wiser with the experience in England and Ireland.

"All the youngsters, I think, they have definitely practiced. There was a decent gap after the T20 series."

"So he (Sooryavanshi) must have rectified where he went wrong. So personally, I don't have to give much advice," Iyer added.

Sindhu Battles Past Hooda, Shetty Upsets World No. 11 Farhan

Press Trust of India

CHANGZHOU: Ayush Shetty produced a stunning upset by knocking out world No. 11 Alwi Farhan while double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu overcame a spirited challenge from teenage compatriot Unnati Hooda to progress to the second round of the China Open here on Wednesday.

India No 1 Lakshya Sen also advanced, defeating Japan's world No. 19 Yushi Tanaka 22-20, 15-21, 21-14 in a hard-fought 53-minute in the men's singles. The World No. 14 Indian will next face eighth seed Victor Lai of Canada, who is ranked world No. 8 in the pre-quarters.

Sindhu, who ended a two-year title drought by winning the Japan Open last week, had



to dig deep before overcoming 18-year-old compatriot Unnati 21-14, 9-21, 21-10 in a hard-fought 56-minute women's singles opening-round clash. The former world champion was tested early as Unnati matched her point for point until 7-7 in the opening game.

Sindhu then found her rhythm, reeling off five consecutive points to open up a 12-8 lead before comfort-

sponded like a champion in the deciding game as she gradually pulled away after a close start, stretching her advantage from 6-3 to 10-5 and then 15-8 before sealing victory 21-10 to advance in the BWF Super 1000 tournament.

In the round of 16, the Indian will face fourth seed and local favourite Chen Yufei, whom she defeated in straight games in the Japan Open semifinals last week.

Chen holds a narrow 8-7 head-to-head advantage over Sindhu. In the men's singles, Shetty pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the opening round by defeating former world junior champion Alwi Farhan 17-21, 21-5, 21-17 in a 57-minute contest. Shetty will face world No 24 Nhat Nguyen of Ireland in the next round.

Indian Shooters Stumble In Final Asian Games Tune-Up As China Sweeps Opening-Day Golds

Press Trust of India

HANGZHOU: Indian shooters got an early indication of the challenge that awaits them at the Asian Games in Japan less than two months from now as hosts China dominated the opening day of the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday, winning both gold medals on offer while India finished without a podium.

In their final global outing before the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4, the Indian shooters endured a disappointing start as neither of the country's two 10m air pistol mixed teams progressed beyond the qualification stage.

The pairing of multiple World Cup gold medallist Suruchi Inder Singh and Kedarling Uchaganve finished



ninth with an aggregate score of 577, with Suruchi shooting 292 and Kedarling managing 285.

With only the top four teams advancing, China underlined its superiority by ensuring two final spots with one of them -- Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai -- smashing the qualification world record with a combined 591.

India's second pair of Sainyam and Kamaljeet also totalled 577 but had to

settle for 11th after scores of 288 and 289 respectively.

Yao and Hu went on to clinch gold with a world record score of 488.4, ahead of compatriots Shen Yiyao and Bu Shuaihang (485.7), while South Korea claimed bronze and the Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) finished fourth.

There was some encouragement in the men's 10m air rifle, where junior world champion Rakesh Parth Mane qualified second with 633.4, behind China's double Olympic champion Sheng Lihao (637.5).

However, Mane was unable to sustain the momentum in the eight-man final, slipping to seventh with 145.5 as Sheng secured the gold with 253.9 ahead of compatriot Zhang Changhong (252.4).

The remaining Indians also fell short, with Tushar Mane finishing 12th (630.5) and Himanshu Dhillon 22nd (629.3) in the 88-shooter field, underscoring the gulf India will have to bridge against a formidable Chinese squad before the Asian Games.

In the women's 50m rifle 3-positions event, Tilotama Sen finished eighth in Elimination Relay 2 with 586, while Ashi Chouksey was eighth in Relay 1 with 583. Vidarsa Vinod was ninth in Elimination Relay 1.

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