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Weather Eases; Major Flood Threat Recedes

Jhelum sees slight rise at Ram Munshi Bagh, Sangam | Fresh wet spell likely from July 28



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Weather conditions improved across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday after days of widespread rainfall, with authorities and weather experts indicating that the threat of any major flooding has largely receded despite

a slight rise in the River Jhelum at key gauge stations during the evening.

The Meteorological Department said rainfall activity has reduced significantly and only brief spells of rain and thundershowers are expected at isolated places over the next few days. | [More on P6](#)

Landslides Keep NH-44 Closed For 3rd Day

Observer News Service

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the third consecutive day on Friday following multiple landslides, shooting stones and road erosion triggered by incessant rainfall, leaving over 1,000 vehicles stranded and disrupting movement between Kashmir and the rest of the country. | [More on P6](#)

Cancer Cases In J&K Rise 11% In 5 Yrs: Centre

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The estimated number of cancer cases in Jammu and Kashmir has increased by around 11 per cent over the past five years, rising from 13,060 in 2021 to 14,493 in 2025, the Centre informed Parliament on Friday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the figures are based on estimates compiled under the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP).

The ministry said the government has strengthened cancer screening and treatment

services under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).

According to the reply, screening for oral, breast and cervical cancers is being carried out through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, with trained frontline health workers identifying and referring suspected cases for further diagnosis and treatment.

The Centre also informed the House that a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign targeting around 1.2 crore eligible 14-year-old girls was launched on February 28, 2026, as part of efforts to prevent cervical cancer.

The ministry | [More on P6](#)

Nation Proud Of Slain Cop's Sacrifice: LG Sinha

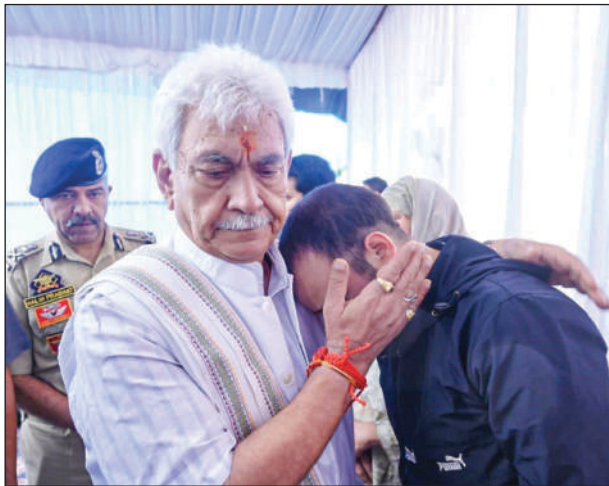
Assures Full Support to Ashiq Qureshi's Family, Reaffirms Resolve Against Terror

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited Lalpora in Beerwah area of Budgam district to meet the family of Jammu and Kashmir Police Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was killed in a terror attack in Anantnag earlier this week.

Paying tributes to the slain policeman, Sinha described Qureshi as a brave son of the nation whose courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty would remain etched in the country's collective memory.

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved family, the Lieutenant Governor assured them that the administration would stand firmly by them and ensure their well-being



and dignity.

He also assured full support to the family until the martyr's son completes his education and becomes

eligible for a compassionate government appointment.

"The entire nation is proud of brave-hearted Ashiq Hussain Qureshi. | [More on P6](#)



Photo : Abid Bhat

A Decade After 2014, Kashmir Still Fears Every Spell Of Rain

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Every spell of heavy rain in Kashmir revives memories of the devastating 2014 floods for thousands of families living along the banks of the Jhelum River and its tributaries. More than a decade later, many residents say they continue to spend sleepless nights watching fluctuating water levels, uncertain whether the river will

remain within its banks.

The prolonged rainfall over the past week, which triggered flash floods, landslides and a sharp rise in the Jhelum, once again left people in low-lying areas on edge, despite authorities maintaining that the flood threat has largely receded.

"We spend the entire night checking the river. One hour the water level appears to recede, and the next hour it

rises again. Every rainfall reminds us of the 2014 floods," said Arif Ahmad, a resident of Sethar in Anantnag, whose home is located close to the Jhelum.

For many, the fear is rooted in memories of September 2014, when unprecedented flooding submerged large parts of Kashmir, claiming lives, destroying homes and crippling infrastructure.

Residents say | [More on P6](#)

Step Up Intelligence-Led Ops: DGP To J&K Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday directed police officers across Jammu and Kashmir to intensify area domination, strengthen intelligence-led operations and reinforce the security grid to maintain peace and counter the remaining militant networks.

The directions were issued during a high-level security review meeting chaired by the DGP at the Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir.

According to a police statement, officers presented a detailed assessment of the prevailing security situation, including the operational environment, threat perception and preparedness of field formations.

Reviewing the overall security scenario, Prabhat instructed officers to intensify area domination and night domination, particularly in vulnerable and urban areas, to maintain a strong police presence and prevent any attempts to disturb peace.

He also directed officers to strengthen security around vital installations and enhance intelligence gathering through improved coordination



among police and intelligence agencies.

Emphasising intelligence-led policing, the DGP asked officers to step up operations aimed at identifying and dismantling the remaining militant networks, stressing that close coordination among all stakeholders was essential for a swift operational response to any security challenge.

Prabhat also highlighted the importance of uninterrupted communication, directing officers to ensure robust telecommunication connectivity and resilient communication networks across all police formations.

The meeting reviewed preparedness for weather-related emergencies as well. The DGP instructed officers to maintain constant situational awareness and ensure communication systems | [More on P6](#)

SC Bars Sharing Of Court Hearing Videos On SM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Friday directed that audio and video recordings of court proceedings must not be posted, reposted, uploaded, extracted, modified or otherwise disseminated on social media and other digital platforms without prior permission from the competent authority.

The interim order was passed by a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana while hearing a petition highlighting the alleged misuse of live-streamed court proceedings on social media.

"As an interim measure, it is directed that there shall be no extraction, | [More on P6](#)

HC Bars Disclosure Of Sexual Assault Victims' Identity

Trial courts warned of disciplinary action for violating provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

Agencies

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has directed presiding officers of trial courts to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which prohibit the disclosure of the identity of victims of sexual offences.

In a circular, the High Court cautioned that any violation of this provision would attract disciplinary action as warranted under law.

"Now, therefore, all the Presiding Officers of the trial courts of the UTs of J&K and

Ladakh are hereby impressed upon to ensure that they scrupulously adhere to the provisions of Section 72(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which prohibit disclosure of the identity of victims of sexual offences. Any violation in this regard shall entail disciplinary action as warranted under law," the circular states.

The move follows reports that, in certain cases involving sexual offences, trial courts had disclosed the identity of victims in judicial orders and judgments, in blatant violation of statutory provisions and the law | [More on P6](#)

Strong Action Against Paper Leaks Will Follow: PM

Announces fast-track courts for speedy trials in examination fraud cases | Cabinet approves draft legislation to tighten penalties, with Parliament set to take up the Bill next week

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a draft Bill proposing stricter punishment for examination paper leaks, hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government would introduce fresh legislation in Parliament next week to crack down on the menace.

In a video message, Modi said the proposed Bill would contain provisions for stronger action against those involved in paper leaks and



expressed confidence that it would be passed at the earliest during the ongoing Monsoon Session.

"The Cabinet will discuss the issue of paper leaks on Friday and, | [More on P6](#)

NTA Terminates 47 Officials

Press Trust Of India

In a major crackdown in the NEET paper leak controversy, the National Testing Agency terminated 47 officials and is set to pursue legal and criminal action against some, officials said on Friday. The move comes a day after Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi | [More on P6](#)

16 Yrs Later, Chargesheet Filed Against Mian Qayoom

Agencies

Srinagar: Sixteen years after the registration of a First Information Report (FIR), Srinagar Police on Friday filed a charge sheet before the designated National Investigation Agency (NIA) Court in Srinagar against former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association President Mian Abdul Qayoom, former Vice President Advocate Aijaz Ahmad Bedar, Advocate G.N. Shaheen and deceased Advocate Bilal Ahmad Bhat.

The case pertains to an FIR registered at Police Station Maisuma on March 29, 2010.

Reports said that Police Station Maisuma submitted the charge sheet before | [More on P6](#)



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2

Hypertension No Longer Confined To Old Age; Experts Urge Early BP Screening

Press Trust Of India

Young adults in India are increasingly developing high blood pressure, a condition once considered more prevalent in the middle and old ages, with cardiologists attributing the trend to sedentary lifestyles, obesity, chronic stress and unhealthy diets. They warned that many remain unaware of the problem until serious complications such as a heart attack, stroke or kidney disease occur. The NFHS-6 (2023-24) data shows that 19.4 per cent of women and 22.1 per cent of men (aged over 15) have elevated blood pressure or are on medication for hypertension in India, with urban areas reporting significantly higher rates than rural regions. Experts said one of the biggest concerns is that high blood pressure rarely causes symptoms until complications develop. "Most young patients feel completely healthy. They often discover elevated blood pressure during a routine check-up, before surgery,

or after a cardiac emergency," said Dr Rahul Chandola, chairman of the Institute of Heart Lungs Diseases Research Centre and founder of AI-based healthcare technology platform iLive Connect. A single reading in a hospital is just a snapshot; what matters is how blood pressure behaves over weeks and months in daily life, he said. "Connected home monitoring devices that share readings directly with a doctor's team allow us to catch masked hypertension, adjust treatment early, and prevent complications before they occur," Dr Chandola said. He said adults, especially those with obesity, diabetes, a family history of hypertension or heart disease, should monitor their blood pressure at home using validated digital devices. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-INDIAB study has shown that hypertension affects more than one in four Indian adults, with a large proportion of cases remaining undiagnosed. The study identified obesity, diabetes, urban living, physical inactivity and excessive salt intake as major risk factors.



Dr Rajiv Narang, head of the Department of Cardiology at AIIMS, Delhi, said that 10 years ago, hypertension in people below 40 was relatively uncommon in routine cardiology practice. "Today, it is something we encounter almost every day," he said. Many young professionals have prolonged sitting hours, consume highly processed foods, sleep poorly and remain under constant stress. "These factors together are accelerating vascular ageing much earlier than expected," Dr Narang said.

"People often believe hypertension is an illness of old age. That misconception needs to change. Blood pressure should become as routinely monitored as body weight or blood sugar. Early diagnosis and sustained lifestyle changes can prevent decades of cardiovascular complications," he said. Dr Chandola highlighted that untreated hypertension silently damages the arteries supplying the heart, brain and kidneys, substantially increasing the risk of premature cardiovascular disease. The doctors stressed that lifestyle modification remains the cornerstone of preventing hypertension, particularly among younger adults. Regular physical activity of at least 150 minutes every week, maintaining a healthy body weight, reducing dietary salt, increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables, avoiding tobacco, limiting alcohol intake, managing stress and ensuring adequate sleep can significantly reduce blood pressure and lower long-term cardiovascular risk, Dr Narendra Singh Jhahhria, Head of the Department of Cardiothoracic and

Vascular Surgery (CTVS) at Dr RML Hospital and ABVIMS said. He also pointed to the growing evidence linking excessive salt consumption with hypertension in India. An ongoing ICMR-led initiative has found that average salt intake in both urban and rural populations exceeds the World Health Organisation's recommended limit of five grams per day, prompting researchers to evaluate low-sodium salt substitutes as a strategy to reduce hypertension and cardiovascular disease, Dr Jhahhria said. With cardiovascular diseases remaining the leading cause of death in India, experts stressed that detecting and controlling hypertension early could prevent thousands of heart attacks, strokes and cases of chronic kidney disease every year. "People often believe hypertension is an illness of old age. That misconception needs to change. Blood pressure should become as routinely monitored as body weight or blood sugar," Dr Jhahhria said.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

Email: xen-ed1@jk.gov.in Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE e-NIT No. 026/EDI, dt: 24.07.2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/ Railways/GEM, for the works as specified in clause 2 of BDS (Bid Data Sheet).

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost
1	Installation of 02 No High Mast Lights One near Sumo Stand and one at As-tanmarg near CSC at Faqir Gujree	183000/-

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 24-07-2026; 16:00 PM
B	Clarification start date	24-07-2026; 16:00 Hours
C	Clarification end date	06-08-2026; 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	24-07-2026; 16:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	07.08.2026; 04:00 Hours
F	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on one day after opening of financial e-bid.
G	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	08-08-2026; 12:00 Hours
H	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-I, Sgr.
J	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two Hundred only).
H	EMD	Rs.3700/- (Rupees Thirty-Seven Hundred Only)

DIPK-NB-1198/26
dated: 24-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division Ist, Srinagar

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, SUB OFFICE PULWAMA PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE / HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No: 708347 Session: APR-MAY Year 1991 through THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. The error has been committed by the Govt HSS Arihal against my F/N as ALI GAFAR BHAT instead AB GAFAR BHAT. Now i have applied for correction in the The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education, New Campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard y file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub office Pulwama within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public correct particulars be recorded as under:
Name: Mohd Shafi Bhat
Fathers Name: Ab Gaffar Bhat
Mothers Name: Raja Bano
Date of Birth: 01/03/1974
Residence: Arihal Pulwania



FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir S/o Nissar Hussain Mir Khanda BK Pora Budgam (J&K) Managing Partner: AUTOMATED POWER INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED have applied for enlistment as a civil contractor. If any person has any objection in this regard, he may submit his objection (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

NOTICE

I have changed my spouse name from Mumtaza Shah (old Name) to Mumtaza Manzoor (New Name). In future she will be known as Mumtaza Manzoor (New Name). If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 07 Days. After 07 Days no objection will be accepted.

Peerzada Manzoor Ahmad Shah
H/o Mumtaza Manzoor

NOTICE

I have changed my spouse name from Manzoor Ahmad Shah (old Name) to Peerzada Manzoor Ahmad Shah (New Name). In future he will be known as Peerzada Manzoor Ahmad Shah (New Name). If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 07 Days. After 07 Days no objection will be accepted.

Mumtaza Manzoor
W/o Peerzada Manzoor Ahmad Shah

اثر نیابت یومی زینگیر

عنوان :- درخواست منجاب افروزہ بیگم دختر محمد شعبان بیسر اسکی بیٹی شات بمراء اجرائی لیگل بیرون خود

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ
1	مصرہ زوجہ ابو القاسم شاہ	79	گھریلو کام
2	ثار احمد شاہ ولد ابرار احمد شاہ	52	ملازمت
3	نصرت آراذہ دختر ثار احمد شاہ	52	گھریلو کام
4	فاطمہ ثار دختر ثار احمد شاہ	28	زیر تعلیم
5	صابرہ ثار دختر ثار احمد شاہ	25	زیر تعلیم
6	سید ابرار احمد شاہ ولد ثار احمد شاہ	18	زیر تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد نہیں ہیں۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بہت اجراء کر نے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غزریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد منتہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے صدر اعتراض عدالت حد کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد کر سے میعاد کوئی عدرا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shabir Ahmad Khan, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Khan, R/o Batmaloo, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that my name has been erroneously been recorded as Shabir Ahmad Bangi in my official records, including the records of the Police Department, whereas my correct name is Shabir Ahmad Khan.

I have applied to the concerned authorities for correction of my name in all official records, including the Police Department records. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Khan
S/o Ghulam Ahmad Khan
R/o Batmaloo, Srinagar
9419070356

iko

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE/CORRECTION OF NAME IN BANK ACCOUNTI, Yasir Ashraf Parray, S/o Mohammad Ashraf Parray, R/o Handjan, Budgam, hereby inform the general public that my name recorded in my Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Main Branch, Account No. 0078041000002682, is "Yasir Ashraf Parray."Whereas, as per my Aadhaar Card and other valid identity documents, my correct name is "Yasir Ashraf."Therefore, I have applied to Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Main Branch, for correction of my name in the above-mentioned bank account from "Yasir Ashraf Parray" to "Yasir Ashraf", while all other particulars, including my father's name (Mohammad Ashraf Parray) and address (Handjan, Budgam), remain unchanged.If any person has any objection regarding this correction of name, they may submit the same in writing to the Branch Manager, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Main Branch, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the bank may proceed with the requested correction.Yasir AshrafS/o Mohammad Ashraf ParrayR/o Handjan, Budgam

mcb

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject Application of Maroofa Bano D/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Nagbal Tehsil Kreeri for issuance of RBA in favor of Self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA In this connection a report of patwai halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant In currently residing In village Nagbal having annual Income of Rs 160000 The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S	Name of the family/Relation-ship with the Family Head	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Ghulam Mohammad Dar	FATHER	56	Labour
2	Fata Begum	Mother	51	H/W
03	Maroofa Bano	Self	21	Student
4	Taskeena Bano	Sister	19	-
5	Waseem Ah Dar	Brother	17	-
5	Masrat Jan	Sister	13	--
7	Usman Ah	Brother	8	-
8	Tabasum Jan	Sister	11	-
9	Arwa Jan	-	11	-

Therefore, through this Public Notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Sevcn days) positively from the date the notice has been published No objection shall be entertained alter the stipulated time period.

fko

Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Israr Ayoub Bhat, S/o Mohamad Ayoub Bhat, R/o Turka Batapora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my father's name has been incorrectly recorded as "Mohd Ayoub Bhat" in my Driving Licence bearing No. JK05-20210004457. My father's correct name is "Mohamad Ayoub Bhat" as per official records. I have applied before the concerned authority for correction of the said error in my Driving Licence. If any person has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period. Failing which, the correction shall be processed accordingly.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Tariq Hussain Sofi to (new name) Tariq Hussain Hagroo. In future I will be known as (new name) Tariq Hussain Hagroo. 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.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my DOB as Mohammad Hayyan S/o Javid Ahmad Ganaie while my correct name is Mohammad Hayyan Ganaie S/o Javid Ahmad Ganaie . 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 Municipal Committee pattan within seven days After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Hayyan Ganaie
S/o Javid Ahmad Ganaie

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

EGARDING CORRECTION OF NAME IN BANK ACCOUNTI, Gulam Rasool Wani, S/o Gulam Hassan Wani, R/o Wani Mohalla, Pallar, hereby notify the general public that my Savings Bank Account bearing Account No. 0078040100014642 maintained with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Main Branch, is presently recorded with my name as "Gh Rasool Wani" and my father's name as "Gh Hassan Wani."Whereas, as per my Aadhaar Card and other valid identity documents, my correct name is "Gulam Rasool Wani" and my correct father's name is "Gulam Hassan Wani."Accordingly, I have applied to the Branch Manager, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Main Branch, for correction of my name and parentage in the above-mentioned bank account from "Gh Rasool Wani, S/o Gh Hassan Wani" to "Gulam Rasool Wani, S/o Gulam Hassan Wani" in accordance with my Aadhaar Card and other supporting documents.If any person has any objection to the above correction, the same may be submitted in writing to the Branch Manager, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Main Branch, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the bank may proceed with the requested correction. Sd/-Gulam Rasool WaniS/o Gulam Hassan WaniR/o Wani Mohalla, Pallar

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420140025279 issued in favour of JAVID AHMAD GANIEE Parentage ABDUL KHALIK GANIEE

Whereas an application has been recieved by one JAVID AHMAD GANIEE Parentage ABDUL KHALIK GANIEE wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as AB KHALIQ GANIEE Which needs to be changed as ABDUL KHALIK GANIEE.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son AZMAT ABBAS MALLA the Fathers & Mothers name is entered as fathers MOHD IQBAL mothers name NUSRAT while actual name is fathers MOHAMMAD IQBAL MALLA mothers name NUSRAT AKHTER. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHAMMAD IQBAL MALLA
F/o AZMAT ABBAS MALLA
R/o CHANDPORA LATIPORA BUDGAM

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Abdul Gani S/o Hakam Din R/o Channa Mahore Reasi is applying for DEE Class Government Contractor Card at the Office of the Chief Engineer JKPDCE Bemina. Anybody having any objection may contact above Office within seven days from the date of this advertisement after which no objection will be entertained.

ab

نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری موٹر سائیکل زیر نمبر JK04D-4303 کے نمبر پلیٹ (Number Plate) کہیں گم ہوگیا ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے دے ہوئے نمبر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اکئی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر ARTO ڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

مسرور احمد شاہ ولد ولی محمد شاہ ساکن کاہنہ ہمد ڈگام۔ فون۔ 7006816345

J&K's Biggest Startup Summit
Ends on High, Two Ventures
Secure Funding

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's largest-ever Startup Ecosystem Summit, "ASCEND J&K 2026 – Where Mountains Meet Momentum," concluded at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on Friday, marking a major step towards connecting promising startups from the Union Territory with national investors, accelerators, mentors and ecosystem leaders.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI)

were shortlisted for further evaluation and due diligence, creating potential pathways for investment, acceleration and strategic partnerships.

Among the major outcomes, two startups secured funding support and investment commitments of up to 1 crore, reflecting growing investor confidence in ventures emerging from Jammu and Kashmir.

Srinagar-based startup EcoBuddy received an investment commitment in the range of 75 lakh to 1 crore from LetsVenture, a leading technology-enabled platform for



under the aegis of the Industries and Commerce Department, the two-day summit witnessed high-level panel discussions, startup pitching sessions, investor meetings, masterclasses and networking engagements aimed at strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The summit generated significant investment interest, with 20 startups from Jammu and Kashmir pitching their business ventures before 14 investors and investment networks. Seven startups

investment in early-stage startups across sectors.

Founded by Muhammad Farukh Usman, Eco Buddy provides technology-driven waste-management solutions and eco-friendly packaging materials, addressing emerging environmental and sustainability challenges.

Another Srinagar-based startup, Curve Electric, attracted funding support from Build3 Accelerator and angel investor Komal Nailwal, further strengthening the region's startup investment landscape.



CM Omar Assures Time-Bound
Action on Public Grievances

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday met public representatives and various delegations at Raabita here and heard a range of issues concerning development, public welfare and matters of public importance.

MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues per-

taining to his constituency.

MLAs Vijay Kumar (Hiranagar) and Rajeev Kumar (Bishnah) also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues and public welfare concerns relating to their constituencies.

Former MLA Inderwal, Qazi Jalal-u-Din, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues of public importance concerning his area.

Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad

Mobin, met the Chief Minister and discussed matters pertaining to the university.

Senior journalist Abdul Mehjoor, along with several other individuals, also called on the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and individuals and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Kashmiri Youth Among Brightest Creative Minds: Imtiaz Ali

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Acclaimed filmmaker Imtiaz Ali on Friday described Kashmiri youth as among the brightest creative minds in the country. He expressed hope that the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) would inspire more young people from the region to pursue careers in cinema and the creative arts.

Speaking at the unveiling of IFFJK's logo at Royal Springs Golf Course here, Ali, as reported by KNO, said he was fortunate to work in Jam-

mu and Kashmir, where he witnessed not only breathtaking landscapes but also the warmth and artistic richness of its people.

"I believe the Kashmiri youth is perhaps the brightest as far as artistic talent and creative talent is concerned, at least in this country," he said, adding that the region possesses a rich human resource capable of making a meaningful contribution to the world through art and storytelling.

Ali said he hoped his experience of shooting films in Jammu and Kashmir would encourage more local

youngsters to become part of the creative industry.

Reflecting on his long association with the region, the filmmaker said every day spent in Kashmir had been "a day well spent" and expressed gratitude for the affection he had received from its people. "I have received a lot of love from all of you, and I hope I can be of service and deserve this recognition," he said.

The first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) is scheduled to be held in September this year as the Union Territory's first international film festival.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION KULGAM

Official Address:- Near District Hospital Kulgam PIN Code 192231

Short Term
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
e-NIT No: 06 /IDK/2026-27

For & on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor U.T of J&K, e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) "on Percentage rate basis" from registered/ Eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Government/CPWD/Railways/other Governments/Union Territories whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following work:-

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs.in lac)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Class of Contract	Cost of tender Document (in Rs)	Time of Completion	MH of Account	Tender Receiving authority
01	Repairment and reconstruction of irrigation channel from Mahgund to Hanjipora at Kanchit and Geromarag Check at Mahgund	2.92	5840/-	DEE	300/-	15 days	CDF (Constituency Devsar)	Ex. Engineer ID Kulgam

Position of funds: Budgetary provision under CDF

AA: Accorded vide No. 256-DDCK of 2026 dated. 07/07/2026.

TS: 23DB of 2026 dated. 22-07-2026.

- The bidding document and other details can be downloaded from the website: <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: WWW.jktenders.gov.in

As per the Schedule of dates given below:

i	Publishing date of NIT	24.07.2026
ii	Download start date	24.07.2026 from 11.00 AM
iii	Bid submission start date	24.07.2026 from 11.00 AM
iv	Bid submission end date	30.07.2026 upto 02:00 PM
v	Bid opening date	30.07.2026 upto 02:30 PM

- The bid shall be accompanied by a non-refundable tender document fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Security, to be deposited as per Govt. of J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) Circular No: FD-Code/290/2026 dated: 22/05/2026. The designated Account number as communicated vides Chief Engineer Knr. I&FC Department Srinagar's No: CE/I&FC/DB/6518-47 dated: 16/06/2026 is as under:
Account Name: Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation & Flood Control Department Srinagar.
Account No: 036701020000608
IFSC Code: JAKA01ANKKEE
Bank: J&K Bank Ltd. Tankipora Branch.
Bid security shall be valid for six months after the opening of the bid. Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Kulgam as per date mentioned above. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like documentary proof of payment of the tender document fee and EMD/ Bid security (Pay in slip) , GST 3B clearance with the Technical Bid (latest quarter)/ Registration card duly verified/renewed.
- The successful bidder i.e. L1 must submit the valid hard copy of payment (Pay in Slip in original) of tender document fee, EMD/ Bid Security and Additional performance security (required if any)

in original in the office of tender receiving authority immediately after opening and declaration of successful bidder. Further, the bidder must upload the contact details viz valid Phone No/ email ID while bid submission.

4. Participating Bidder to mandatorily disclose/ upload the bank account number, which is linked with their GST registration number at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the department to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder as per Finance Department Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08.07.2025.

5. The date of payment/ deposition of Tender document fee/ EMD/ Bid security /Affidavit should be between the start of bid and bid submission end date. The EMD of the successful bidder i.e. L1 will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period. The EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned/ released from the office of Chief Engineer Knr. I&FC Department Srinagar after recommendation from the office of Tender inviting authority.

6. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Moreover Royalty/ Mineral charges/ consideration charges as applicable under norms shall be operative on these works. Furthermore rules/ regulation/ Acts/ laws in vogue shall be applicable on these work(s).

7. The tenders shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.

8. As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department

within a period of 04 days. However, non-drawl of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.

9. In case of quoting abnormally low bid price, additional performance security will be taken from the successful bidder (L1) for quoting abnormally low bid as per Government of J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) J&K's circular No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025, as detailed under:-

A Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost/Advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost /advertised cost put to bid starting at 11% with additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

B Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost/advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost/ advertised cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

C The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

D The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

10. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.

b) The successful contractor fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract.

c) The successful bidder fails to start the work within one week from the date of fixation of contract.

11. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/ reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.

12. Watch & ward of departmental material issued if any for the work(s) shall be exclusively the responsibility of the successful contractor/ bidder & in the event of any loss/ theft of the materials, the same shall be the responsibility of the bidder, the cost thereof shall be recovered from the bidder @ double the stock issue rates

13. The agency shall be responsible for the restoration of any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to torrential rains/heavy snow fall/cyclone/floods etc, till the work is finally handed over to the Department.

14. The taxes viz. Income tax, GST & Cess shall be deducted from the bidder's claims as admissible under rules.

15. The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling percentage rate inclusive of all taxes & it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

16. The rates & prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of work unless otherwise specified.

17. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the BOQ, such item/items shall be deemed to be the part of the overall/total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item/items.

18. The contractor should upload latest GST Return in Form 3B of latest quarter/latest month whichever is applicable.

19. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of the affidavit regarding not debarred from participating of tenders in the departments duly signed by the First-Class Magistrate specifically which may be drafted on any date in between bid submission start date to bid submission end date.

20. The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.

21. Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e- tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as "L1" after opening of financial bids as per the Finance department's No; O.M.No: A/24 (2017) -651 Dtd; 07/06/2018

22. Contractor/ Bidder who fails to submit the hard copies for their uploaded tenders will be debarred from participating in the tendering process for a period of six months in the first instance. Their online tenders will not be considered for the said period and payment in respect of EMD / Bid security for the work shall be forfeited. (Circular vide Chief Engineer Knr I & FC Deptt Srinagar's No 3155-90/13 Dt; 14/12/2013)

23. In case of tie for the position of \1' \text{st}\} lowest bidder, the bids shall be out rightly rejected and the work shall be put to fresh tenders.

24. The payment shall be made only after the funds are received on this account from higher authorities under Major Head of Account as shown against each.

25. The additional performance security if any shall be treated as a part of performance security.

26. Photographic evidence before, during and after the execution of work is must and shall be sole responsibility of the contractor.

27. In case the executing agency fails to complete the work within the stipulated time, the penalty upto 10% of the contract value shall be imposed on account of delayed completion.

28. Departmental material issued if any shall be recovered @ stock rate of the said item in the division.

29. Retention money @ 10% shall be deducted from each running bill of the successful bidder which shall be released after virtual completion of the work in all respects.

30. Defect liability period shall form as an integral part and shall be calculated as per relevant rules.

31. Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25 double.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Kulgam

No: KID/2529-34
DIPK-3691/26
Dated:- 24-07-2026.

- 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

SHIEKH 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**
10 Safar
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 58
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5: 33
Magrib	7: 41
ISHA	9: 16

This Day In History

- 1261 - Constantinople recaptured by Nicaean forces under Alexios Strategopoulos for Emperor Michael VIII, re-establishing Byzantine Empire
- 1570 - Battle of Arnay-le-Duc, Burgundy: Huguenot victory forces Charles IX of France to agree to a peace treaty that ends the Third War of Religion
- 1652 - Nikita Minin becomes patriarch of Russian Orthodox Church
- 1670 - Austrian Emperor Leopold I expels 4,000 Jews from Vienna
- 1758 - Seven Years' War: the island battery at Fortress Louisbourg in Nova Scotia is silenced and all French warships are destroyed or taken
- 1759 - British capture Fort Niagara from French (7 Years' War)
- 1799 - French-Egyptian forces under Napoleon I beat Turks at Battle of Abukir
- 1835 - Ibrahim Pasha's army attacks Jewish settlers of Hebron Palestine
- 1837 - The first commercial use of an electric telegraph successfully demonstrated by William Cooke and Charles Wheatstone between Euston and Camden Town in London
- 1848 - 1st battle at Custoza: Austrians under Radetzky beat Italian
- 1850 - Gold discovered in Oregon (Rogue River)
- 1854 - Walter Hunt is awarded the first U.S. patent for a paper shirt collar
- 1898 - 1st US troops land & occupy Puerto Rico, at Guanica Bay
- 1907 - Korea becomes a protectorate of Japan
- 1943 - Benito Mussolini dismissed as Italian Premier and arrested on the authority of King Victor Emmanuel III
- 1944 - World War II: Operation Spring - one of Canada's bloodiest days, 18,444 casualties and 5,021 killed.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

SN	Catalogue No.	Nature of contract
1	EAFFZR-PRKG26-11	Allotment of Parking lot (comprehensive) on contract at Ludhiana Railway station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.
No. NR-FZROCOML(NFR)/18/2024 Date: 24/07/2026 2559/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا الْبَرَّ الْمَحْجُونَ

#CONDOLENCE

With profound grief and sorrow,
we inform the sad demise of

ABDUL MAJEED CHELA

S/O MOHD SUBHAN CHELA
resident of
NUNDRESH COLONY
BEMINA SEC B

Who left for heavenly abode on

22-07-2026

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ واجْعَلْ مقامه في الْجَنَّةِ

May Almighty grant him
highest place in Jannah.

BEREAVED FAMILY

ABDUL MAJID

PHONE NO : 7006848842

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

Fund Startups
Seriously

Dal Lake looked like an unlikely place to talk venture capital this week, but the ASCEND J&K Startup Ecosystem Summit sent a message worth hearing.

Kashmir's young entrepreneurs bring ideas, ambition and growing public support to the table. What they still struggle to find is capital, mentorship and access to real markets.

That disparity will decide whether the valley ends up building successful companies or just keeps hosting inspiring conferences.

Jammu and Kashmir has started laying the groundwork. The Startup Policy 2024-27 aims to support 2,000 startups by 2027 through seed funding, incubation, mentorship and easier access to finance. Public institutions have also expanded innovation centres inside universities and technical colleges.

These steps mark a welcome shift, moving young people away from seeing government jobs as the only real career path and toward enterprise and private investment instead.

Economic conditions make this opportunity even stronger.

Jammu and Kashmir's economy has grown to roughly 2.6 lakh crore, with exports touching close to \$230 million. Tourism keeps drawing visitors in record numbers, horticulture remains a powerful economic engine, and handicrafts still command strong demand abroad. Better highways and stronger digital connectivity have opened up bigger markets for businesses that once served only local customers.

All of this creates fertile ground for technology, logistics, food processing and digital services to grow.

Money tells a different story, though.

Private venture capital stays concentrated in Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai, where investors find mature networks of founders, mentors and established firms already in place. Kashmir barely shows up on that investment map.

Many entrepreneurs end up relying on government grants or bank loans once they have used up their personal savings and family support. Grants can help founders build a prototype, but scaling a company takes patient private capital, experienced advisers and customers ready to test something new.

Research into successful startup ecosystems points to the same lesson.

Silicon Valley, Israel and Bengaluru grew strong because universities, investors, skilled workers and established companies strengthened each other over many years. Annual events introduced entrepreneurs to investors, but it was sustained relationships that built lasting businesses.

Capital followed confidence, and confidence grew through successful exits, repeat founders and expanding markets.

Kashmir faces another challenge that gets far less attention.

Many talented graduates keep leaving the valley for bigger cities, where funding, professional networks and experienced mentors already exist. That movement drains away future founders, along with engineers, designers and business leaders who could otherwise build companies closer to home.

Strong startup ecosystems pull talent in because opportunity becomes visible through the success of real enterprises.

Public policy now stands at a decisive moment. The government can keep organising summits and hope investors eventually discover Kashmir, or it can actively build the conditions that make investment inevitable.

Tax incentives for venture funds, partnerships with national incubators, procurement programmes for local startups and stronger links with university research would do far more to build investor confidence than ceremonial gatherings ever could.

ASCEND generated optimism, connections and headlines. Kashmir's next chapter depends on companies that survive five years, attract private investment, file patents, expand into national markets and create skilled jobs.

Conferences spark conversation, but successful businesses transform economies.

The Chenab's Unfinished Case

Landslides, cloudbursts and shifting riverbeds are piling up in the Chenab Valley, and the science to explain why is still missing.



Sadaket Ali Malik

Dawn hits the upper Chenab hours before it reaches the towns below. Snowmelt starts moving through narrow gorges near Kishtwar, picking up speed and joining the Neeru, Kalnai, Kalgoni and Marusudar rivers along the way.

Together these waters form the Chenab Basin, one of the most sensitive river systems anywhere in the western Himalaya.

Communities in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban have depended on it for generations, and now something bigger is being asked of it.

Roads, tunnels, hydropower plants and growing towns all need sand, gravel and boulders, and rivers like the Chenab are the easiest place to get them.

The bigger issue isn't whether this construction happens. It's whether anyone truly understands what pulling material from these riverbeds does to the mountains around them.

Mountain rivers work differently than the ones we are used to seeing on flat ground. Glaciers, landslides and heavy rainfall constantly feed the Chenab fresh sediment, and that sediment does real work.

It holds riverbanks together, fills floodplains, refills groundwater and gives fish and other river life somewhere to live. Scientists sometimes call this process the engine that keeps a mountain river running.

Take material out faster than nature replaces it, and that engine starts to sputter. Banks erode, channels shift, and the river stops behaving the way it used to.

Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban sit on some of the youngest and most unstable ground on the planet. Much of the area falls within Seismic Zone IV, with pockets pushing into the even riskier Zone V, where cracked rock and steep hillsides turn heavy rain into landslides fast.

Cloudbursts have already wrecked roads, bridges and homes throughout the Chenab Valley in recent years.

Climate change plays a huge part in that, but geologists keep raising something else worth thinking about: road cutting, tunnelling, dumped construction waste and disturbed riverbeds stacking on top of an already shaky landscape. Nobody has really worked out how all these pressures add up together.

That gap is what pushed the National Green Tribunal to step in.

A case filed in 2024 raised concerns about stone crusher units digging up riverbed material and dumping waste into the Chenab near Doda. The Tribunal didn't just take the complaint at face value. It sent the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee out to inspect the sites, check permits and report back with actual facts.

That's how environmental oversight is supposed to work.

Investigators found 24 stone crusher units running in Doda district. They looked at permits, where the raw material came from, and the specific dumping allegations.

A later report counted 20 units on district records, some running normally, few shut down, and many waiting on renewal decisions.

The committee also said it saw no muck dumping into the river during its visits.

Those findings are now part of the official record, and they are worth taking seriously. But they answer a much smaller question than the one the valley really needs answered.

Checking paperwork tells you whether a business



“
A case filed in 2024 raised concerns about stone crusher units digging up riverbed material and dumping waste into the Chenab near Doda. The Tribunal didn't just take the complaint at face value. It sent the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee out to inspect the sites, check permits and report back with actual facts.

followed the rules. It doesn't tell you whether the river system itself is changing underneath everyone's feet.

Has sediment flow along the Neeru shifted over time? Has the Kalgoni's channel become less stable? Have years

of extraction, combined with hydropower construction, highway expansion and increasingly extreme weather, changed how this whole basin functions?

Compliance checks can't answer any of that, but satellite monitoring, drone surveys, and sediment tracking, river modelling and long-term ecological studies can.

None of that work has happened at the scale this basin actually needs.

India already has guidelines that call for exactly this type of study. Rules published in 2016 and updated in 2020 recommend remote sensing, GIS mapping, drone surveillance and ongoing monitoring to keep sand mining within sustainable limits.

These guidelines treat rivers as living systems that respond to pressure over time rather than resources you measure once and forget about.

The framework already exists, what's missing is someone willing to use it properly.

Here's the real opportunity: Jammu and Kashmir could launch the first full scientific study of an entire Himalayan river system, covering the Chenab, Neeru, Kalgoni, Kalnai and Marusudar together across Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban.

Combine satellite data with field surveys, hydrological modelling and biodiversity assessments, and you finally get something this region has never had: a real baseline to measure against.

Once that exists, officials can say with confidence whether current mining is sustainable, whether the river needs restoration, or whether compensation rules need to change.

Construction across the Chenab Valley isn't slowing down anytime soon, and the demand for sand and gravel will keep climbing with it.

That's manageable, as long as the people building highways and dams actually understand the system they are pulling resources from.

The Chenab, the Neeru and the Kalgoni aren't just water flowing through mountains. They took thousands of years to build. Protecting them means doing more than checking permits.

It means finally studying them with the seriousness the Himalaya has always demanded.

— The author can be reached at sadaketjammu@gmail.com.

Beerwah's Warning

A single night of flooding wiped out years of work for small traders. Faster compensation and better flood planning will determine whether businesses recover or disappear.



Palveen Kour

Overnight rain turned Beerwah's market into a disaster zone, but the real damage reached far beyond collapsed shutters and waterlogged shelves.

A single night erased years of savings, investment and hard work for families whose future depended on small businesses.

Rain does not distinguish between old businesses and new ones, but its impact rarely falls evenly.

Larger businesses often have insurance, financial reserves or easier access to credit. Small traders usually have none of those options.

Their shop serves as their income, savings plan and retirement fund all at once.

Owners rushed to save whatever they could as water rose through the market. They lifted cartons onto higher shelves, moved equipment, formed lines with neighbours and worked until the flood outran their efforts.

By morning, many stood before damaged shops with little left to salvage.

Losses like these never stop at property. A neighbourhood market supports an entire local economy. Shop income pays school fees, medical bills, household expenses and loan repayments.

When floodwater destroys inventory, the damage spreads through families that depend on a consistent monthly income.

Beerwah's flood also exposed a larger policy failure.

Extreme rainfall has become more common in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir, but local infrastructure has struggled to keep pace. Drainage systems remain inadequate, stormwater channels receive limited attention and urban planning often overlooks flood risk.

Small businesses end up paying the price for those disparities.

Recovery also depends on speed, as families with loan repayments and daily expenses cannot wait months for government paperwork to run its course. Those delays push them deeper into debt.

Compensation matters only when it reaches people in time to help them rebuild.

Public officials should treat this flood as more than another seasonal emergency. Detailed damage assessments, transparent compensation and temporary financial support for affected traders would help businesses reopen before debts become unmanageable.

Local banks can also play a constructive role through loan restructuring and temporary repayment relief for verified flood victims.

At the same time, planning needs



“
News coverage will eventually fade, but Beerwah's recovery will take much longer. Many traders will spend months rebuilding their businesses, while others may never reopen without meaningful support.

equal attention.

Markets located in flood-prone areas need stronger drainage, regular maintenance of water channels and early warning systems that give traders enough time to protect stock

and equipment.

Local administrations already know which neighbourhoods flood repeatedly. That insight should guide investment before another storm arrives.

Beerwah also reminds us that climate adap-

tation extends beyond highways and large infrastructure projects.

Small markets employ thousands of people directly and indirectly. Protecting them protects local employment, household income and community stability.

That makes flood preparedness an economic priority rather than simply an environmental one.

Residents should be saluted for showing remarkable determination despite heavy losses. Many returned the next morning to sort through debris, recover account books, clean damaged premises and prepare for another attempt.

That determination deserves public support backed by practical action rather than symbolic visits after disaster strikes.

News coverage will eventually fade, but Beerwah's recovery will take much longer. Many traders will spend months rebuilding their businesses, while others may never reopen without meaningful support.

But this flood should prompt more than sympathy. Better drainage, faster compensation and stronger disaster planning can protect small businesses before the next storm arrives.

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

The Hill That Kept Srinagar's Secrets

Behind one of Kashmir's most guarded addresses lies a fourth-century land grant, a deposed king's anguish, and the shadow of a modern political declaration.



Syed Nissar H. Gilani

The road out of Lal Chowk climbs gently for ten minutes before the city falls behind and the Zabarwan range takes over.

Pine gives way to rock, and rock gives way to a wooded slope known as Takht-i-Suliman, the Throne of Solomon, also known as Shankaracharya Hill.

Somewhere in these forests, nearly four centuries ago, the mystic Roop Bhawani, born Alakeswari in 1620 to the respected Dhar Pandit family near Khankah-e-Shokhta in Srinagar's Nawakadal, is believed to have spent twelve years in meditation.

A small temple near Cheshma Shahi still marks the place where devotees believe she spent years in penance. Above it, on the summit reached through these forests, stands an ancient shrine believed to have been built around 200 B.C. by Jalauka, the son of Emperor Ashoka, overlooking Srinagar.

Hundreds of visitors climb the thousand-foot rise daily, most unaware they are walking through the outer edge of Gupkar, an address better known these days for the politicians who live there than for the scholars who once did.

That earlier history is easy to miss because Gupkar's revenue records, maintained for generations by custodians who documented the origins of settlements across Kashmir, say nothing about how the village got its name.

The answer lies instead in Rajatarangini, Kalhana's twelfth-century chronicle and the oldest written history of Kashmir.

Kalhana records that King Gopaditya, ruling in the fourth century B.C., granted land at the base of a hill then called Gopadri to scholars he had brought into the valley. The settlement became known as Gopa Agrahar.

Centuries of Kashmiri pronunciation wore the name down into something shorter and more familiar: Gupkar.

When the archaeologist Sir Marc Aurel Stein translated Kalhana's chronicle in 1900, he confirmed Gupkar as a village of real historical standing at the foot of the Gopadri spur. The writer Khalid Bashir revisited that same thread in a 2020 essay, tracing the modern name straight back to Gopaditya's grant.

By 1890, when the first Gazetteer of Kashmir was compiled, the scholars were gone and a working village stood in their place.

The Gazetteer describes a settlement divided by faith, with Shia families in the upper mohalla and Sunni families below, an old bathhouse and a shrine to Rishmail Sahib at the eastern edge, and an orchard of chinar trees called Mirza Raza-Ka-Bagh on high ground to the northwest.

The path toward the neighbouring village of Drogjun ran along the lakeshore and flooded whenever the rains grew heavy.

What the Gazetteer left out was any explanation of the name itself, a void that would sit unfilled for more than a century.

Centuries after Gopaditya's grant, Gupkar's soil began drawing a different tribe: princes, ministers, and, eventually, three former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Dogra dynasty built its royal palace here, a structure now run as a five-star hotel under the name The Lalit Grand Palace.

Dr. Karan Singh, prince regent of the state until 1952 and its youngest head of state a few years later, lived nearby at Taley Manzil, surrounded by land his family had held for generations.

That land became a point of conflict in 1980, when G.M. Shah, then minister for works and power and son-in-law of Sheikh Mohammad



BHAT STILL REMEMBERS THE UNUSUAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT CAME WITH THE RECORDS HE HANDLED THAT YEAR, redrawing boundaries and issuing fresh land titles for estates whose ancestors had once bought much of Greater Kashmir from the British for 7.5 million Nanak Shahee rupees. “Doing that work,” he said, “made me feel remarkably powerful.”

Abdullah, moved to acquire the former ruler's holdings for public tourism projects.

Dr. Karan Singh pushed back hard against the acquisition notices and

managed to save part of the estate.

Ghulam Hassan Bhat, a revenue official posted to the area during those tense months, remembers visiting the former ruler at Taley

Manzil and hearing him speak openly about his distress.

Bhat still remembers the unusual responsibility that came with the records he handled that year,

redrawing boundaries and issuing fresh land titles for estates whose ancestors had once bought much of Greater Kashmir from the British for 7.5 million Nanak Shahee rupees.

“Doing that work,” he said, “made me feel remarkably powerful.”

The neighbourhood's landmarks tell their own layered story.

A cluster of Masonic-era buildings now houses the Special Security Group responsible for guarding the chief minister. Down the road sits the office of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, set up to watch the ceasefire line.

On April 4, 1979, after the execution of Pakistan's former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, protesters gathered outside that compound, and the violence that followed left nine people dead nearby.

Closer to the main road, a state-run nursing home once drew regular visits from Molly Abdullah, wife of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who spent hours there helping keep the wards running.

Much of Gupkar's land now belongs to the state, managed by the Nazool Organization of the Revenue Department, though several old families, including the Pandit Wazirs, Kaks and Dhars, and descendants of Afghan-era nobility, still hold estates through conversion rights or long leases.

None of that history made the newspapers in 2019, when regional political leaders gathered on this same stretch of road and issued what came to be known as the Gupkar Declaration.

The name spread quickly, tied to a defining political moment, while the fourth-century land grant, the mystic's forest retreat and the deposed prince's sorrow faded from view.

Gupkar had witnessed many turning points before, and this became another chapter in the long story of a place that has always been shaped by history.

— The author is a former civil servant from the administrative services. He can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com.

A Palace for Passing Empires

Aliabad Sarai transformed royal journeys into comfortable halts. Today, the monument itself awaits a journey back from decay.



Dr. Waseem Ahmad

The Mughal Road winds through the Pir Panjal like a silver thread, cutting across jagged ridges and green valleys, carrying faint whispers of emperors, queens, and caravans that once traveled its path.

Tucked beneath Ratanpir and beside the gentle Nallah Panchal, Aliabad Sarai leans against the mountains, as if listening to those medieval journeys.

Its walls, once strong and proud, now crumble under moss and wind. The courtyard that once welcomed kings and their cavalry is scattered with rubble. Shepherds and their flocks have taken over rooms that once sheltered royalty.

The air is thick with stories waiting to be heard, echoes stretching across centuries.

The Mughals traveled with care and purpose. Long journeys demanded shelter, safety, and food. Along the road, fourteen sarais rose like small fortified inns, offering rest to caravans



and travelers.

Among them, Aliabad Sarai remains the clearest echo of that time, a living memory of journeys long ago.

Akbar laid its first stones. Jahangir restored it through his governor Ali Mardan Khan. Noor Jehan may have

paused here, gazing at the valley below, listening to the river murmur against stone, feeling the pulse of the mountains.

The architecture still hums with intention. The south-facing gateway, carved from granite and black stone,

opens into guard rooms, a reminder that vigilance was always part of travel.

Beyond the gate, three chambers, likely meant for the emperor and his queen, face a central courtyard. Around it rise twenty-six cells, built

of lakhauri bricks and slate, bound with lime-surkhi mortar. The sarai balances fortress and sanctuary.

Step inside today, and the air carries the smell of earth and stone, faint hints of firewood and horses, and the memory of footsteps long faded.

Though Aliabad Sarai is protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, legal protection feels like ink on paper.

Enforcement is rare, and neglect has become routine. The loss is more than physical.

Aliabad Sarai could be a living bridge to the past, a place where travelers, students, and historians walk through the rhythms of Mughal life.

Restoration need not be grand: fencing, signage, and careful conservation could transform it into a space that sparks imagination, where one traces the corridors, hears the clatter of wagons, the murmur of courtiers, and the hush of an emperor pausing in reflection.

This Mughal marvel holds both history and promise. Heritage tourism could bring jobs, pride, and opportunity to Shopian and Rajouri.

Once alive with emperors, it now leans into the wind, waiting.

With care, its walls could breathe again, carrying the echoes of the past and reclaiming their place in Kashmir's story.

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Akbar laid its first stones. Jahangir restored it through his governor Ali Mardan Khan. Noor Jehan may have paused here, gazing at the valley below, listening to the river murmur against stone, feeling the pulse of the mountains.



LG Manoj Sinha interacts with the family of J&K Police Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was killed in the Anantnag terror attack, during his visit to Lalpora, Beerwah.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Weather Eases;

However, another wet spell is likely to affect the Union Territory from July 28.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, weather has improved across most places following the prolonged rainfall event that triggered flash floods, landslides, water-logging, disruption of transport and repeated closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway over the past week.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said the overall flood threat has now largely passed. "The water levels aren't expected to change much now. Tributaries are receding. Even spells of rain are possible, but anything major isn't expected. Water level, although, may continue to remain elevated tomorrow as well," Arif said.

However, the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department said the River Jhelum recorded a fresh rise at several gauge stations on Friday evening after receding through most of the day.

At Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar, the river level rose to 18.96 feet, remaining above the flood declaration mark of 18 feet but below the danger mark of 21 feet. The Sangam gauge increased to 19.77 feet, while Pampore recorded 5.09 metres.

Further downstream, the river was also rising at Asham, where the level reached 12.74 feet, while the Wular Lake level increased to 1576.10 metres. Both remained below their respective flood declaration levels.

Among the tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani receded to 7.05 metres, Lidder Nallah at Batkoot dropped to 0.96 metres, while Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi remained stable at 2.27 metres.

The I&FC Department said moderate to heavy rainfall over the southern catchment of the Jhelum basin during the morning had slowed the river's rate of recession at Sangam, with the impact reflected later at Ram Munshi Bagh. It, however, maintained that the river is expected to follow an overall receding trend.

Officials urged people not to panic or pay heed to rumours circulating on social media, advising them to rely only on official updates and remain vigilant.

The weather department said scattered showers may continue over the next two days but are unlikely to develop into prolonged or day-long spells of heavy rainfall.

During the last 24 hours, Udhampur recorded the highest rainfall at 96.5 mm, followed by Batote (84.2 mm), Ramban (69.5 mm), Bhaderwah (65.7 mm), Ramban-Ukhral (60.5 mm), Katra (45.1 mm) and Kathua (44.8 mm). In Kashmir, Qazigund received 40.2 mm, Kulkernag 39.3 mm and Banihal 38.3 mm.

Cumulative rainfall between July 19 and July 24 showed Reasi received the highest precipitation in the Union Territory at 473.2 mm, followed by Udhampur (417.5 mm), Rajouri (349.9 mm), Ramban (293.4 mm) and Poonch (290 mm). In Kashmir, Kulgam recorded the highest cumulative rainfall at 201.1 mm, followed by Shopian (145.2 mm) and Srinagar (144.7 mm).

The heavy rainfall over the past five days triggered flash floods and landslides in several districts, damaged roads and public infrastructure, inundated low-lying areas, caused a sharp rise in rivers and streams, repeatedly blocked the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and forced the suspension of the annual Amarnath Yatra for nearly a week.

Meanwhile, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained closed on Friday due to intermittent landslides and shooting stones at multiple locations. Traffic Police said restoration work was underway and advised commuters to avoid travel until the highway is declared safe.

The Meteorological Department has advised people, particularly those living in flood- and landslide-prone areas, to remain cautious as isolated flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones cannot be ruled out, with rainfall activity expected to increase again from July 28.

Landslides Keep

The 250-km highway, the only all-weather road linking the Valley with the rest of the country, remained blocked at Deohal Bridge, Samroli and Jakhani in Udhampur district, and Banihal in Ramban district.

Traffic Police said vehicular movement remained suspended due to landslides and shooting stones at several locations.

Officials said restoration work was underway, but continuous rainfall was hampering debris clearance and repair operations.

More than 1,000 vehicles were stranded at Ramban, Nagrota, Jammu, Udhampur, Lakhampur and Samba following the closure. Commuters have been advised to avoid travel until the highway is declared safe.

Besides the national highway, over a dozen inter-district roads, including the Doda-Kishtwar road, also remained closed due to landslides, mudslides and road erosion. However, the Mughal Road and the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road remained open.

To facilitate stranded passengers, Northern Railway operated a special train between Budgam, Banihal and Katra, while more than 600 stranded tourists were shifted from Srinagar to Jammu, officials said.

The Meteorological Department has forecast more rainfall over parts of Jammu, particularly the Chenab Valley, Udhampur, Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts, while south Kashmir is also expected to receive significant precipitation. Weather conditions are likely to improve gradually after the afternoon, although scattered showers may continue until evening.

Officials said almost all rivers and streams were flowing above normal levels, while flash floods inundated several low-lying areas, damaging houses, shops and public infrastructure.

Rescue and relief operations involving the civil administration, police, SDRF, NDRF and other agencies continued across the affected districts.

Meanwhile, relentless rain, cloudbursts and flash floods over the past six days have claimed 26 lives in the Jammu region, while six people remain missing. Rescue teams have intensified search operations in the worst-hit districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

Nation Proud

His ideals of devotion to duty and love for the motherland will continue to inspire generations in building a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment to combating terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor said significant progress had been made in dismantling the terror ecosystem under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reiterated his resolve to eliminate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir.

He also appealed to the people, particularly the youth of the Union Territory, to draw inspiration from the martyr's dedication and remain united in the fight against terrorism.

Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi was killed in a terror attack in Anantnag earlier this week while performing his duty. His death triggered widespread condemnation, with leaders across the political spectrum paying tribute to his sacrifice.

Shah Assures

"The Home Minister assured the bereaved family of all possible support from the Central Government," Sharma said.

According to Sharma, the family also shared its concerns directly with Shah, who assured them that the Centre stands firmly with them during this difficult time and would ensure every possible assistance.

"The Government of India is committed to standing by the family of the martyr. They will receive all the support they deserve," Sharma said.

Paying tribute to the slain policeman, Sharma said Hussain had made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation. "Two generations of the same family dedicated their lives to the

country, and the entire nation stands with the bereaved family members," he said.

He added that the sacrifice of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain would be remembered with honour and dignity, and efforts would be made to commemorate his service by naming a school or another public institution after him as a lasting tribute to his bravery.

Describing the attack as a cowardly act, Sharma said such sacrifices strengthen the nation's resolve against terrorism and reaffirm the commitment of security forces to safeguarding peace.

Head Constable Ashiq Hussain, a resident of Lolipora, Beerwah, was shot at point-blank range by terrorists near Lal Chowk in Anantnag on Wednesday while performing his duties. He later succumbed to his injuries.

He is survived by his wife, three children, his widowed mother, a brother and three sisters.

His father, Head Constable Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, was also killed while on official duty in 1995, making Ashiq Hussain the second generation of the family to lay down his life in the service of the nation.

Amarnath Yatra

security framework remains in place along both routes, with thousands of personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies deployed to ensure the safety of pilgrims.

Nearly 20,000 pilgrims, who have been camping at various locations during the suspension, are expected to proceed towards the Holy Cave Shrine after the yatra resumes.

So far, more than 3.9 lakh devotees have paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine during this year's pilgrimage.

The 57-day annual pilgrimage began on July 3 and is scheduled to conclude on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan.

Step Up Intelligence

and field-level coordination remain fully functional to respond effectively to emergencies arising from adverse weather.

Urging officers to remain vigilant, the DGP said sustained preparedness, coordinated action and prompt response were essential to maintaining peace and public confidence across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the Special Director General of Police (Coordination), Additional Directors General of Police, Inspectors General of Police, Deputy Inspectors General, district Senior Superintendents of Police, commandants of JKAP and IRP battalions, and other senior officers from across the Union Territory.

A Decade After

that while the government initiated several flood mitigation measures after the disaster, including dredging of the Jhelum, strengthening embankments and improving drainage channels, every prolonged spell of rain continues to trigger panic.

"After the devastating floods, we were told that comprehensive flood management projects would significantly reduce the risk. Billions of rupees have reportedly been spent over the years, but every spell of heavy rainfall still leaves us terrified. We want to know how much the carrying capacity of the Jhelum has actually increased," another resident said.

People living along the river questioned whether the extensive works undertaken over the past decade have achieved the intended results.

"We are not against development works, but we deserve transparency. The government should explain what has been achieved after so many years. Has the river's carrying capacity improved? If yes, by how much? Why do people still fear flooding every time it rains?" a resident asked.

Residents urged the authorities to intensify desilting of the Jhelum and its tributaries, remove encroachments, improve drainage systems and strengthen vulnerable embankments to minimise the risk of inundation in low-lying areas.

Delhi Police Installs Facial Recognition System at Jantar Mantar

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Four facial recognition system (FRS) units have been installed around the protest site at Jantar Mantar to identify wanted criminals, absconders and historysheeters, police sources said on Friday.

The surveillance system is not for ordinary protesters but is meant to identify those with criminal antecedents who may try to "infiltrate the protest" and disturb law and order, they said.

The FRS units have been positioned at key entry and exit points around the protest venue and are linked to the Delhi Police database.

The system is being monitored in real time by the officers, enabling them to instantly verify the identity of any wanted criminal, bad character, or a historysheeter, the sources said.

"The objective is to ensure that people with criminal backgrounds do not exploit the protest to create law and order issues. The system is connected with the Delhi Police database and can identify wanted criminals, absconders, historysheeters and Bad Characters (BCs) whose details already exist in police



records," a source said.

According to the police officer, the FRS constitutes high-resolution cameras capable of capturing facial images even from a distance.

"Once a face is captured, it is quickly matched with the police database. If a wanted or absconding accused is detected, the concerned police unit is immediately alerted and legal action can be initiated without delay," he said.

The police said the technology will also help identify habitual offenders who have repeatedly figured in criminal cases and are listed as "bad characters" in Delhi Police

records.

"The deployment acts as both a preventive and investigative tool. It helps us remain alert against anti-social elements who may try to infiltrate the protest and create nuisance or disturb law and order," another officer said.

This is not the first time Delhi Police has deployed FRS cameras.

The force earlier installed them across the city during Republic Day, Independence Day, Holi, Diwali, Eid, Ramila and during several other occasions as part of its security arrangements.o ordered them to do so.

the legal framework governing public examinations. India already has the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which criminalises question paper leaks, tampering with answer sheets, impersonation, fake admit cards and other examination-related fraud.

Under the existing law, offences involving organised examination fraud attract imprisonment of five to ten years along with a minimum fine of 1 crore, while other offences carry jail terms of three to five years. The law also prescribes norms for examination security, including biometric verification, secure handling of question papers, candidate authentication and reporting of unfair practices.

The fresh Bill is expected to introduce stricter provisions to further deter examination fraud and strengthen enforcement mechanisms.

The Opposition has intensified its attack on the government over the issue, demanding a discussion in Parliament and seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the handling of recent paper leak controversies.

NTA Terminates

was shunted out to the Panchayati Raj Ministry.

"The NTA is set to undergo an overhaul and more reformative actions will follow. At least 47 officials have been terminated, and legal and criminal action will be initiated against some of them," a senior official said.

Outrage surrounding paper leaks and the CBSE digital evaluation glitches has triggered a series of shunting of top officials.

Students' anger has spilt out in the form of a huge protest that is taking place at Jantar Mantar.

The protesters and the opposition parties have been demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the issue.

The NTA has issued advertisements for a set of professional appointments at the level of General Manager and has separately opened the engagement of sixteen Young Professionals through the Pratibha Setu portal of the Union Public Service Commission.

"Further recruitment and empanelment actions across the ten functional verticals recommended by the High-Level Committee of Experts will follow in the coming weeks.

"The measures notified today, together with the Expression of Interest for a fresh empanelment of Subject Matter Experts and Translators issued separately, are part of a systematic strengthening of the academic, operational, technological and integrity capabilities of the NTA," the official added.

SC Bars Sharing

modification, dissemination, posting, reposting and uploading of audio-video recordings of judicial proceedings on social media or other digital platforms without prior permission of the Secretary General of this Court or the Registrar General of the jurisdictional High Courts," the bench said.

The court also issued notices to the Centre and other respondents, seeking their responses to the petition.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that recordings of court proceedings were being misused on social media and digital platforms, warranting regulatory intervention.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta supported the concern, telling the court that there was a need to regulate the dissemination of such recordings.

The matter is likely to be taken up again after responses are filed.

HC Bars Disclosure

laid down by the Supreme Court. The circular was issued on the directions of the Acting Chief Justice, who expressed displeasure over the manner in which trial courts were disregarding statutory safeguards, and directed that a suitable circular be issued to ensure strict compliance.(KNO)

CM Omar Asks Bollywood to Showcase Kashmir's Beauty

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged Bollywood to move beyond conflict-driven portrayals of Kashmir and instead showcase the Valley's changing reality.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the function at the Royal Springs Golf Course here, Omar, as per KNO, said, "Films have too often projected the region through gunfights, explosions and violence despite the situation having transformed over the years."

He said, "Some filmmakers have distorted Kashmir's image for propaganda or commercial gains. Some people misrepresent Kashmir. They glamorise violence and create a false picture only for propaganda. Some do it because they think it will help their films perform better, while others do it to please the powers that be."

The Chief Minister, said it would be unfair to judge the entire film industry on that basis. "That doesn't mean all of Bollywood is bad. There are many filmmakers who tell beautiful stories that connect people and celebrate humanity. We want more such films to be made in Kashmir," he said.

Referring to movies shot in the Valley, Omar said many



Curtain Raiser Ceremony Historic Occasion: CS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo said that this curtain raiser ceremony is a historic occasion which reminds the great partnership of J&K with Bollywood. He added that this platform is a great occasion

to establish the bond with Bollywood.

The Chief Secretary also said that J&K has a goldmine of talent and potential and we need to give platform like this to our budding filmmakers to showcase their talent.

Padma Shri awardee and

noted film maker, Muzaffar Ali, while speaking on the occasion highlighted that Kashmir has special place in the Bollywood from the very beginning. He also remembered his association with the Kashmir while shooting for various remarkable films here.

filmmakers use Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes but continue to portray it as a place consumed by violence.

"They shoot here but show the locations as somewhere else. And when they do show Kashmir, it is often only through

gunfights, houseboat explosions and firing. Kashmir is no longer that place. The story of Kashmir has changed, and we want film-

makers to show that changed reality to the world," he said.

CM Omar said the upcoming International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir aims to encourage authentic storytelling while giving long-overdue recognition to local talent.

"Our local filmmakers and documentary makers possess immense talent but rarely get a platform. That is why the festival will have a dedicated section and special awards for them so they can showcase their work before a wider audience," he said.

He said the government hopes the festival will inspire filmmakers from across India and abroad to tell stories that capture the region's beauty, culture and changing social landscape instead of relying solely on conflict narratives.

Responding to a question on the ongoing protests in New Delhi, CM Omar said the Centre should engage with the protesters rather than allow the situation to drag on.

"I think the Centre should talk to these youngsters. From what I have seen, this protest has gone beyond any one organisation. Many of those on the streets are ordinary young people expressing their anger. It is now for the Centre to decide how it wants to address their concerns," he said.

Shopian Orchardists Threaten Hunger Strike Over Apple Crop Losses

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Orchardists on Friday alleged that authorities have failed to explain the reason behind large-scale fruit drop and drying up of apple orchards in parts of South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Addressing a news conference here, as per KNO, the affected orchardists warned of an indefinite hunger strike if their demands are not addressed within the next three days.

The growers, mainly from Sugoo, Handhama and adjoining villages, said they have suffered massive financial losses after the sudden fruit fall and drying up of orchards allegedly following the application of suspected pesticides or fungicides. They alleged that despite repeated representations, the government has failed to complete the investigation or make its findings public.

They questioned the status of the investigation and sought transparency from the authorities. "If the government claims that an FIR has been registered in this matter, then where is that FIR? What investigation has been carried out so far? We have been waiting for weeks but nobody has informed us about the progress of the case," one of the growers said.

The farmers also demanded that the authorities make public the laboratory reports of the pesticide samples collected during the investigation.

"Where are the reports of the samples taken from the suspected pesticides? If the laboratory analysis has found nothing wrong with the pesticides, then what is the reason behind this unprecedented fruit drop and the drying up of our orchards? If the government cannot explain what

happened, then who will answer our questions?" another orchardist said.

The growers said apple cultivation is their only source of livelihood and the losses have pushed many families into severe financial distress.

"We have invested lakhs of rupees in orchard management throughout the season. Today, our crop has been destroyed and our orchards have suffered extensive damage. We have lost everything on which our families depended, but instead of providing justice, the authorities have taken our grievances for granted," they said.

The affected farmers warned that if the government and the concerned departments fail to respond positively within the next three days, they will launch an indefinite hunger strike from Monday evening.

"We are giving the administration one final opportunity. If no concrete action is taken and no answers are provided, we will begin a hunger strike from Monday evening. We have exhausted every democratic means available to us," they said.

The orchardists also demanded immediate disclosure of the investigation findings, compensation for the affected growers if negligence or defective agrochemicals are found responsible, and accountability of those responsible for the losses.

The controversy dates back to June this year when orchardists from Sugoo, Handhama and nearby areas reported an unusual and significant fruit drop shortly after spraying fungicides and other plant protection chemicals in their orchards.

Following complaints, officials from the Horticulture Department inspected the affected orchards, documented spray schedules and visited the pesticide dealer concerned.

"Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat" Campaign Launched

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today launched the Jammu division leg of "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat", a nationwide campaign of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports run through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).

The Divisional Commissioner said a drug-free society is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders and appreciated the efforts of MY Bharat in engaging youth through creative activities. The active participation of young people, he



said, is essential to realising the vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat and a Viksit Bharat.

He assured support for the campaign and its district-level events, which will see the participation of educational institutions, youth organisations and the general public and called upon the youth to register on the MY Bharat portal to take part in

the proposed programmes.

The campaign, organised by MY Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, aims to mobilise youth against substance abuse through awareness, creative expression and community participation. Debates, declamation, painting, slogan writing, quiz, folk song, folk dance and reel-

making competitions will be held across the districts of the Union Territory.

As part of the campaign, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the participants and administer the Nasha Mukta pledge. The Union Home Minister will grace the Nasha Mukta Youth Conclave on August 14.

State Director MY Bharat Jammu and Kashmir Nitin Hangloo thanked the Divisional Commissioner for launching the campaign poster and reaffirmed MY Bharat's commitment to mobilising youth across the Union Territory towards building a drug-free and developed India.

TCI MAX Cement Signs MoU with ITI Pampore



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Trumboo Industries Pvt. Ltd. (TCI MAX Cement) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Pampore, to provide scholarships and financial assistance to meritorious and economically weaker students from areas adjoining the TCI MAX Cement Plant.

The MoU was signed by the Director of Trumboo Industries Pvt. Ltd. and the Superintendent of Government ITI Pampore at a function held at Hotel Four Points by Sheraton, Sonwar, Srinagar.

The agreement has initially been signed for two years, under which 100

students will receive financial assistance towards admission fees, books, uniforms, travel expenses, and other educational requirements while pursuing skill-based vocational training at Government ITI Pampore.

Subject to the successful outcome of the programme and mutual consent of both parties, the collaboration may be extended for a further period of up to five years, enabling more deserving students to benefit from the initiative.

MLA Pampore and former High Court judge, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

Officers of Government ITI Pampore, representatives of Trumboo Industries Pvt. Ltd. and other distinguished guests were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi appreciated the initiative and emphasised the importance of industry-academia collaboration in creating meaningful opportunities for young people.

BJP Minority Morcha Pays Tributes to Slain Policeman

BUDGAM: The BJP Minority Morcha on Friday evening organised a protest and candlelight march in Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district to pay tribute to martyred Head Constable Ashiq Hussain, who was killed in the recent terror attack in Anantnag.

The programme as per KNO was led by Bhat Imtiaz, General Secretary of BJP Minority Morcha, Jammu and Kashmir, and was attended by party workers and local residents, who condemned the terror attack and offered prayers for the departed soul.

Speaking to media, Bhat Imtiaz said the supreme sacrifice of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain would always be remembered and that the nation stands with his family.

He strongly condemned the terror attack, saying such acts would not weaken the resolve of the country. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that anyone attempting to disturb peace or indulge in terrorist activities would face a strong and befitting response. "The sacrifice of our brave personnel will never go in vain. Those who dare to carry out such cowardly acts will be taught a tough lesson," he said.

Participants lit candles and observed a moment of silence in memory of the slain policeman, while reiterating their commitment to peace and condemning terrorism in all its forms. (Observer News Service)

69 Faculty Posts Vacant at AIIMS Jammu: Centre

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Friday informed Parliament that 69 faculty and 326 non-faculty posts are lying vacant at AIIMS Jammu during the current financial year (2026-27), while recruitment to sanctioned posts remains a continuous process.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as reported by KNO, said AIIMS Jammu has 183 sanctioned faculty posts, of which 114 are filled, while 985 of 1,311 sanctioned non-faculty posts are occupied. The ministry said vacancies depend on factors such as the availability of eligible candidates, reservation roster and the institute's location.

The Centre said several measures have been taken to expedite recruitment, including Standing Selection Committees, recruitment examinations, engagement of retired faculty on contract and visiting faculty schemes, besides technology-driven initiatives to improve patient care and hospital services. (Observer News Service)

Over 20 Lakh Teleconsultations Conducted through eSanjeevani in J&K: GoI

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) on Friday informed Parliament that more than 20.05 lakh teleconsultations have been conducted through the eSanjeevani National Telemedicine Service in Jammu & Kashmir, aimed at improving access to healthcare in remote and border areas.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as reported by KNO, said Jammu & Kashmir has 512 operational hubs and 1,903 operational spokes under the eSanjeevani platform. Of the total teleconsultations, 18.58 lakh were provided through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, while 1.46 lakh consultations were conducted through the eSanjeevani OPD service.

The ministry said the eSanjeevani service is operational across all States and Union Territories, including remote and border areas, and is supported by regular training, specialist consultations and an AI-based Clinical Decision Support System to strengthen digital health infrastructure and improve access to quality healthcare. (Observer News Service)

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

PIN: 191231, PHONE: 0193-2416246, | Email: -exenifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com,



SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: 13 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

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

S.No.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertisement Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Construction of Protection Bund near Shop of Noor Mohd Zargar to onwards at Manigam-B		0.90	100	2700/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
02	Construction of R/Wall Near L/o Hamid Punjabi at Magray Mohalla Gundi Rehman		2.50	200	7500/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
03	Construction of Ghat (Yarbal) at Nallah Tullmulla Kurg		2.84	300	8550/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
04	Construction of R/Wall from H/O Farooq Ahmad Sofi to Ab Rahim Sofi R/O Kokogund Kurag to Irrigation Khul		3.00	300	9000/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
05	Constt. of R/wall from H/o Ab Majeed Ganie to Ab Razaq Khanday near Irrigation Canal Pasikhian Shallahugh-A	District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal's Order No: 68-DDCG of 2026 Dt: 14.07.2026	2.00	200	6000/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
06	Constt. of R/wall from Ab Majeed Khanday to Riyaz Ahmad Khanday Shallahugh-A		2.00	200	6000/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
07	Constt. of R/wall on Irrigation Canal near H/O Ab. Qayoom Ganie at Shallahugh-A		1.50	200	4500/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
08	Constt. of R/wall on Irrigation Canal near H/o: Gh. Ahmad Ganie at Shallahugh-A		1.50	200	4500/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
09	Constt. of R/wall on Irrigation canal from H/o: Mohd Ayoub Ganie to H/o: Sharief Din Ganie at Shallahugh-A		1.50	200	4500/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)
10	Construction of field channel from L/o Gh Rasool Garoo and others halqa Tulbagh Ward no. 1		1.99	200	6000/-	21 Days	DEE	Area Dev Programme (PRI Grants)

Total Number of Work is 10 (Ten Works)

Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of TS: Accorded

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

01	Publishing Date	22-07-2026 06:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	22-07-2026 06:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	22-07-2026 06:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	29-07-2026 04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	30-07-2026 11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 30.07.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/ FDR/ TDR/ BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the GFR-2017, Manual for procurement of works 2022 with upto date amendments, PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

NO: IFCD/ GBL/ 3711-60

Dated: 21.07.2026

DIPK-3653-26

DT: 24/07/2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)

Executive Engineer

Irrigation and Flood Control Division

Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to poor response, the date of submission of bids in respect of below mentioned e-NIT is hereby extended with the details enumerated below: -

SNO	E.NIT No.	Name of the work	Tender ID	Cost tender document (In Rs)	EMD Cost (In Rs)
1	eNIT No STD-II / 46 of 2026-27 Dated 01-07-2026	Renovation and Maintenance of Receiving Station Arizal by way of Replacement of 11KV VCB Panels	2026_PDD_3142 72_1	Rs 1000.00	Rs 50146.00

Last Date of Bid Submission extended up to	31-07-2026; 4:30pm
Bid Opening Date	01-08-2026; 2:30pm

No.: STD-II/3289-91/Ts
Dated: 24-07-2026
DIPK-NB-1191-26
DT: 24/07/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.



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