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## NEET Protest Paralyzes Parliament For Fourth Day



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Parliament proceedings were stalled for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday as loud protests by an unrelenting opposition over the NEET paper leak and demand for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation reverberated in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, leading to adjournment of the two Houses for the day without transacting any business.

Outside the House, opposition and ruling party MPs staged protests and counter-protests and raised slogans against each other, signalling that the turmoil may not easily ease.

Amid the ruckus, Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. TMC leaders Saugata Roy and Mahua Moitra were also present in the meeting.

During Question Hour, Birla had asked opposition leaders to meet him to decide on the duration and date of the discussion on the NEET paper leak issue.

When the House was adjourned for the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also had a one-on-one meeting with Birla.

There was no official word on what | [More on P6](#)

## Relentless Rain Deepens Flood Fears Across J&K

» Jhelum Crosses Flood Declaration Mark; Cloudburst, Flash Floods Hit Several Districts

» South Kashmir On Edge; NH-44 Shut as Authorities Activate Flood Response

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir remained in the grip of a prolonged wet spell for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday, with heavy rainfall triggering cloudbursts, flash floods, rising river levels, rescue operations and widespread disruption across the Union Territory. While the River Jhelum crossed the flood declaration mark in Srinagar and the Chenab breached the flood alert level in Jammu, authorities activated flood response measures and urged the public not to panic.

The worst-hit area was Boniyar in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, where a cloudburst struck the upper reaches of Mayan village on Thursday afternoon, sending torrents of water, mud and boulders downstream.

Officials said flash floods washed away four culverts, snapped electricity and drinking water supply and disrupted road connectivity.



The cloudburst also damaged the Neela Nag water source and raw water transmission pipelines, leaving around a dozen villages, including Mayan, Kathal, Muqam Peeran, Braripora, Bijhama, Niloosa, Noorkhah, Gingle, Lachipora A and B, and Chandanwari, without drinking water.

Authorities advised residents to use water sparingly,

boil drinking water before consumption and cooperate with restoration teams.

Tehsildar Boniyar Najbullah Shah said restoration work had been launched on a war footing and electricity and water supply were expected to be restored by Friday, subject to improvement in weather conditions.

Police and civil administration teams | [More on P6](#)

## J&K Rain Fury Death Toll Rises To 29

KO Web Desk

The death toll in the recent rain-triggered flash floods and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir rose to 29 on Thursday after the body of a 25-year-old woman was recovered from Poonch district, officials said. The body of Khalida Kouser, wife of Yasar Iqbal and a resident of Murrah village in Surankote, was recovered near the Fazalabad footbridge during a search operation. She had been swept away in the flash floods that struck the area on the night of July 18. Officials said the decomposed body was shifted to the Sub-District Hospital, Surankote, | [More on P6](#)

## Rain To Lash J&K Till Month-End

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department has forecast the continuation of wet weather across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, with another spell of rain and thundershowers expected at many places on Friday.

According to the MeT Department, scattered rainfall is likely across the Union Territory between July 25 and 27, while a fresh and more widespread wet spell is expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir from July 28 onwards.

The forecast comes as the Union Territory continues to reel under the impact of five days of incessant rainfall that has triggered cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides and rising river levels in several districts.

Authorities | [More on P6](#)

## KU Postpones July 24, 25 Exams

The University of Kashmir has postponed all examinations scheduled for July 24 and 25 due to the prevailing inclement weather conditions across the Kashmir Valley. In an official notification issued by the Office of the Assistant Controller of Examinations | [More on P6](#)

## CJP Snubs Govt Talks, Calls Nationwide Protest

Press Trust Of India

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday gave a nationwide call for peaceful protests on July 24 and urged people to hold demonstrations in every district as it rejected the government's offer for talks, insisting any dialogue should be held only at a neutral venue. It also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on action against paper leaks did not address the issue of accountability or its main demand of Union Education Minister | [More on P6](#)

**SEVENTEEN DELHI METRO STATIONS REMAINED CLOSED ON THURSDAY, AFFECTING commuters and businesses while mobile internet services were also suspended in parts of central Delhi till midnight in the 1.5 km radius of Jantar Mantar.**

## Innovation Needs Risk-Takers, Not Fear of Failure: CM

Vows To Double J&K Startups By ASCEND 2027



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Declaring that innovation cannot flourish without taking risks, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday urged young entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir to embrace failure as a stepping stone to success, while reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening the startup ecosystem and setting a target of doubling the number of startups in the Union Territory by the time ASCEND 2027 is held.

Addressing the inaugural session of the ASCEND J&K 2026 Startup Ecosystem Summit at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Omar said the summit had been conceived as

a platform where ideas, innovation, investment, mentorship, government policy and market opportunities converge to help entrepreneurs transform promising concepts into successful enterprises.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister distributed seed funding of Rs 5 lakh each to seven startups to support their entrepreneurial ventures.

He also launched the Junior Level Idea Challenge 2026 for the Under-18 school category, Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 for college and university students, the Compendium of Business Opportunities in J&K, the Himalayan Journal, and the Startup Coffee Table Book.

Addressing aspiring entrepreneurs, | [More on P6](#)

## Step Up Intelligence-Led Anti-Terror Operations: LG Sinha

Says Yatra Resumption Strictly Depends on Weather Conditions

Orders Safety Audits, Enhanced Healthcare, Stricter Checks On Service Providers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed security agencies to step up intelligence-led anti-terror operations and proactively neutralize emerging security threats while reviewing security and logistical arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra at a high-level meeting in Srinagar.

Chairing the meeting, Sinha reviewed the overall security scenario and arrangements for the annual pilgrimage with senior officers of the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, civil administration, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), intelligence agencies and the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB).

The Lieutenant Governor directed all agencies to remain highly vigilant, strengthen intelligence gathering, intensify intelligence-led anti-terror operations and maintain close



coordination to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

He also conducted a comprehensive review of logistics, safety and weather-response arrangements in view of the recent spell of heavy rainfall and inclement weather across Jammu and Kashmir.

Stressing that the safety, well-being and convenience of pilgrims must remain the top priority, Sinha instructed all departments to work in seamless coordination and undertake department-wise

reviews of essential services and infrastructure.

He directed officials to conduct rigorous safety audits of fire and emergency services, power grids and water supply infrastructure and ensure that all critical facilities remain fully functional throughout the pilgrimage.

Officials informed the meeting that more than 3.91 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine during the first 20 days of the Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor said the | [More on P6](#)

## Road Deaths Rise By 18% In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: Road accident fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir increased in 2025 despite a decline in the total number of accidents, the Government of India (GoI) informed Parliament on Thursday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that 5,317 road accidents claiming 983 lives were reported in Jammu and Kashmir during 2025. In comparison, the UT recorded 5,808 accidents and 831

fatalities in 2024, 6,298 accidents and 893 deaths in 2023, and 6,092 accidents with 805 fatalities in 2022.

The minister said road accidents are a multi-causal phenomenon, with the major causes broadly classified as human error, road condition/environment and vehicular condition.

He said the government has adopted a 4E strategy—Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Emergency Care—to improve road safety and reduce fatalities across the country.

According to | [More on P6](#)

## CAT Issues Warrants Against IUST VC, Registrar HC Grants 2 Weeks to File Compliance

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Two days after the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) issued bailable warrants of Rs 50,000 each against the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and Registrar Shamim Ahmad Shah in a contempt case, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday granted them two weeks to file their statement of facts/compliance before the Tribunal.

The contempt proceedings arise from a petition filed by Dr. Sheikh Mohd Imran, alleging non-compliance with the CAT's interim order dated June 2,



2026, which directed the university authorities to maintain his status as Librarian in terms of his appointment order dated January 17, 2025.

On July 21, the CAT rejected applications filed by the Vice Chancellor and Registrar seeking exemption from virtual appearance. The Tribunal observed that the exemption plea

was not in accordance with the CAT Rules of Practice, 1993, and was unsupported by material demonstrating their inability to join the proceedings virtually.

Holding that the officials had failed to comply with its earlier directions, the Tribunal ordered issuance of bailable warrants of Rs 50,000 each and directed the Superintendent of Police, Awantipora, to secure their presence before the Tribunal.

Subsequently, the university authorities approached the High Court challenging the Tribunal's order.

A Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani observed that | [More on P6](#)



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2

# India Among Global Hotspots For Climate-Related Sleep Loss: Report

Press Trust Of India

India is among the global hotspots for climate-related sleep loss, with people in the country's southern parts losing 78 to 91 hours of sleep annually, including eight to nine hours due to climate change, according to a new report by Climate Central. Globally, an average person lost nearly 56 hours of sleep each year due to nighttime heat between 2020 and 2025. That is equivalent to nearly seven nights' sleep lost each year due to higher nighttime temperatures, including about one night linked to climate change. The report pointed out that an estimated six hours of the annual sleep loss, or just more than 10 per cent, can be attributed to warming caused by climate change. Although climate change accounted for a relatively-modest share of the total estimated heat-related sleep loss globally, its influence was substantially stronger in some regions and cities. The largest impacts were concentrated in places that have already experienced extremely warm nighttime temperatures. The research has found that across all the 1,338 major global cities analysed, the amount of temperature-related sleep loss linked to climate change has at least doubled since the early 1970s. "The analysis reveals how climate change is translating into measurable hours of lost sleep for people around the world. By combining the latest climate attribution science with research on how heat affects sleep, we can now



quantify a hidden but growing consequence of rising temperatures," said Kristina Dahl, Climate Central's vice-president for science. "Across more than 1,300 cities, climate change has at least doubled temperature-related sleep loss since the early 1970s, showing that the impacts of fossil fuel-driven warming extend beyond extreme weather to undermine one of the most fundamental requirements for human health," he added. The analysis covered 107 Indian cities, with Tamil Nadu recording the highest climate change-driven sleep loss (7.9 additional hours per person annually). Chennai (93 hours), Mumbai (84 hours) and Kolkata (80 hours) registered the highest overall sleep loss among major metros, while Bengaluru recorded the strongest climate change signal (eight hours per year). In Maharashtra, the average annual sleep loss was 76.3 hours, including 5.8 hours linked to climate change. In Uttar Pradesh, residents lost 69 hours

of sleep annually, with 4.9 hours attributable to climate change. Rising night-time temperatures are emerging as a public-health threat, with poor sleep linked to cardiovascular disease, poorer mental health, weakened immunity and reduced productivity. Courtney Howard, MD, Emergency Physician, Chair of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, and President-Elect of the Canadian Medical Association, said, "Adults need seven to nine hours of sleep per night for optimal health. Increases in nighttime temperatures harm human sleep, with a larger effect seen in residents from lower-income countries, older adults and in women." "Sleeping less than seven hours per night is associated with impaired immune function and performance, and increased errors, pain and accidents. If poor sleep continues on a regular basis, it is associated with weight gain, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and increased risk of death," Howard said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Tasadqu Hussain Pujoo S/o Mohd Abdullah Pujoo R/o Sultanpora Pattan Baramulla, J&K, have applied for upgradation of my class B contractor card issued vide No. SE(R&B) SB-B-1025 OF 2018-19 to Class A. If any person has any objection in this regard, he may submit his objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Kashmir, Bemina Srinagar or Engineer-in-Chief (Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

ab

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Aadhaar Card my date of birth has been wrongly mentioned as 02.02.1968 while as my correct and actual date of birth is 03/06/1965. Now the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if any body is having any objection may convey to Aadhaar Centre Srinagar within a period of seven days after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Tariq Ahmad Shah**  
**S/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah**  
**R/o: Alamdar Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar**

ab

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name and style M/s SAFRU SKY TOUR AND TRAVEL LOCATED AT RESHI MOHALLA HABBA KADAL Srinagar J&K (India).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas ,I Bisma Mohi ud Din Khan C/o: Mauzin Khan R/o: House No 17 Murtaza Colony Lal Nagar Chanapora Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style of M/s SAFRU SKY TOUR AND TRAVEL LOCATED AT RESHI MOHALLA HABBA KADAL Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12

Whereas , I will submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate , Qualification Certificate , Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department) Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub Registrar , Printing Material (Letter Head / Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport Size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed Checklist Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12 before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public / Financial Institutions / Bank Organization etc for objection , if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (email Id:ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

ab

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I JUNAID RAJA KHURSHID S/O Khurshid ahmad bhat resident of Noorpora Awantipora pulwama do hereby declare that I have bifurcated my name from JUNAID RAJA KHURSHID to [First name: JUNAID RAJA] and [Surname : KHURSHID] . Both names represent one and the same person.

If any body is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

rko

Form No 3

[See Regulation -13(1)(a)]

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/505/2026

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 34958

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS Smt. Shakeela Banoo**

To.

(1) Smt Shakeela Banoo  
D/W/o: Sh. Dilawar Shah  
R/o: Check-Astan , Manzmoth,  
Qazigund, Anantnag  
Jamm and Kashmir

### SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/505/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 02.07.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 5063111.44/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 29.09.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 08.07.2026

**Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons**

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: - Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

### Public Notice

The registrar Births and Deaths BDO Khaipora has submitted case file pertaining to Death of Mugl Begum W/o Sonaullah Choipan R/o Chandeseer Baramulla having verified the date of death as 23-03-2021 and the event (death) has been shown to be occurred at Home .

In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/ hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained

Naib Tehsildar fko

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Syed Sajad Rizvi, son of Syed Wali Rizvi, resident of Shri Bhat Lal Bazaar, would like to inform that the name of my fa-ther has been incorrectly mentioned as Syed Wali Shah in my PAN Card. The correct name of my father is Syed Wali Rizvi

If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period

**SYED SAJAD RIZVI**  
**S/O SYED WALI RIZVI**  
**R/O SHRI BHAT LAL BAZAAR**

INF

Form No 3

[See Regulation -13(1)(a)]

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/174/2026

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 34360

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS M/S Bashir Ahmad Dar**

To.

(1) M/S BASHIR AHMAD DAR PROPRIETORSHIP CONCERN, AT DANEW KANDI MARG, TEHSIL DAMHAL HANJIPORA, DISTRICT KULGAM. (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) 192233 THROUGH ITS PROPRIETER SHRI BASHIR AHMAD DAR SON OF SHRI SONAULLAH DAR Kulgam, JAMMU AND KASHMIR-192233 (2) SHRI BASHIR AHMAD DAR SON OF SHRI SONAULLAH DAR, PROPRIETOR OF M/S BASHIR AHMAD DAR, RESIDENT OF DANEW KANDI MARG, TEHSIL DAMHAL HANJIPORA, DISTRICT KULGAM. (JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

### SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/174/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 30.04.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 3765833.72/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 12.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 04.05.2026

**Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons**

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing dl no: JK0120040041865 as Parvaiz Ahmad Gada S/O Abdul Reham while my correct name is Perveez Ahmad Gada S/O Abdul Rehman Gada . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Shopian within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Perveez Ahmad Gada S/O Abdul Rehman Gada R/o Bona Bazar Mohalla Shahban Shah Shopian

FKO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mr. Mohammad Altaf Bhat F/o Mr. Basit Altaf who is studying in Muslim Gousia Wakf Secondary School Kakapora Pulwama in Class-7th want to change the DOB of my son as 20.04.2014 instead of 20.04.2012. Anyone who has objection in this regard shall submit the same within a period of 05 days from the date of issuance of this Notice

inf

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420110008056 issued in favour of SHABIR AH-MAD DAR Parentage GHULAM MOHI UD DIN DAR

Whereas an application has been received by one SHABIR AHMAD DAR Parentage GHULAM MOHI UD DIN DAR wherein he claimed that the fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as GH. MHIUDDIN Which needs to be changed as GHULAM MOHI UD DIN DAR. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

MCB

### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA

SUBJECT: Application of MOHD YOUSF SOFI S/O ALI MOHD SOFI R/O OMPORA Tehsil BUDGAM District BUDGAM for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The case of the above captioned applicant is under process for issuance of legal heir certificate. In this regard, report submitted by patwari concerned reveals that the applicant's mother namely RAHTI W/O LT. ALI MOHD SOFI R/O OMPORA Tehsil & District BUDGAM has expired on 06-01-2019 (Death Certificate enclosed). The applicant's deceased Father has left behind the following legal Heirs:-

| S. NO | NAME OF LEGAL HEIR | RELATIONSHIP WITH DECEASED | AGE | OCCUPATION | MARTIAL STATUS |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| 1     | MOHD YOUSF SOFI    | SON                        | 50  | LABOUR     | MARRIED        |
| 2     | ABDUL RASHID SOFI  | SON                        | 65  | LABOUR     | MARRIED        |
| 3     | MEHMOODA           | DAUGHTER                   | 55  | HOUSE-WIFE | MARRIED        |
| 4     | RAJA               | DAUGHTER                   | 45  | ABNORMAL   | UN MARRIED     |

In this context, objections are invited from general public regarding the issuance of requisite certificate in favour of the applicant. If anybody has any objection, he/she may submit his/her objections in this office within 07 days during office hours. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

MCB

NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd no: JK 17A 2283 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Kishtwar Jammu within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Ayoub Zargar R/o Tengwari

2nd Owner :

bmg

Abdul Hameed Dar S/O Ghulam Nabi Dar R/o Rathsuna Beerwa

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing dl no: JK0120040041865 as Parvaiz Ahmad Gada S/O Abdul Reham while my correct name is Parveez Ahmad Gada S/O Abdul Rehman Gada . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Shopian within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Parveez Ahmad Gada S/O Abdul Rehman Gada R/o Bona Bazar Mohalla Shahban Shah Shopian

FKO

## اطلاع عام

برخاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ ذیل نمبر

ABDUL RASHID MALIYAR S/O میر نام 0078040100765083

ABDUL MOHAMMAD SULTAN MALIYAR R/o میر نام 0206010008469

RASHEED MALIYAR S/O میر نام 0078040100765083

ABDUL MOHAMMAD SULTAN MALIYAR R/o میر نام 0206010008469

میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ پر کوئی اعتراض ہے۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر برائے ہی اعتراض میں درج نمبر پر میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ABDUL RASHEED MALIYAR S/O میر نام 0078040100765083

ABDUL MOHAMMAD SULTAN MALIYAR R/O میر نام 0206010008469

MCB

## اطلاع عام

برخاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے نمک اکاؤنٹ پر کوئی اعتراض نہیں

میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ پر کوئی اعتراض ہے۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر برائے ہی اعتراض میں درج نمبر پر میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میرے نمک اکاؤنٹ کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0078040100765083

عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0206010008469

عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0078040100765083

عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0206010008469

عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0078040100765083

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عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0078040100765083

عبدالرشید مالیک س/O میر نام 0206010008469



## Four Accused Booked in Alleged Fraud Involving Supply of High-Value Shawls

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, of the Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has filed a charge-sheet against four persons in connection with an alleged cheating case involving the supply of shawls worth more than 2.50 crore.

The charge-sheet has been filed before the Court of the Sub Judge Small Causes, Srinagar, in FIR No. 55/2022 registered under Sections 420, 120-B and 201 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

According to the Crime Branch, the accused have been identified as Arshid Ahmad Shora alias Bilal of Pakhribal Botakadal, Lalbazar; Firdous Ahmad Mir of Abikarpura, Rainawari, presently residing at Malla-bagh; Firdous Ahmad Bhat of Amda Kadal, Lalbazar; and Aftab Ahmad Shah of Khawabazar, Nowhatta, all residents of Srinagar.

The case originated from a complaint alleging that the accused, allegedly led by Arshid Ahmad Shora alias Bilal, induced the complainant



**The Economic Offences Wing** recovered 338 shawls valued at approximately 68 lakh. The recovered articles were subsequently handed over to the complainant under the directions of the competent court

to supply shawls valued at more than 2.50 crore by promising profitable returns. However, after taking delivery of the consignments, they allegedly failed to make the agreed payments.

During the course of investigation, the Economic Offences Wing recovered 338 shawls valued at approximately 68 lakh. The recovered articles were subsequently handed over to the complainant under the directions of the competent court.

Following completion of the investigation, the Crime Branch concluded that sufficient evidence existed to prosecute the accused and accordingly filed the charge-sheet before the court for judicial proceedings.

## Man Jumps into River Jhelum at Pantha Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A man jumped into the River Jhelum at Sempora in the Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar on Thursday, prompting a rescue operation by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), officials said.

Officials told WKNO that the incident occurred at Sempora, following which the SDRF was informed.

They said rescue teams

rushed to the spot and launched a search operation to trace the man.

The man was later identified as Magsood Ahmad Mir, son of Gulzar Ahmad Mir, a resident of Balhama, Pantha Chowk. The rescue operation was underway when the last reports came in.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation.



PICTURE ILLUSTRATION

## 98% of Srinagar Smart City Projects Completed: Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of India on Thursday said that 157 out of 161 projects (98 per cent) under the Srinagar Smart City Mission have been completed as of March 31, 2026, with works worth Rs 3,530 crore executed out of the total sanctioned cost of Rs 3,633 crore.

Replying to an unstarred question by MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu, as reported by KNO, said the Smart City Proposals (SCPs) are planned at the local level after consultations with citizens and other stakeholders and are approved by the State High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC).

The minister said the projects have been designed to address local urban requirements across multiple sectors, including smart mobility, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH),

smart governance, smart energy and environment. As reported by Srinagar Smart City Limited, 157 projects have been completed while the remaining four are yet to be finished.

The query had sought details on whether the Centre had taken cognisance of the widespread waterlogging and flood-like situation witnessed in Srinagar after recent rainfall despite substantial expenditure under the Smart City Mission, whether the project included works related to storm-water drainage, flood mitigation and urban water management, the reasons for continued waterlogging despite Smart City works, and whether any technical audit or accountability mechanism had been initiated to assess the quality and effectiveness of the drainage infrastructure.

In its reply, the ministry did not provide project-wise details on storm-water drainage, flood mitigation works or an assessment of the causes of recent waterlogging. Instead, it

stated that Smart City proposals were formulated based on local needs and that the projects covered various urban sectors, including WASH.

On the issue of audits and accountability, the Centre said that under the Companies Act, 2013, the audit of Smart City Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) is conducted by the State Auditor General. It added that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has established a multi-level monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Smart Cities Mission.

According to the ministry, project implementation is monitored at the national level by an Apex Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, at the State/UT level by the High Powered Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, and at the city level through the Smart City Advisory Forum (SCAF), which facilitates co-ordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

## DC Assesses Situation Arising from Inclement Weather

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of the inclement weather, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) visited the Flood Control Room at Ram Munshi Bagh and reviewed the prevailing situation and preparedness measures put in place.

During the visit, the DC chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior Officers and assessed the current water levels, gauge readings, discharge trends and readiness of the departments to respond effectively to any emerging situation.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the latest gauge readings, status of River Jhelum and its tributaries and the mechanism established for round-the-clock monitoring and dissemination of real-time information. He also reviewed the contingency measures being implemented by various departments to tackle any emerging situation.

Stressing the need for constant vigilance, the DC directed the Irrigation & Flood Control Department and other line departments to maintain uninterrupted monitoring of all gauge stations and vulnerable locations. He instructed Officers to closely track the evolving situation, maintain

real-time data analysis and ensure timely dissemination of updates to facilitate prompt decision-making.

The Chairman DDMA directed the concerned Departments to undertake strengthening and protective measures at all identified vulnerable spots well in advance and ensure swift action in case of any emergent situation.

Emphasizing the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders, the DC called for an efficient preparedness and response mechanism to evolving situation. He directed Officers to remain in a state of readiness by mobilizing manpower, machinery and resources, particularly at vulnerable locations.

## Woman Killed after being Hit by Vehicle near Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 59-year-old woman died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle near JVC Hospital in the Bemina area of Srinagar on Thursday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the accident took place near JVC Hospital, where an unidentified vehicle struck the woman. He said she was rushed to JVC Hospital in a critical condition, where doctors declared her brought dead.

## J&K Judicial Academy Organizes Capacity-Building Programme On Juvenile Justice

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Under the guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairperson, Committee under the Juvenile Justice Act, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy today organized a Capacity-Building Programme on Juvenile Justice for the Principal Magistrates of the Juvenile Justice Boards.

The programme was conducted in hybrid mode, with the Principal Magistrates from the Kashmir Division participating physically at the Academy's Mominabad Campus, Srinagar, while those from the Jammu Division joined virtually. The programme was also attended by the Newly Selected Civil Judges (Junior Division), Batch-2026, presently undergoing the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT  
(IT Initiatives Section)  
Civil Secretariat, J&K.

**Subject:** Appointment of Central Public Information Officer(s) in the General Administration Department.

**Government Order No. 1209-JK(GAD) of 2026**  
**Dated: 15.07.2026**

In pursuance of Section 5(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, it is hereby ordered that the following officers of General Administration Department shall dispose of the applications under Right to Information Act, 2005 related to the sections as indicated against each:-

| S.No. | Name and Designation of the Officer                       | Section                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.    | Ms. Nipun Tickoo, JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government | Official Language Section |
| 2.    | Mr. Vivek Rattan, JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government | IT Initiatives Section    |

**By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.**

Sd/-  
**(M. Raju) IAS**  
**Commissioner/Secretary to the Government**  
Dated: 15.07.2026

No. GAD-IT/48/2025-09-GAD

**DIPK-3605/26 DATED: 23-07-2026**

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR  
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar  
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in      Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

**Extension Notice 1st**

Subject: 1. Installation of Borewells (6 No) at different spots at Khimber (03 for drinking water and 03 for irrigation) at Khonmoh-C in District Srinagar.

2. Construction of 03 No. of Borewells at Muffibagh Gandtal and Barji in District Srinagar.

3. Borewell near Dasrambagh at Khonmoh-C in District Srinagar.

4. Construction of 01 No. 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Well near Masjid-e-Jamia Chopan Mohalla Kanispora Baramulla.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 26/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./3605-18, dated: 02-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026\_PHE\_314344\_1, 2, 3 & 4.

Due to "NO/ POOR Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 23-07-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below:-

| S.No. | Item                                   | Fresh Date                |
|-------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.    | Last date & Time of submission of bids | 03-08-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM |
| 2.    | Date & Time of opening of tenders      | 04-08-2026 01.00 PM       |

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/= Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

No. -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./5501-14  
Dated: 23-07-2026.

**DIPK-3648/26 DATED: 23-07-2026**

- 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
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
09 Safar  
1448

PRAYERS

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR   | 3: 57 |
| ZUHR   | 12:37 |
| ASR    | 5: 33 |
| Magrib | 7: 42 |
| ISHA   | 9: 17 |

## This Day In History

- 1783 - Georgia becomes a protectorate of tsarist Russia
- 1863 - Battle at Battle Mountain, Virginia
- 1880 - 1st commercial hydroelectric power plant in the world begins generating electricity in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 1883 - Arabi Pasha declares a holy war in Egypt
- 1886 - China takes British protectorate of Burma
- 1902 - In Turkey, the Sultan Abdul-Hamid, under pressure from within the Ottoman Empire, appoints a commission to consider reforms that might pacify Macedonian revolutionaries
- 1905 - Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) and Emperor Wilhelm II (Germany) sign the Björkö Treaty, whereby each country agrees to come to the other's defense if attacked by European powers
- 1908 - After days of discussion with his ministers, Sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey announces he is restoring the liberal constitution of 1876 and will become more responsive to demands of dissidents
- 1911 - American explorer Hiram Bingham discovers Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas
- 1915 - Excursion ship Eastland capsizes in Lake Michigan, 852 die
- 1917 - Trial of Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari begins in Paris for allegedly spying for Germany and thus causing the deaths of 50,000 soldiers
- 1923 - Allied Powers and Turkey sign peace treaty, Lausanne
- 1929 - US President Herbert Hoover proclaims Kellogg-Briand Pact which renounces war

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name in her Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :- 2172 8478 0553 has been wrongly mentioned as Setrat Jaan instead of Sedrat Jaan D/O. Gululam Mohi U Din Ahanager. Now I am applying for its name Correction in all official record as per legal documents. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Gululam Mohi U Din Ahanager FKO  
F/O. Sedrat Jaan R/O :- Ashpora .Tehsil:- Qaziabad  
Kralgund Distt : Kupwara. Pin Code:- 193303 J&kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the name mentioned in the Aadhaar Card as TASLEEMA AKHTER shall be read and corrected as TASLEEMA AKHTAR. Both names refer to one and the same person. All concerned are requested to take note of the correction and make necessary changes in their records accordingly.

TASLEEMA AKHTAR inf  
D/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat  
R/o: khawaja Bazar Srinagar

اطلاع عام

بجلی کنکشن زیر کتبہ آئی ڈی نمبر 0203030007591 جو کہ گڑا احمد راقی کے نام درج ہے۔ اب اس کو میں اپنے نام یعنی فریدہ زوجہ علام محمد بگری کے نام درج کرنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنٹ انجینئیر الیکٹرک سب ڈویژن نو اکمل سری نگر کے دفتر میں پیش کرے۔ بعد از معیاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

منشیاب  
فریدہ زوجہ علام محمد بگری inf  
ساکتہ پلے مارانی کمال سری نگر

اطلاع عام

بجلی کنکشن زیر کتبہ آئی ڈی نمبر 0203040001356 جو کہ غلام محمد بگری کے نام درج ہے۔ اب اس کو میں اپنے نام یعنی فریدہ زوجہ علام محمد بگری کے نام درج کرنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنٹ انجینئیر الیکٹرک سب ڈویژن مہاراج گنج سری نگر کے دفتر میں پیش کرے۔ بعد از معیاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

منشیاب  
فریدہ زوجہ علام محمد بگری inf  
ساکتہ پلے مارانی کمال سری نگر

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# Kashmir's Scam Culture

Smooth talkers and familiar faces are draining Kashmiri households of savings that took a lifetime to build.



Irshad Mushtaq

KO VIEW

## Mountains Keep Warning

Poonch, Rajouri and Ramban absorbed a brutal lesson this month. Landslides and flash floods swept through the region within days, claiming lives, burying homes, cutting highways and trapping communities behind walls of mud and rock. A rockfall on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway killed two travellers in Ramban, adding fresh grief to a season already thick with it. These events belong to a larger story: mountain infrastructure planned for a climate that no longer exists. The Himalayas rank among the world's youngest and most unstable mountain systems, still rising and settling under their own geological weight. Rising temperatures have sharpened extreme rainfall, and road widening, aggressive slope cutting, quarrying and poor drainage have compounded the danger. Research into the 2024 Pernote landslide in Ramban traced the collapse to unstable overburden, multiple slip planes and mitigation measures that fell short, a finding that argues for continuous geological assessment before ground gets broken and long after. Solving a geological problem takes more than engineering. Mountain roads call for mountain-specific design. High-resolution landslide hazard mapping, hydrological modelling and independent geotechnical audits belong at the start of any highway, tunnel or bridge project, not the end. Slopes need bioengineering, retaining structures, rockfall barriers and drainage systems built on science rather than temporary concrete patches. Builders must keep construction debris out of streams and valleys, since dumped material alters watercourses and multiplies flood risk downstream. Switzerland and Japan prove that infrastructure can thrive on unstable terrain when engineers work with nature instead of against it. Real-time rainfall monitoring, automated rockfall sensors, remote slope surveillance and community-based early alert systems have cut disaster risk sharply in mountainous regions elsewhere. India has begun moving in that direction, with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways expanding landslide mitigation efforts throughout Himalayan states. Kashmir needs institutional reform to match the technical fixes. Infrastructure projects currently move through separate approval channels, with environmental, geological and disaster-risk assessments operating in isolation from one another. A single Himalayan Infrastructure Safety Authority, staffed with geologists, hydrologists, engineers and climate scientists, could scrutinize major projects before construction starts and track vulnerable stretches throughout their operational lives. Prevention costs far less than rebuilding highways, restoring villages and compensating grieving families. Closed roads choke commerce, tourism and emergency response alike. Landslides erode public confidence in development itself. The mountains have delivered their message with brutal clarity. Kilometres of highway and speed of construction tell only part of the development story, safety when the next cloudburst hits tells the rest. Building for the Himalayas means respecting the Himalayas. Anything less turns natural hazards into recurring human tragedies.

“

**Kashmir has already proven its toughness against forces much bigger than a bad investment scheme. It can build that same toughness against the smiling stranger promising a guaranteed return.**

Money comes hard in Kashmir. A shopkeeper closes his shutters and counts what remains after rent and supplier payments. A labourer hands over a week's wages after days of backbreaking work. A government clerk divides his salary between ageing parents, family obligations and an uncertain future. That money represents years of slog, struggle and sacrifice. Someone who understands its emotional value can persuade a family to part with a lifetime of savings in a matter of minutes. Financial markets, however, reward facts, risk assessment, timing and due diligence rather than the effort it took to earn the money. Many families in Kashmir make investment decisions with the same emotions that shaped their savings, allowing trust and hope to outweigh scrutiny. That instinct has cost households far more than many market downturns ever have. Look closely at how the con actually plays out. A seller promises a fixed, guaranteed return. He says the money will double within months. He asserts everyone else has already jumped in, so hesitation means losing out. He calls it a golden chance meant only for a lucky few. These lines all do the same job: they shut down the brain before it can ask basic questions, like who regulates this product? Is the return guaranteed, or does it move with the market? Can the value fall? What happens if the money gets needed early? Once the heart says yes, the brain rarely gets a chance to weigh in. Trust makes Kashmir especially exposed here, and that trust runs deep.

People hand over savings because the seller happens to be a cousin's friend, or because he dresses well and speaks with confidence, or because he carries himself like someone tied to religion or community standing. Drivers, local agents and unfamiliar callers show up with "opportunities" and walk away with signatures. The same social bonds that hold Kashmiri life together end up lowering people's guard around money. Respecting a person and trusting a financial product are two entirely separate things, and mixing them together has cost families their life savings again and again. Lock-in periods make the damage even worse. Families put money away thinking they can pull it out whenever life demands it. Years later, they discover it sits frozen, penalties attached, right when a medical bill or school fee comes due. A product built to sit for a decade does little good for a family that needs cash next spring. Whether money can move quickly often decides whether a child stays in school or a surgery gets delayed. Free tips add another twist to the tale. WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels and YouTube videos flood phones with "sure-shot" calls on shares, and people treat this advice like a gift. Free counsel from a stranger almost always benefits the stranger more than the person receiving it. It builds an audience for a paid course, or pumps up demand for a position the tipster already holds, or simply grabs attention for its own sake.

Speculation delivered as friendly advice has turned small savers into gamblers who lose slowly, then lose everything at once. None of this means people should stop feeling anything about their money. Love for children can still push families toward smarter planning. Concern for ageing parents can still push them to protect what little they have. The real fix sits somewhere between feeling and action, in the form of a habit. Check who regulates the product. Find out whether the return is guaranteed or tied to the market. Read the lock-in terms carefully. Ask about hidden charges. Get everything in writing. Confirm the seller actually holds a proper license. Wealthy investors can absorb a bad bet and move forward, but ordinary Kashmiri families rarely get that same cushion, which makes this checklist far more important here than almost anywhere else in the country. Financial education has to start early, at home, in schools, in mosques and in community gatherings, treated with the same seriousness as any other life skill. Kashmir has already proven its toughness against forces much bigger than a bad investment scheme. It can build that same toughness against the smiling stranger promising a guaranteed return. Investing with heart still matters when it comes to family dreams, but the brain should always be the one to sign the papers.

*The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator.*

# The Dead-End League

Behind the floodlights and franchise fees lies a debt crisis that no broadcast deal or sporting spectacle can hide.



Dr. Mushtaq Rather

Cricket in Kashmir used to mean something simple: a bat, a tape ball, and an open field. Today it means floodlit stadiums, franchise jerseys, and corporate sponsors chasing an audience hungry for spectacle. The valley's private T20 leagues have grown into a genuine commercial phenomenon, complete with auctions, mascots, and social-media hype machines. Strip away the production values, though, and a harder story emerges, one about young athletes chasing careers that cannot exist, families losing income they cannot spare, and organizers who have already shown what happens when the money runs out. Start with the players themselves, because

the institutional facts here are unambiguous. The Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association, operating under the Board of Control for Cricket in India, has formally declared these local leagues unapproved and unofficial. Rule 38 of the JKCA constitution bars registered players, coaches, umpires, and administrators from participating in or supporting them. Violators risk multi-year or lifetime bans and the loss of medical, financial, and institutional benefits. The consequence is stark: no player who has come up exclusively through these commercial tournaments has moved into the formal domestic circuit, the Ranji Trophy included. A young cricketer who wants to represent the state or the We country still has to go through JKCA's district talent hunts, age-verification protocols, and multi-tiered selection process. The private leagues sit outside that pipeline entirely. They sell the appearance of opportunity while functioning as closed, profit-driven entertainment businesses. The economic damage spreads well beyond the players competing on the field. On match days, thousands of spectators fill local grounds, and in a region where many households already struggle to cover basic costs like monthly electricity bills, those hours away

from work carry a real price. Daily-wage labourers and small-scale artisans make up much of the crowd, and when they skip consecutive workdays to follow a tournament, they lose the earnings tied to those days permanently. Multiply that loss by thousands of attendees over a multi-week season, and the scale of the damage becomes obvious: household debt grows, and families already living on thin margins get pushed closer to insolvency. Beyond incidental collateral damage, this is a direct, measurable transfer of income away from the people who can least absorb it. Participation itself compounds the exclusion. The leagues run on steep entry costs, including franchise fees, high-end equipment, and team registration charges, that put actual play out of reach for most aspiring cricketers. So the same commercialized structure that fails to produce a single pathway to professional cricket also blocks a wide swath of talented youth from competing at all. They simply watch, spend, and get nothing structural in return. Schools and colleges throughout the valley report a parallel toll. Students skip lectures, abandon study hours, and stake out vantage points at tournament grounds in

stead of classrooms. Every missed class carries a cost that compounds: today's global job market runs on technical skill, certification, and sustained academic focus, and giving up those hours for a few weeks of tournament excitement leaves students behind their peers in ways that persist well past the final over. A generation already contending with strained family finances can ill afford to lose ground in school as well. Then there's the risk nobody likes to name directly: these leagues aren't just unofficial, they're financially unregulated. The collapse of the Indian Heaven Premier League showed exactly how that plays out. Organizers fled the region overnight amid funding shortfalls and mismanagement, leaving behind unpaid debts to vendors, staff, and players. Because no oversight body like JKCA or BCCI sanctions these tournaments, there's no institutional backstop when a franchise implodes. The IHPL debacle was the predictable outcome of an industry built without regulation, insurance, or institutional review. Put these threads together and the picture sharpens considerably.

Kashmir's cricket boom promises advancement, community, and entertainment, and it delivers none of these reliably. It draws income from struggling households, pulls students out of classrooms, blocks genuine athletic talent behind entry fees, and exposes fans to financial collapse with zero institutional protection. None of this happened by accident. It happened because unregulated commercial ambition outpaced oversight, and communities paid the difference. The fix isn't complicated, even if it's difficult: parents, educators, and civil society need to redirect youth toward organized, JKCA-sanctioned pathways where sport builds toward something real. Aspiring athletes deserve institutions that can actually make good on the promise of a professional career rather than franchises that vanish when the balance sheet turns red. Kashmir's cricket obsession isn't going away. What has to change is who profits from it, and who pays when it fails.

*The author is an educator and columnist from Mattan, Anantnag. He can be reached at aroushfatimamar15@gmail.com.*

# The Farewell That Broke a Decade of Silence

Years after our last lesson, I discovered the greatest thing my teacher ever gave me was the certainty that I had always mattered.



Sadaf Masoodi

I am almost done with the overwhelm that life creates in one messy a mind, like mine. I hinged on absolute numbness for a while but I wanted to come back to my old self and did.

Now it is again hard to contain myself, but even if you were not as much of an emotional mess, how would you feel if you lost a teacher suddenly who was one whole part of your childhood?

The tastes of memory are tricky. They change, and so does the force of memory. You never know when, or how, it may suddenly inundate you, and what long lain fragments it will yield.

The last time I saw Ishtifar ma'am was almost a decade ago. She taught me in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. After that I rarely met her. But when the tens of ghosts seemed to leave me as I howled over her cold, pale body, I felt like I had been meeting her every single day and I had never departed from the little peit on which she taught me, sitting across on the other side. I loved her and feared her every day, even after the tuition stopped.

Ishtifar ma'am used to come home to tutor me. She loved me, but she absolutely hated my war with numbers and mathematics. I never knew how to do maths right.

During one vacation, when she wasn't coming home to teach me, my term results came and I scored a seven out of 50 in maths. I was in the fifth grade. I was secretly relieved that school and tuition were off because I wouldn't have to face her wrath immediately.

But she arrived at our home the very next day, just to shove some sense into my maths-blind mind. Abu was equally disappointed and

had stopped talking to me. When I mentioned it to her, she changed her stance, and made it very clear to Mamma that I wasn't that bad enough to deserve Abu's cold silence.

I love how she laughed. It was the most unique laughter. The tip of her tongue would instinctively graze her upper lip, and her shoulders would dance to the rhythm of her laughter. She was so full of energy and intelligence, but that only faded, year after year, after her marriage.

The teacher who taught me neat handwriting, science, and english and Schrödinger's equation, feared being seen as helpless after her divorce. She had emotionally fought far too much, so she clung to the marriage, albeit on paper alone. She probably knew she no longer had the same energy she would need to face the cruel, ugly world as a divorcee, she navigated, with brilliance.

The ghosts of memory lamented as they were being exorcised from me when I sat next to her disjointed body, in disbelief of how Allah could suddenly take her away without having given her the closure of her sufferings. I heard a woman cry out, "Sharam kerthai, sharam daar koori." Her suffering didn't deserve this wailing 'praise'.

I often think about how abusive marriages drain women of life, slowly and relentlessly, like water wearing down stone until the woman they once were survives only as a memory. Ishtifar ma'am always comes to mind.

I wanted to call her and talk to her, but I never knew what to say. A decade of life stood between us, or so I thought. I never knew how to reach out. I wondered if she would be surprised to see how her shy little girl had changed so completely.

More than worrying about what she would think of how much I had changed, I wondered how I could hold the pain of a woman as strong and brilliant as her. I knew the conversation would eventually turn to her suffering. Somehow, even without staying in touch, I always carried her pain in my heart. I felt it in my bones.

Even then, she remained the same fierce woman in my mind. She was the teacher who laughed loudly, spoke her mind without fear, took pride in her hard work and brilliance, and never gave up.

She raised her son on her own,



IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A COINCIDENCE THAT THE NEWS OF HER DEATH REACHED ME, and that I saw her one last time after a decade, on the very day she returned to her Lord. In a way, she called me to meet her. It was her final reminder that I still held a place in her heart.

kept working, and refused to surrender until a car struck her on July 18, bringing that extraordinary life to an end.

Now she sleeps beside her dead father. She chose dignity while living, she chose dignity in death. She chose her resting home, not many dead married women get to choose their burial by the side of their fathers.

I remember once waking up with my fevered head resting on her lap. She gently planted a kiss on my cheek. She had come home, like she did every day, to teach me. I was asleep because I was sick. She had her own ways of loving me. I knew I was important to her, until marriage consumed, among many things, one such thing that was once

important to her.

She met Mamma once, after she had stopped tutoring me, and shared how she had broken down on a street when she saw a little girl who resembled me.

Whenever I wonder why it has never truly bothered me when people leave my life, where I found the self-love that anchors me, or why I carry a deep sense of worth, I remember what she once told my mother. She had broken down because she missed me.

I was there when she got engaged. I was there when she got married. I was there when her father left for the pilgrimage. She kept me near, on all her special days. I am important to myself because I was important

to Ishtifar ma'am.

I remember how she set aside all her work when her father had to leave for the pilgrimage and sent me to her neighbours' asking them to tend to my ugliest frostbites. She came over, had me dip my frostbitten toes in a hot water tub.

She teased me, loved me, and made me feel important. She appreciated every little thing I made for her, like the origami "I love you Ma'am." She hugged and kissed me and my younger brother when we made the place warm with kanger and blankets folded one over other during the harsh winters, before she arrived for the tuition.

But it had been a decade since I had seen her or spoken to her.

No, this is not one of those shallow quotes about love. You do not have to speak to someone every day to love them from a distance. Even after nearly a decade apart, I felt as though I met her every day. I still believe I can write about the feelings she must have carried through all those years when we were not in touch.

A living part of her stayed with me, somewhere deep in my heart. I cannot explain how. It simply did.

It doesn't feel like a coincidence that the news of her death reached me, and that I saw her one last time after a decade, on the very day she

returned to her Lord.

In a way, she called me to meet her. It was her final reminder that I still held a place in her heart.

Five days before she died, I suddenly felt I had to invite Ishtifar ma'am to my brother's wedding. Guilt washed over me when I realised she did not even know I was married. I kept wondering how she would feel.

In my mind, I apologised to her over and over, explaining how everything had happened so suddenly, how small the wedding was, and why I had never reached out. The guilt stayed.

Five days later, I was begging her to get up and listen to me. I wanted her to complain, smile, and see how unbridled her shy little Sadphi, as she called me, had become.

I begged her to return to the place where she had always lived, deep in my heart, distant but alive, instead of becoming a memory carried by an obituary.

I never learned the equations from Ishtifar Ma'am as well as I should have, but she taught me something far greater: what survives every attempt to erase a woman is her loud laugh, the dignity with which she lived, the son she raised with unwavering love, and the grave where she now rests beside her father.

I knelt beside her on the day of her burial, and years of memories broke open at once: home tuitions, frostbitten toes, laughter, scoldings, jokes, and a love that had survived a decade of silence.

It still feels as though she called me for one last meeting, leaving behind one final reminder that I had always mattered to her.

Some people leave the world, others never leave the hearts they shaped. Ishtifar Ma'am will always be one of them.

I will carry her story for as long as I live. Until we meet again, InshaAllah, in the shade of Jannah.

— The author is a senior scribe and scholar whose work focuses on memory, gender, cinema, and health. She has worked with ActionAid Association, served as a National Gender Fellow at IT for Change, and is a Laadli Media and Advertising Fellowship awardee. She can be reached at [hsadaf398@gmail.com](mailto:hsadaf398@gmail.com).

## Reading Mir in a New Light

Three centuries after Mir Taqi Mir, a landmark English translation renews appreciation for the poet whose verse transformed personal sorrow into universal art.



Qazi Obaidur Rahman Hashmi

I must admit at the outset that going through Prof. Anisur Rahman's The Essential Mir (2026) has been both rewarding and instructive. The most striking feature of this translation is its fidelity to the original text.

Translation from one language to another is never easy. Cultural ethos, idioms, linguistic nuances and literary traditions are deeply rooted in their native contexts and often resist easy transfer into another language. The translation of poetry is even more challenging, for it seeks to carry not merely meaning but also emotion, rhythm, imagery and suggestion.

Against this backdrop, and despite the distinguished tradition of Urdu translation represented by Ahmed Ali, Ralph Russell and Khurshidul Islam, Prof. Rahman's work retains a distinctive place. Alongside precision, its defining feature is the elaborate commentary accompanying each couplet, illuminating its artistic qualities, symbolic resonance and cultural context.

Mir Taqi Mir, the quintessential

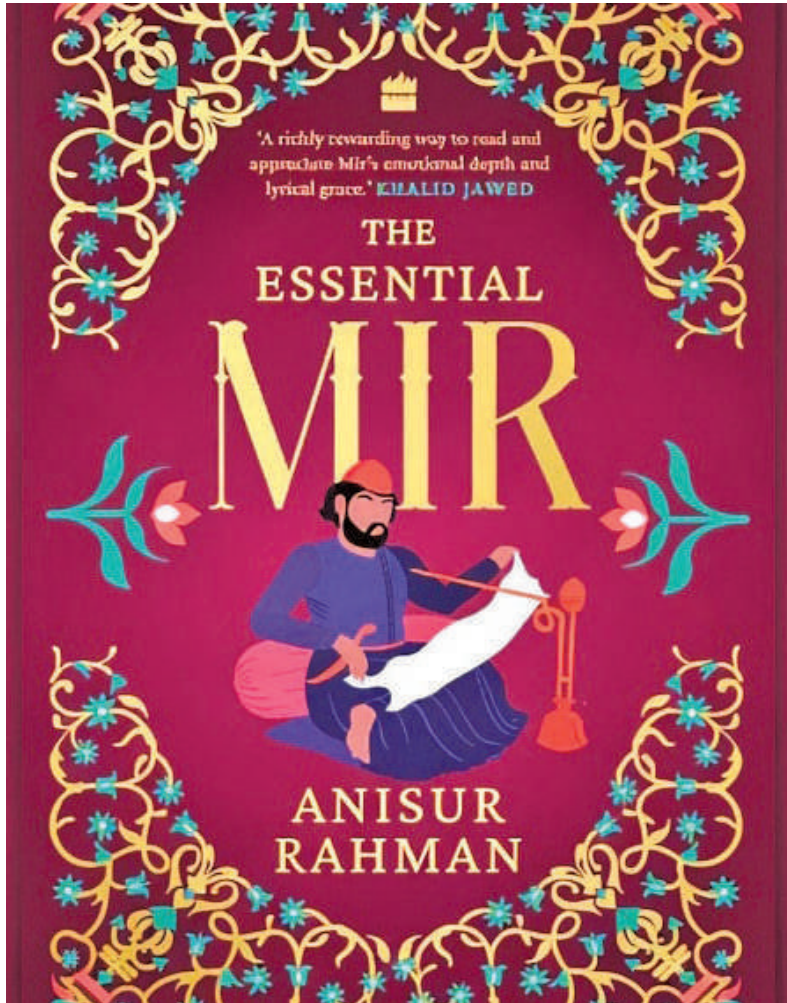
poet of the eighteenth century, lived through a period of profound political and social upheaval. Courts and kingdoms were collapsing, and the old social order was steadily disintegrating. At a time when Persian enjoyed prestige and patronage, Mir chose Rekhta, later known as Urdu, as his poetic medium. In doing so, he helped shape and elevate a language that was still in its formative stage.

Working within the conventional imagery of the classical ghazal such as love and beauty, the rival and the beloved, the rose and the nightingale, wine and the tavern, Laila and Majnun, Farhad and Shireen, Mir nevertheless carved out a singular place for himself. The intensity of his emotions, the depth of his melancholy and the philosophical undercurrents of his poetry gave his verse an enduring universality.

Prof. Rahman perceptively traces the evolution of poetic expression through a memorable formulation: "In stages, images evolve into similes, similes into metaphors, metaphors into symbols, and ultimately symbols into myths." This observation captures the creative journey by which poetry transcends immediate experience and enters the realm of deeper meaning.

With considerable critical insight and literary sensitivity, Rahman undertakes the demanding task of uncovering the layered meanings embedded in Mir's verse. His commentary helps readers navigate a poetic universe rich in metaphor, symbol and allusion.

Two concerns seem to recur throughout Mir's poetry. One is the decline of the social and cultural world around him and the erosion of



values that accompanied it. The other is the anguish of separation from the beloved. Together, these concerns generate the emotional and philosophical depth that distinguishes his

poetry. While reading this volume, one cannot but admire the translator's range, insight and perseverance in navigating the complexities of Mir's

language. Yet a few minor points invite discussion.

In the couplet:  
Paas baitha ghubaar-e-Mir us se,  
Ishq bin yeh hunar nahin aata.

"Mir" here functions not merely as the poet's pen-name but as a representative lover. The image suggests that even reduced to dust, the lover's remains would not transgress the threshold of the beloved's abode. It is a striking example of Mir's imaginative subtlety.

Similarly, in:  
Aadam-e-khaaki se aalam ko jila hai warna,  
Aaina tha yeh wale qaabil-e-deed-aar na tha.

The emphasis appears to be on humankind rather than Adam as the first man. Ralph Russell's rendering perhaps captures this broader sense more effectively: "Man, formed of clay, gave lustre to this mirror; none would have looked into it but for him."

Another notable example is:  
Dil woh nagar nahin ke phir aabaad ho sake,  
Pachtaaooge, suno ho, yeh basti ujaad kar.

The verse undoubtedly expresses the beloved's devastation of the lover's heart. Yet it may also carry an oblique reference to the destruction of Delhi, a city Mir loved deeply and whose decline he witnessed with anguish. In Mir's imagination, the ruin of the heart and the ruin of Delhi often seem to echo one another.

These observations, however, do little to diminish the achievement of the book. The Essential Mir is a valuable contribution to Urdu studies and an important bridge between Mir and contemporary English-speaking



Three centuries after Mir, Prof. Anisur Rahman has offered Anglophone audiences a work that combines faithful translation with insightful criticism.

readers. Three centuries after Mir, Prof. Anisur Rahman has offered Anglophone audiences a work that combines faithful translation with insightful criticism.

It stands as a fitting tribute to one of the greatest poets of the Urdu language.

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# You Got The Date Wrong: CM To Nadda On JKSSB Paper Leak

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday rejected Union minister J P Nadda's claim linking his government to the SSB paper leak in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the incident occurred under the LG administration in 2022,

long before his government took office in 2024. Abdullah was responding to remarks made by Nadda during a press conference on Wednesday, where the Union health minister accused the NC and the Congress of remaining silent on paper leak scandals. "You are absolutely correct

about the SSB paper leak in J&K @JPNadda ji but you have got the date wrong. It was 2022," Abdullah said in a post on X. "The government wasn't of NC and Congress. It was a government headed by Lt. Governor but thank you for reminding everyone of this failure. It involved

these observations & orders of the J&K High Court," he said. The chief minister also attached a portion of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court order, in which directions were given to the Lt governor (LG)-led administration for constituting a high-powered committee headed

by a retired high court judge to probe the conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for its "brazen irregularities". "We have no idea what happened to the High Level Committee or its report. Perhaps you can share that with us in your next press

conference," Abdullah said. The Jammu and Kashmir administration was forced to cancel recruitment examinations conducted by the JKSSB for several posts, including sub-inspectors, junior engineers, and finance accounts assistants, following widespread allegations of paper leaks

and corruption in 2022. The administration had faced severe backlash for hiring the Mumbai-based Apteck Limited to conduct the computer-based tests, despite the company having a history of being blacklisted by multiple state governments over alleged malpractices.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

NEET Protest

transpired in the two separate meetings held at Birla's office.

When the Lok Sabha met at 11 am, opposition members rushed to the Well protesting over the NEET paper leak issue and the police action on student protesters.

The speaker urged members to let the Question Hour function, describing it as an important part of the day's business.

He said the government was ready to hold discussions on every issue raised by the opposition after the Question Hour and assured members that he would facilitate the discussions.

"The Question Hour is the most important. After the Question Hour, the House is ready to discuss every issue. I will speak to the government, and the government is also ready for discussions. I appeal to all members to participate in the discussion after the Question Hour," Birla said.

However, the Opposition members ignored the appeal and trooped into the Well of the House, raising slogans.

With the protests continuing, Birla adjourned the proceedings till 12 noon, barely three minutes after the House met.

When the House reconvened, the opposition protests continued, leading to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accusing the opposition of attaching pre-conditions and trying to run away from a debate on the paper leak issue. (PTI)

CJP Snubs Govt

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over NEET paper leak.

The government made another appeal for talks with Union minister Jitendra Singh saying a meeting to resolve the issues can be held either at Union Health Minister JP Nadda's official residence or at his office.

Nadda also invited the CJP for talks, but its leaders turned down the proposal, sticking to their demand that they would meet only at a neutral venue.

On Friday's protest call, the CJP said gatherings would be held across the country under the slogan "Every district. One day. One demand", where participants would read out the protesters' demands and express solidarity with students, parents and others who were injured in the police action in Delhi on July 20.

The nationwide call came as the protest at Jantar Mantar entered a fresh phase amid heightened security in the national capital, continued restrictions around the protest site and mounting political attacks over the July 20 police action.

The protest site continued to remain under heavy security, with large parts of central Delhi witnessing traffic disruptions for the second consecutive day. Seventeen Delhi Metro stations remained closed on Thursday, affecting commuters and businesses while mobile internet services were also suspended in parts of central Delhi till midnight in the 1.5 km radius of Jantar Mantar.

Traffic restrictions and barricading led to congestion on several major roads around Connaught Place, ITO, Parliament Street and India Gate, with many commuters reporting long delays.

Despite the restrictions in place, crowds swelled at the protest site, with people raising slogans against the government, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The CJP also alleged that attempts were being made to disrupt its agitation. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke claimed "outsiders" and "BJP goons" were being sent to the protest site to create disturbances and later blame the protesters, allegations rejected by the BJP.

CJP spokesperson Saurav Das shared a video on social media purportedly showing plain-clothed youths carrying batons, threatening the protesters.

Relentless Rain

also rescued a woman trapped inside her house after floodwaters entered the locality. Officials said the situation continued to be monitored closely amid apprehensions of further rainfall.

Rescue operations across J&K

Elsewhere in the Union Territory, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and police carried out multiple rescue operations as rivers and streams swelled due to incessant rainfall.

In Jammu district, SDRF and police rescued two men trapped in the swollen River Tawi at Phallian Mandal. Both were shifted to safety and were reported to be stable.

In south Kashmir's Anantnag district, an SDRF team evacuated a tribal family stranded in the River Lidder near Aang Matipora after water levels rose suddenly.

In Doda district, SDRF personnel were deployed along the banks of the Chenab River in Pul Doda as water levels increased. Authorities advised people to stay away from rivers and vulnerable locations.

In Rajouri district, SDRF personnel facilitated the safe crossing of Power Development Department staff across a swollen river to restore electricity supply in affected areas.

Another SDRF team removed a fallen tree near Manda on the Jammu National Highway, restoring traffic movement, while a separate team remained stationed in Pragwal, Akhnoor, to monitor the rising Chenab and respond to any emergency. Jammu-Srinagar highway remains shut

The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained closed due to fresh landslides and shooting stones at multiple locations in Ramban district.

Traffic authorities said only stranded and local vehicles were being allowed to move after limited clearance operations, while road restoration work continued.

Commuters were advised to avoid travelling on the highway until it is declared safe, as intermittent rainfall continued and there was a possibility of fresh landslides and shooting stones.

Jhelum crosses flood declaration mark

Meanwhile, the water level of the River Jhelum at the Ram Munshi Bagh gauge station in Srinagar crossed the flood declaration mark on Thursday evening, prompting the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department to activate flood response measures.

According to official flood monitoring data, the water level at Ram Munshi Bagh was recorded at 18.04 feet, marginally above the flood declaration level of 18 feet. However, it remained well below the danger level of 21 feet and was rising slowly.

At the Sangam gauge station, the river level stood at 20.24 feet, below the warning level of 21 feet. Pampore also crossed the flood declaration level and entered the warning category, while water levels at Asham and Wular remained below warning levels.

Among the tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani, Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi, Lidder at Batkoot, Doodhganga at Barzulla and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama continued to flow below their respective warning levels, indicating that the rise in water levels was largely confined to the main river.

Anticipating a further rise, Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, Showkat Hussain directed all officers and officials assigned flood duty in south and central Kashmir to report immediately to their designated duty stations.

The department also advised people to stay away from rivers, streams and other water bodies and strictly follow official advisories.

Chenab crosses flood alert mark

The water level in the Chenab at Akhnoor crossed the flood alert mark once again during the evening, touching 33 feet against the alert level of 32 feet. Officials said the danger level had been fixed at 35 feet.

In Kathua district, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma visited flood-affected areas along with officials of the Flood Control Department and directed officers to take all necessary measures to safeguard lives and property.

In Kishtwar district, heavy rainfall led to the collapse of a mud house in Chatroo Famber area. While all family members escaped unhurt, 25 sheep were killed in the incident.

Authorities urge calm

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said field teams were closely monitoring the situation and that all preventive and response measures were being coordinated round the clock.

In a post on X, Garg said divisional and district control rooms had been activated to monitor the situation and coordinate emergency response. He appealed to residents, particularly those living near embankments, not to panic but to remain vigilant and follow official advisories.

He also asked the public to contact the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), Srinagar, on 0194-2740003 for assistance.

Chief Engineer Showkat Hussain also appealed to people not to panic, saying the river was expected to start receding later in the night.

He said the water level at Sangam had risen by around half a foot and was likely to begin receding after 11 pm, while the level at Ram Munshi Bagh could rise by another half to one foot till around midnight before beginning to recede.

Hussain said nearly 24,000 cusecs of water was flowing through the Jhelum against its carrying capacity of around 40,000 cusecs, leaving sufficient room for the river to accommodate the discharge.

"There is absolutely no need to panic. The situation is under control and people should continue to follow official advisories," he said.

Flood fears grip South Kashmir

Continuous rainfall over the past several days pushed major rivers and streams across south Kashmir close to flood declaration levels, triggering anxiety among residents.

Several low-lying areas witnessed waterlogging, with orchards, paddy fields and residential localities inundated in many places.

A flood-like situation emerged in Sakhras, where floodwaters entered residential areas, leaving families worried as the situation deteriorated.

In Avoora, Pahalgam, the swollen Lidder River washed away a temporary diversion that had been constructed after the recent cloudburst to restore road connectivity, disrupting movement once again.

Authorities also closed the Sakdas Bridge for vehicular movement after water levels rose dangerously.

Residents expressed fears of a repeat of the devastating 2014 floods.

"We have not seen the rain stopping for days. Water has already entered our orchards and paddy fields. If it continues through the night, the situation could become much worse," said Gulham Mohammad, a resident of Khudwani.

Another resident, Abdul Rashid from Anantnag, said families living near the river were spending sleepless nights as water levels continued to rise every hour.

Apple growers also voiced concern over prolonged waterlogging.

"Our orchards are already submerged in several places. Excess water can damage the roots and affect this year's crop. We hope the rains stop soon," said orchardist Mohammad Yousof.

Officials said field staff had been deployed to monitor vulnerable locations and appealed to people residing near rivers, streams and flood-prone areas to remain vigilant and avoid unnecessary travel near overflowing water bodies.

Horticulture department issues advisory

In view of the ongoing rainfall, the Horticulture

Department issued a detailed advisory asking orchardists to take immediate precautionary measures to minimise crop losses.

The department advised growers to ensure proper drainage in orchards to prevent water-logging, remove stagnant water without delay and provide support to young fruit trees and high-density plantations to prevent damage from strong winds.

It also advised orchardists not to spray pesticides, fungicides or foliar nutrients during rainfall, saying such applications would be ineffective under wet conditions.

Once the weather improves, growers have been asked to undertake need-based plant protection measures as recommended by SKUAST-Kashmir and maintain orchard sanitation by removing broken branches, fallen debris and damaged plant material.

J&K Rain

where it was identified by the village lambardar, Zakir Hussain. After legal formalities were completed, the body was handed over to the family for the last rites.

With the recovery, the death toll in Poonch district has climbed to 17, the highest among the affected districts. The overall toll in the Jammu region now stands at 26.

Across Jammu and Kashmir, 29 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents, including two deaths in Bandipora district and one in Budgam district in the Kashmir Valley.

Among those killed in the Murrah flash floods were Noor Safia (59), Sajad Ahmed (16), Haqnawaz Ahmed (11), Shahnawaz Ahmed (11), Khalida Kouser (25), two-year-old Sofian, Bano Bi (60), and seven-year-old Mohammad Akram.

Officials said search operations are continuing as six people remain missing following the devastating flash floods.

Rain To Lash J&K

have advised people, particularly those living in flood-prone and landslide-vulnerable areas, to remain vigilant and follow official advisories. Commuters have also been urged to avoid unnecessary travel on vulnerable roads, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, until weather conditions improve.

Officials said disaster response teams and flood control authorities would continue to monitor the situation round the clock in view of the forecast, while residents have been asked to stay away from rivers, streams and other water bodies during periods of heavy rainfall.

KU Postpones

(Conduct), the university said the decision was taken as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and convenience of students and examination staff amid the adverse weather.

The notification said all university examinations scheduled for July 24 and 25 stand postponed with immediate effect.

It added that fresh dates for the postponed examinations will be announced separately in due course.

The university has advised students and other stakeholders to regularly visit its official website and follow official notifications for updates regarding the revised examination schedule.

Over 3,500 Detained

Forces (CAPFs) personnel have been deployed across Anantnag and adjoining areas, while cordon and search operations have been intensified in an effort to track down those involved in the attack.

The security measures come a day after a lone terrorist shot dead a Jammu and Kashmir Police head constable deployed on Amarnath Yatra security duty at Lal Chowk in Anantnag town.

Homes of Two 'Terrorists' Demolished

As part of the ongoing crackdown, authorities on Thursday demolished the houses of two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists in Anantnag.

The houses of Adil Thokar and Haroon Rashid Ganaie, both active terrorists, were razed to the ground during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, the officials said.

Houses of active terrorists had been demolished in Kashmir earlier as well, but the action had stopped for nearly one year due to a drop in violence levels.

Political Leaders

The criticism came a day after Head Constable Ashiq Hussain, who was deployed on Amarnath Yatra security duty, was shot dead by a lone militant at Lal Chowk in Anantnag. Hours later, security forces launched a massive operation across the Valley, detaining more than a thousand suspected overground workers (OGWs), while authorities demolished the houses of two alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants in south Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah cautioned against "wanton retributive action", saying the fight against militancy could not be won without carrying the people along.

"I understand the anger of the police, but the Supreme Court has issued an order stating that summary action of this kind should not be taken," Abdullah told reporters.

Referring to the demolition of houses following the Pahalgam terror attack last year, he said he had then intervened with the Centre to stop the practice.

"Demolishing houses or making thousands of arrests will not improve the situation; in fact, it will only worsen it," he said.

Drawing on his experience as chief minister, Abdullah said security forces alone could not bring lasting peace.

"We can reach a certain point using the police,

Army and the CRPF, but the real end will come only when the general public stands together against such violence," he said, noting that ordinary Kashmiris had publicly condemned both the Pahalgam attack and Wednesday's killing of the policeman.

He also expressed concern over reports of mass detentions following the attack, saying such actions risked turning public anger against the system.

National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi echoed similar concerns in a post on X, alleging that more than 2,500 people had been detained across Kashmir within 24 hours under the phrase "detained for questioning", which he said "appears in no statute and carries no safeguard."

Mehdi also questioned the demolition of two houses during the overnight operation, claiming one of the homes had been rebuilt only months after being demolished previously.

"The Supreme Court has held punitive demolition without due process unconstitutional," he wrote.

Referring to official claims that local militant recruitment had fallen to zero, Mehdi said, "The same officials detained 2,500 'overground workers' in a day. Both cannot be true."

At the same time, he strongly condemned the killing of the policeman.

"Head Constable Qureshi was one of our own. His killers deserve the full force of the law. That is justice, and we demand it," he wrote.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also denounced the killing but criticised the government's response, describing the demolition of homes belonging to the families of "alleged" militants as "collective punishment".

"The killing of a police officer in the line of duty is a heinous and condemnable act. But detaining over a thousand people and demolishing the homes of families of two alleged militants amounts to collective punishment that has no place in a democracy," she said in a post on X.

Mufti argued that if the Centre maintained that militancy had been reduced to near zero, it should pursue a "more humane and lawful approach" rather than resorting to what she described as "tit for tat" measures affecting innocent civilians.

Officials said the houses demolished belonged to active LeT militants Adil Thokar and Haroon Rashid Ganaie. Such demolitions had been carried out in the past but had largely stopped over the past year as violence declined.

Security agencies have not publicly responded to the criticism over the detentions and demolitions. Investigations into Wednesday's attack are continuing.

Step Up Intelligence

resumption of the pilgrimage after weather-related suspensions would strictly depend on prevailing weather conditions.

In view of the recent heavy rains, he instructed authorities to strengthen flood protection measures and ensure immediate clearance of debris from all nallahs along the pilgrimage routes.

He also emphasized continuous operational readiness, directing departments to maintain round-the-clock disaster response preparedness, keep pilgrimage tracks clear, ensure proper sanitation and maintain adequate reserves of rations, LPG, kerosene and emergency medical supplies.

Sinha instructed officials to strictly prohibit unregistered service providers along the Yatra route and enforce a mandatory 100 percent prepaid service system for registered service providers.

To strengthen essential services, he directed the installation of additional diesel generator (DG) sets, uninterrupted healthcare services, adequate deployment of manpower and sufficient availability of oxygen cylinders and ambulances.

The Lieutenant Governor also instructed officials to ensure efficient traffic management, conduct regular inspections of vehicles, keep all equipment operational and issue timely weather advisories to pilgrims.

He further directed that every tent along the pilgrimage routes must be equipped with a fire extinguisher and that specialized wildlife units be deployed along the tracks to respond to any wildlife-related incidents.

Commending the efforts of all stakeholders, Sinha lauded the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Indian Army, civil administration, security forces, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, service providers, volunteers and local residents for ensuring the smooth, safe and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Special Director General of Police (Coordination) S.J.M. Gillani, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 15 Corps, Lt Gen Balbir Singh, GOC 16 Corps Lt Gen P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary (Home) Chandekar Bharti, Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau, Pankaj Thakur, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor and S&SB Chief Executive Officer Mandeep K. Bhandari, Additional Director General of Police (CID) Nitish Kumar, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, inspector generals of police, senior officers of the Army, police, security forces, intelligence agencies and the Shrine Board.

Among others, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma; Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence and SDRF, A.G. Mir; Nodal Officer for the Pahalgam Axis, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Nodal Officer for the Baltal Axis, Rahul Yadav; administrative secretaries and senior officials of various line departments also attended the meeting.

Innovation Needs

Omar said the greatest obstacle faced by innovators is the fear of failure, stressing that every unsuccessful attempt provides valuable lessons for future success.

Drawing inspiration from inventor Thomas Edison, he said Edison never regarded himself as having failed while inventing the electric light bulb but believed he had discovered thousands of methods that did not work.

"We should never be afraid to fail. The only thing we should be afraid of is not trying. Every failure is a lesson that takes us one step closer to success," the Chief Minister said.

He said not every idea would become a successful business and not every startup would survive in the market, but every attempt contributes to learning, innovation and future growth.

Platform for innovation

The Chief Minister said ASCEND 2026 had been conceptualised to nurture ideas from their earliest stages into market-ready products capable of reaching consumers across Jammu and Kashmir, the country and even international markets.

He said the three-day summit would connect startups with investors, venture capitalists, mentors, policymakers and industry experts, providing young entrepreneurs with opportunities to secure investment, guidance and market access.

Omar said interactions with young innovators always left him optimistic about Jammu and Kashmir's future, as many startups were focused on solving practical problems faced by people in the region.

Young innovators solving real problems Highlighting innovations showcased during the exhibition, the Chief Minister referred to a sensor-based system designed to automatically drain water from pipelines to prevent freezing during winter, smart digital water meters aimed at reducing wastage of drinking water, hailstorm protection nets for farmers, carbon monoxide detection systems and automatic gas regulator safety devices to prevent winter accidents.

"These are practical solutions developed by youngsters who have identified real problems and are trying to innovate meaningful solutions. No idea is a bad idea. Every idea has potential and it only needs refinement, mentoring and the right support," he said.

Referring to a local solar energy innovator, Bilal, Omar said timely institutional support could help talented innovators from Jammu and Kashmir become globally recognised entrepreneurs. He expressed confidence that ASCEND 2026 would become the launchpad for many future success stories from the region.

Government ready to support risk-taking Acknowledging that governments are generally risk-averse and often prefer investments with guaranteed outcomes, Omar said startups require a different approach.

"If we fund ten startups, perhaps eight may not succeed. But the two that succeed can create enough value to compensate for those failures. We are not afraid to fail. The only thing we are afraid of is not providing enough support to all of you," he said.

Reiterating the government's commitment to building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir currently has around 1,300 to 1,400 startups, expressing confidence that the number would double by the time ASCEND 2027 is held.

He said the government wanted future generations to look back at the present summit as the moment when Jammu and Kashmir's startup movement truly gathered momentum.

Inviting investors, venture capitalists and industry leaders to partner with emerging entrepreneurs from the region, Omar said their support could help transform promising ideas into successful enterprises capable of generating employment, promoting innovation and strengthening the Union Territory's economy.

Road Deaths

the ministry, key measures include mandatory road safety audits on National Highways, identification and rectification of black spots, establishment of driving training institutes, implementation of the electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) system, stricter vehicle safety standards, electronic traffic enforcement, constitution of the National Road Safety Board, and technology-driven e-challan mechanisms.

The Centre further said emergency response has been strengthened through the Rah-Veer Scheme, under which the reward for Good Samaritans has been increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000, enhanced compensation for hit-and-run victims, deployment of ambulances at National Highway toll plazas, and implementation of the PM-Rahat Scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims.(KNO)

CAT Issues Warrants

the CAT's interim order remains operative and is binding unless modified or vacated. However, the Court noted that the petitioners, VC and Registrar, had not been afforded adequate opportunity to place their compliance on record before the Tribunal.

Accordingly, the High Court directed the petitioners to file their statement of facts/compliance within two weeks and ordered that the matter be listed before the CAT on August 3. The Tribunal has been asked to consider the compliance report before deciding on any further action, including the necessity of issuing or enforcing contempt proceedings.

Pending further orders by the Tribunal, the High Court also exempted the Vice Chancellor and Registrar from personal appearance and disposed of the petition.

# Students Protests, Resentment Can't Be Ignored; Dialogue Is Must: CM Omar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the Centre cannot ignore protests by a large number of youth in Delhi over the paper leak issue and should address the "resentment" among them by having a dialogue.

"At some point, there has to be dialogue with them. You cannot ignore such a large number of youth," Abdullah told reporters here.

He said when the Cockroach Janata Party held its first protest programme at Jantar Mantar with only a few attendees, some people started making fun of it, saying no one was with them, that millions were on social media, but not ready to come out on the ground.

"Now, the situation in Delhi is before you. A significant part of New Delhi is shut down today. Even last night, tear gas had to be used near the Jantar Mantar," he said.

As per PTI, Abdullah said there is clearly a "resentment" among the youth that has been ignored so far.

"Now, it is a good thing that the prime minister has stated through his post (on X) that youth are important. It would be good if their concerns are addressed through direct conversation with them," he added.

On the climate activist Sonam Wangchuk putting a new condition -- that no retaliatory action be taken against the protesters -- to end his hunger-strike, Abdullah said retaliatory action should not be taken against the youth in any case.



"They are conducting a peaceful protest. If Wangchuk is ready to withdraw his hunger strike on this condition, it is a good step. I believe there should be no retaliatory action, there should be a dialogue with these youths, and their legitimate demands should be acted upon," he said.

To a question about Union minister J P Nadda's claim linking his government to the Services Selection Board paper leak in Jammu and Kashmir, the chief minister said multiple papers were leaked at that time (when there was no elected government).

"An inquiry was set up, and the matter was handed over to the CBI. Several blacklisted companies were permitted to conduct recruitment. However, what came out of that inquiry and investigation is something I don't have an answer to; you will have to ask that question elsewhere," he said.

Asked about the flood situation in the valley, Abdullah said the situation has eased now, but expressed

concern that it was becoming a regular affair.

"Thank God, the water level in the rivers did not rise as much as was feared, but damage has occurred in several places. As you saw in Beerwah, Budgam, around 37 shops were washed away by the river. Instructions have been given to the deputy commissioner regarding compensation procedures. For now, we hope the rain will stop after today, but this is becoming an annual occurrence. Last year, rain caused damage, and again this year," he said.

He said the government needs to chalk out a comprehensive plan to address the issue.

"We cannot stop the rain and these cloudburst incidents. When I was young, they used to happen once or twice a year in remote hilly areas like Pahalgam, but now there are reports of cloudbursts every month. We need to work out a comprehensive programme to protect our infrastructure and save precious lives," he said.

## Mehbooba Backs CJP Protesters at Jantar Mantar

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday expressed her support for the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) demonstrating against alleged irregularities in examinations and described the agitation as a fight to safeguard the Constitution and democracy.

Addressing the protesters at the Jantar Mantar, Mehbooba praised the youth for enduring harsh weather conditions while demanding justice and transparency in the examination process, saying their struggle would discourage corruption, paper leaks and other injustices.

The protesters led by the CJP have been camping at the Jantar Mantar since last month demanding accountability over the NEET paper leak and resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, among others.

"I salute you all. When I saw on July 20 that

some rioters, along with the police, were beating up the protesting youth, even tearing the clothes of our daughters, I said enough is enough, I must go (to Delhi)," she said while addressing the protesters.

Calling it a defining moment for the country's youth, Mehbooba alleged that the nation witnessed increasing incidents of "divide and rule" politics, exam paper leaks, corruption and crimes against women over the past several years.

"This is what we have seen in the country for the last 12 years - divide and rule. Sometimes 'chanda chori' (donations theft), sometimes paper leaks, sometimes rapes. Even cows are safer than children in our country today," she said.

As per PTI, the PDP chief also criticised the judiciary and the Centre, claiming that the concerns of the protesting students did not receive adequate attention despite their prolonged agitation.

## Special Train Operated for the Convenience of Tourists Visiting Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In view of traffic disruptions on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway caused by heavy rainfall and inclement weather, the Northern Railway's Jammu Division on Wednesday operated a special train from Srinagar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to facilitate the movement of tourists and other passengers stranded in the Kashmir Valley.

The special train was operated on the directions of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) Jammu, Uchit Singhal, to ensure safe, comfortable and timely travel for passengers affected by the slow movement of road traffic.

According to railway officials, the train departed from Srinagar Railway Station at 5:10 pm, halted at Banihal en route and is scheduled to arrive at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 8:15 pm. More than 600 passengers availed themselves of the special service.

Officials said the train was introduced as an immediate relief measure to provide stranded passengers with an alternative mode of transport, particularly

those scheduled to board onward trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Jammu Tawi. They added that the Jammu Division has, on several occasions in the past, operated special trains during emergencies and peak travel periods to enhance passenger convenience.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said passenger safety and convenience remain the division's foremost priority.

"In view of the slow road traffic and to ensure passengers reach their destinations on time, the Division administration took a prompt decision to run this special train so that no passenger faces any inconvenience," he said.

He also advised passengers to check the latest train status before commencing their journey through the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) App, the IRCTC website, or by calling the Railway helpline 139.

The Northern Railway reiterated that ensuring seamless travel and extending timely assistance to passengers during adverse weather conditions remains a key priority for the Jammu Division.

## Health Dept Issues Advisory As Heavy Rains Continue Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amid persistent rainfall and the looming threat of floods across several parts of Kashmir, the Health Department has issued a public health advisory urging residents throughout the Valley to take necessary precautions to safeguard themselves from weather-related illnesses and accidents.

The advisory, accessed by KNO, comes as heavy rains continue to lash various districts, causing waterlogging, rising water levels in rivers and streams, and increasing the risk of flash floods, landslides and water-borne diseases.

The Health Department has appealed to people to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly near rivers, streams, flood-prone areas, landslide-prone locations and waterlogged roads. Residents have also been advised to stay updated with official weather advisories and strictly follow instructions issued by the district administrations and emergency response agencies.

To prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid and hepatitis A and E, the department has urged people to drink only safe, boiled

or chlorinated water. Maintaining proper hand hygiene by washing hands with soap before meals and after using the toilet has also been stressed.

The advisory further recommends consuming only freshly cooked food and avoiding stale or contaminated food, as flooding often increases the risk of food contamination.

Parents have been asked to keep children away from floodwater and stagnant water to reduce the risk of infections, injuries and drowning.

Residents have also been advised to wear protective footwear while walking through wet or flooded areas to prevent skin infections and diseases such as leptospirosis. The department cautioned people to ensure that electrical appliances and wiring remain dry and warned against touching electrical equipment with wet hands or while standing in water to avoid electrocution.

Special precautions have been advised for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, senior citizens, young children and people suffering from chronic illnesses, as they are more susceptible to health complications during adverse weather conditions.

## J&K Bank Reinforces Social Commitment through Key CSR Interventions

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Reinforcing its commitment to inclusive and socially responsible development, J&K Bank today marked two significant milestones under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sections of society.

The Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta presided over a mega distribution camp under Project SAMARTH, implemented in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), and handed over a dedicated transport vehicle to the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Srinagar. The Bank's Deputy General Manager Syed Adil Bashir, Head ALIMCO (North zone) S K Tripathi, Director CRC (Srinagar) Dr Behzad Maqbool, Manager ALIMCO Ishvinder Singh, Rehabilitation Officer (CRC) Shameem Ahmad, senior officers of the Bank besides other representatives of ALIMCO and CRC Srinagar were present at the event held at CRC Srinagar.

The event marked the successful conduct of a mega camp under Project SAMARTH, one of the Bank's flagship CSR initiatives dedicated to the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities. During the day long camp, customized assistive aids and appliances worth Rs 46 Lacs were distributed among over 400 beneficiaries.

Pertinently, through the project, J&K Bank has facilitated the distribution of customized assistive aids and appliances to over



4700 persons with disabilities and senior citizens from economically weaker sections across Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country, with a predominant focus on beneficiaries in the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "The true measure of an institution's social commitment lies in its ability to stand beside those who need support the most. At J&K Bank, we view Corporate Social Responsibility not as an obligation but as an extension of our philosophy of socially empowering banking for one and all."

"The initiatives reflect our enduring commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for persons with disabilities by improving their access to essential support systems. These interventions are aimed at enhancing their independence, dignity and mobility, enabling greater participation in

education, employment and community life through devices customized to their individual functional requirements," he added.

He further said, "Our endeavour is to support initiatives that create lasting social impact, strengthen community institutions and improve the quality of life of vulnerable sections of society. We remain committed to partnering with credible institutions in building a more inclusive and compassionate society."

Implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Project SAMARTH has been devised to benefit persons with disabilities across five districts of Jammu & Kashmir besides Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru through the distribution of a wide range of customized assistive aids and appliances.

## J&K Govt to Finalise Eco-Tourism Policy Within 6 Months

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is in the process of formulating an Eco-Tourism Policy, which is expected to be finalized and notified within six months.

The Department of Tourism has informed the Assembly Secretariat that it is actively engaged in drafting the policy. "The Department is actively engaged in formulation of the Jammu & Kashmir Eco-Tourism Policy, which aims to establish a comprehensive framework for conservation of natural resources, sustainable utilization of eco-sensitive areas, regulation of tourism activities based on carrying capacity, promotion of community participation, and creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities," reads a detailed reply submitted by the Department of Tourism, as per KNO.

The government further stated that the policy is being finalized after extensive consultations with stakeholders. "The draft

Eco-Tourism Policy is being finalized after detailed consultation with all concerned stakeholders including Tourism Development Authorities, line departments, environmental experts, local communities, tourism industry representatives, and other relevant agencies," the reply added. According to the Government, the policy will be finalized and notified within six months following completion of the consultation process and approval of the competent authority. In the reply, the Department maintained that it is committed to promoting sustainable, responsible, and environment-friendly tourism, while maintaining a balance between tourism development and preservation of the fragile ecological resources of the Union Territory.

"Pending formal notification of the policy, the Department and its subordinate Tourism Development Authorities are already implementing sustainable tourism practices under existing environmental laws, statutory guidelines, and government directions," reads documents submitted by the Tourism department.

## Woman Rescued from Flooded Home in Baramulla

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday rescued a woman who was trapped inside her house following a cloudburst.

"Police in Baramulla, in coordination with the civil administration, successfully rescued a woman who became trapped inside her house following a cloudburst in the Mayan area of Lachipora, Bijhama," a police spokesperson said.

As per PTI, he said the cloudburst triggered a sudden surge of water and debris in a local stream, resulting in flash flooding, which created panic among residents of the area.

Responding to the emergency, Tehsildar Boniyar, SDPO Uri, and Bijhama SHO, along with rescue teams, rushed to the spot and evacuated the trapped woman to safety. (Observer News Service)

## Kargil Police Make Tenant Verification Mandatory

**KARGIL:** Kargil Police have made tenant verification mandatory across the district, directing all landlords, property owners and persons renting out premises to furnish details of their tenants in compliance with an order issued by the District Magistrate under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

According to an advisory issued by Police Station Kargil, house owners, landlords, property owners, attorney holders and others renting out residential or commercial premises must submit the prescribed tenant verification form along with complete particulars of their tenants to the concerned police station within seven days.

As per KNT, Police said those whose properties are already under tenancy have also been asked to furnish the required information without delay. The verification form must bear the signatures of both the landlord and the tenant.

The advisory states that the initiative is aimed at preventing criminals and anti-social elements from misusing rented accommodation as hideouts, besides enhancing public safety and assisting law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and order.

Police have warned that failure to comply with the District Magistrate's order will attract legal action under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and other applicable laws. Authorities have appealed to the public to cooperate with the verification drive, describing it as an important step towards ensuring the safety and security of the district. (Observer News Service)

## Doda: PDD Asks Parents to Keep Children, Livestock Away From Electrical Installations

**DODA:** The District Administration Doda, in coordination with the Power Development Department (PDD), has issued a monsoon electrical safety advisory, urging the public to exercise caution around power infrastructure during the ongoing spell of rain to prevent accidents.

The administration asked residents to maintain a safe distance from electric poles, transformers, substations and overhead power lines during rainfall, warning that waterlogging and damaged electrical equipment can pose serious risks.

Executive Engineer, PDD Doda, Rouf Batt, appealed to the public to ensure that children do not play near electrical installations and advised livestock owners against tying animals close to power poles, transformers or other electricity-related infrastructure.

As per KNT, the administration also urged people to immediately report damaged or sagging power lines and other electrical hazards to the concerned authorities instead of attempting to handle them on their own.

The District Administration appealed to the public to strictly follow the safety guidelines and cooperate with the Power Development Department to ensure the safety of lives and property. (Observer News Service)

## Thajiwas Tourist Movement Suspended for Two Days

**GANDERBAL:** The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) on Thursday suspended the movement of tourists and visitors to the Thajiwas area for the next two days in view of incessant rainfall and the heightened risk of flash floods and landslides.

In an advisory issued by the Chief Executive Officer of the Sonamarg Development Authority, the restriction has been imposed as a precautionary measure amid prevailing inclement weather conditions across the region.

"The movement of all tourists and visitors towards the Thajiwas area shall remain completely closed for the next two days," the advisory said.

The authority has advised all tourists and visitors to refrain from visiting Thajiwas during the restriction period and strictly follow the directions issued by the administration and other concerned authorities.

The advisory comes as continuous rainfall has increased the possibility of flash floods, landslides and other weather-related hazards in the higher reaches of Kashmir, prompting authorities to issue precautionary measures in several districts.

As per KNT, tourists have been urged to stay updated with official weather and travel advisories before planning visits to mountain destinations. (Observer News Service)

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, KASHMIR

### MESSAGE FOR FARMERS

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch Nos of pesticide products in their fields, which has been declared as Misbranded by the Quality Control Laboratory Lalmandi Srinagar.

**The details of Misbranded Pesticide product is as under:-**

| S.No | Name of the Product | Active Ingredient                 | Batch No   | Date of Manufacture | Date of Expiry | Manufactured/Marketed by     |
|------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1    | Haru                | Tebuconazole 10% & Sulpur 65 % WG | AHRU603009 | 26.03.2026          | 25.03.2028     | Sumitomo Chemicals India Ltd |

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch No: AHRU603009 proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Sd/-  
DIPK-3626-26 Deputy Director Law Enforcement  
DT: 23/07/2026 Kashmir

# Trump: Saudi's Must Recognise Israel for Nuclear Deal

**AP**

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump said Thursday that a new agreement reached with Saudi Arabia for a civilian nuclear program will require the kingdom to normalise relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords.

In a post on social media, the Republican president said the deal does not allow for enrichment of uranium. Nonproliferation experts have raised concerns that the deal fails to include guardrails to prevent enrichment of uranium to weapons-grade levels.

Trump's post said the agreement "will be approved, but is totally subject to Saudi Arabia joining the very respected and successful Abraham Accords." He added that the US "is not opposed to Civil (Non-Enriched) Nuclear Facilities."

The Saudis have made clear that normalising relations with Israel would first require the establishment of a clear path for Palestinian statehood. Is-

raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the idea of Palestinian statehood as being untenable for his country's security.

The Saudi Embassy in Washington declined to comment Thursday on Trump's assertion that the deal will require the kingdom to join the accords.

Netanyahu's office, in a statement, applauded the prospect of Saudi Arabia joining the accords as a "historic leap forward for peace in the Middle East." The statement made no mention of the deal to bolster Saudi Arabia's civil nuclear program.

Trump has sought to build on the 2020 agreements, which expanded the number of Arab and Muslim-majority nations with diplomatic ties with Israel. Saudi Arabia is the most important Arab power in the Middle East, and Trump believes the kingdom's joining the accords is critical to establishing long-term stability in the region.

The new nuclear deal announced Wednesday is expected to last 30 years and involve



US firms in the program's development. It could allow for the building of a uranium-enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia following a joint US-Saudi study, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The agreement is to be submitted to Congress for review, according to the US and Saudi governments.

The agreement does not include the International Atomic

Energy Agency's "additional protocol," which would allow for more monitoring, inspections and verification, according to a second person familiar with the decision.

The oil-rich kingdom's Energy Ministry on Wednesday said the agreement bolsters "efforts to diversify energy sources, advance cutting-edge technologies, and expand opportunities for cooperation and investment in ways that serve the mutual interests of the two friendly countries."

Enrichment is not an automatic

path to a nuclear weapon — a nation also must master other steps, including the use of synchronised high explosives, for instance. But it does open the door to weaponisation, which has fueled concerns over Iran's program.

**Administration says deal is good for US firms**

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters Thursday in Manila that the agreement would make certain that Saudi Arabia works with American companies instead of "competitors" to build its civil nuclear program. China, South Korea, France and Russia are among alternative partners that Riyadh could look to.

"We're not the only show in town, but we're the best show in town," Rubio said. "We want to make sure that it's our companies they're picking."

Trump has talked up his push to extend the Abraham Accords — which also formalised commercial ties between Israel and some Arab and Muslim-majority nations — as key to his plan for bringing long-term stability to the Middle East. But the aftermath of Israel's war in Gaza and the nearly 5-month-old US-Israel war against Iran have complicated Trump's push to expand the accords.

The agreements have proven unpopular among the public in certain signatory countries such as Morocco and Bahrain, sparking widespread protests.

Still, the Trump administration remains optimistic that an agreement with Saudi Arabia on joining the accords can be sealed by the end of Trump's second term.

**Deal faces early scrutiny from Congress, Israel and nuclear experts**

The White House and Saudi Arabia have not made public the text of the nuclear cooperation agreement, known as a "123 agreement," alongside what the Trump administration described as a "bilateral safeguards agreement" that was signed Wednesday by US Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Saudi Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman.

But it already faces scrutiny from Congress, some Israeli officials and nuclear experts.

As details of the deal emerged Wednesday, opposition on Capitol Hill and elsewhere began to snowball, with Republicans and Democrats both questioning the wisdom of the agreement. In addition, conservative commentators who have generally supported Trump's policies asked why the president would give Saudi Arabia such a deal without getting anything in return.

Then on Thursday, Trump abruptly announced that the deal is entirely contingent on the Saudis joining the accords.

The United Arab Emirates, a neighbour to Saudi Arabia, signed a 123 agreement with the US to build its Barakah nuclear power plant with South Korean assistance. But the UAE did so without seeking enrichment, something nonproliferation experts have held up as the "gold standard" for nations wanting atomic power.

## Premium Petrol Stays Ethanol-Free; Govt Rules Out E0, E10 Return

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Premium grades of petrol sold by state-run fuel retailers will continue to be supplied without ethanol blending, the government said on Thursday, adding that it has not taken any decision to increase ethanol blending in petrol beyond 20 per cent and there is no proposal to restore the supply of E0 or E10 petrol.

Premium petrol grades — Indian Oil Corp's XP100, Hindustan Petroleum's poWer100 and Bharat Petroleum's Speed100 — are not blended with ethanol because they are niche fu-

els containing specialised performance-enhancing additives and account for only about 0.5 per cent of total petrol sales, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in written replies to questions in the Lok Sabha.

These grades of petrol cost around Rs 160 per litre compared to Rs 102.12 a litre for normal petrol, which is doped with 20 per cent ethanol.

Any decision to raise ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent will be taken only after detailed scientific and technical studies and consultations with automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies

and research institutions, Gopi said.

He said public and private fuel retailers have been directed to supply petrol blended with up to 20 per cent ethanol across all states and Union territories under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. Ethanol-blended motor spirit with a minimum research octane number (RON) of 95 has been notified with effect from April 1, 2026.

The government, he said, has not received any widespread or substantiated complaints from vehicle manufacturers, automobile associations or consumer organisations regarding

E20 fuel. Laboratory studies, field trials and operational data showed no widespread adverse impact on engine durability, performance or vehicle life.

More than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on higher ethanol blends without verified evidence of widespread engine failures attributable to ethanol blending, the minister said.

The government also said there was no proposal to revert to E0 or E10 petrol, citing the logistical costs of maintaining parallel nationwide fuel supply chains and its objective of transitioning to cleaner fuels.

## West Asia Conflict a Top Concern for India: Govt

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The continued conflict in West Asia and related developments are a "matter of utmost concern" to India, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in a written response to a query in Rajya Sabha.

Singh also said the well-being and security of the Indian community in Iran is the government's "overriding priority".

The Ministry of External Affairs was asked whether the government extended any diplomatic, humanitarian, consular or economic support to Iran during the recent war in the Persian gulf region.

"The continued conflict in West Asia and related developments are a matter of utmost concern to India. Since the start of the conflict, the government has been in close contact with the parties to

the conflict, including Iran, and other regional and international interlocutors," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to the Iranian President thrice and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has spoken to the Iranian foreign minister eight times, the government said.

There have also been high-level visits from Iran to India for BRICS-related meetings, including by foreign minister, petroleum minister, agriculture minister, justice minister; cooperatives, labour and social welfare minister; and the Iranian deputy NSA, Singh said.

"India has reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to arrive at a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict. India has also underlined the need to ensure unimpeded freedom of navigation and the safe flow of energy and commerce in and around the Strait of Hormuz," the MoS said.

## Space Startup Boom: 1 to 400 in 12 Years

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's space sector has witnessed measurable gains since June 2020, when space was opened to private players, with the number of space start-ups increasing from one in 2014 to more than 400 at present, and cumulative private investment crossing USD 600 million, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said in 2026 so far, private investment worth USD 187 million has been reported and 105 authorisations have been issued to non-government entities (NGEs) as on July 7.

"The investor base driving India's space ecosystem has expanded far beyond early angels, with sovereign wealth funds, global asset managers, and strategic corporates now sitting side-by-side on cap tables," the minister said.

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| 20 Years         | ₹51.8L | ₹12.0L   | 6.5x           |
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