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Heavy Rain, Flash Flood Alert Till July 31

Tourists and travellers advised to remain cautious.



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, has forecast a fresh spell of rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir from July 28 to 31, warning of flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas, with Udhampur

and adjoining districts likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall.

According to the weather office, scattered rain and thundershowers are expected at many places across the Union Territory on Sunday evening, with weather conditions likely to improve | [More on P6](#)

No Fresh Traffic on NH-44; Restoration Likely by Tuesday

Thousands of vehicles stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway are being allowed to move on priority through available road stretches after landslides and shooting stones damaged the highway at multiple locations in Udhampur and Ramban districts on Monday, officials said. An official said that stranded traffic between | [More on P6](#)

Yatra Movement To Depend On Weather: Div Com

Says Amarnath Yatra Tops 4.22 Lakh, Baltal Route Remains Open

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Monday said the annual Amarnath Yatra will continue to be regulated strictly on the basis of weather conditions and the status of the pilgrimage tracks, even as the number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine crossed 4.22 lakh.

Addressing reporters, Garg said over 4.22 lakh devotees had visited the shrine

till Monday afternoon, while the pilgrimage was proceeding smoothly through the Baltal route.

"The Yatra is allowed only after assessing the India Meteorological Department (IMD) weather advisory and the condition of the tracks. As witnessed over the past few days, the pilgrimage remained suspended due to adverse weather. Subsequent inspections revealed that repair work was required on the Pahalgam axis, which | [More on P6](#)



Schools Reopen Across Kashmir After 21-Day Summer Break

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government and private schools across the Kashmir division reopened on Monday after a 21-day summer vacation that was extended twice owing to the prevailing heatwave and adverse weather conditions.

According to officials, the government had initially

announced summer vacation for all government and recognised private schools in the Kashmir division and winter zones of the Jammu division from July 6 to July 19.

However, on July 18, the School Education Department extended the vacation till July 22 in view of the prevailing heatwave

and an inclement weather advisory issued by the Meteorological Department.

The summer break was later extended again up to July 26 for all government and recognised private schools in the Kashmir division and winter zones of the Jammu division.

Announcing the extension, Education Minister Sakina

Itoo had said the decision was taken keeping in view the safety and well-being of students, teachers and their families. The government had also maintained that the health and well-being of all stakeholders in the education sector remained its foremost priority.

Schools resumed normal academic | [More on P6](#)

Prosperity Must Reach Last Household Through Tourism: LG

Calls for eco-friendly infrastructure, fair opportunities for artisans, youth and tourism workers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday called for a responsible, sustainable and inclusive tourism model for Jammu and Kashmir, saying the sector's true success lies not in record tourist arrivals alone but in ensuring prosperity reaches every household.

Addressing the "Ethical Tourism Conclave" organised by the Tourist Trade Interest Guild, J&K, the Lieutenant Governor said tourism in the Union Territory must be viewed as a responsibility towards nature, culture and society.



Congratulating the organisers, Sinha said the conclave's theme, "Responsible Today, Sustainable Tomorrow, Beneficial for All", reflected the collective responsibility to preserve Jammu and Kashmir's natural and

cultural heritage for future generations.

"Jammu and Kashmir has long been regarded as heaven on earth because of the unique harmony between nature and culture. Tourism here must celebrate this heritage, and ethical tourism should guide its future," he said.

Highlighting the growth of the tourism sector over the past six years, the Lieutenant Governor said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed record tourist arrivals, growing confidence among domestic and international travellers, increased investments and expanded employment opportunities. | [More on P6](#)

Statehood Decision Rests With PM, HM Alone: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that the decision on restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir rests solely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, dismissing remarks by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on the issue.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag, Abdullah said the authority to restore statehood lies only with the prime minister and the home minister, which was why the National Conference had staged a protest in Delhi demanding its restoration.

He was responding to Sharma's reported statement that neither statehood nor Article 370 would be restored in Jammu and Kashmir.



"Sunil Sharma issues 10 statements every day. I don't have so much free time. I don't think the prime minister and the home minister will consult him on these issues," Abdullah said.

The chief minister added that Sharma would one day wake up and read in newspapers that statehood had been restored.

Earlier, Abdullah, accompanied by Deputy | [More on P6](#)

Spotlight

IF A VICE-CHANCELLOR VOLUNTARILY GIVES UP HIS OFFICIALLY allotted residence and chooses to live in a modest one-room guesthouse while that accommodation is occupied by someone else, the issue is one of propriety

How One Bungalow Led to Bigger Questions at Central University of Kashmir

RTI disclosures, audit observations and court proceedings draw attention to housing arrangements, salary disputes and administrative decision-making.

Farooq Shah

Srinagar: The government bungalow in Srinagar's Jawahar Nagar stands in the Vice-Chancellor's name. The residence, furnished and allotted for the head of the Central University of Kashmir, serves a different purpose today.

Sandhya Tiwari, a professor of English at the university, lives there with the Vice-Chancellor's permission, according to the university's



own account. Vice-Chancellor A. Ravindernath, meanwhile, lives elsewhere.

That unusual arrangement, confirmed through official responses and Right to Information records, has drawn attention to the university's administration. Questions now surround official housing, salaries, spending and key administrative decisions.

University officials state they acted within the rules, but some faculty | [More on P6](#)

HC Upholds Eviction From Verinag Migrant Property

Rejects Ownership Claim; Declares 1988 Decree Void
M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the eviction of occupants from a migrant property in Verinag, Anantnag, holding that an unregistered mortgage-cum-conditional sale agreement does not confer ownership rights and cannot override the protections provided under the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property

(Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.

A bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi upheld the orders of the District Magistrate, Anantnag, and the Financial Commissioner (Revenue), directing eviction of the petitioners from land measuring 3 kanals and 13 marlas at Bagwanpora, Verinag, and restoring its custody to the District Magistrate as mandated under the 1997 Act.

The petitioners had claimed possession of the land since 1986 on the strength of a notarized mortgage-cum-conditional sale agreement executed by the original owner, | [More on P6](#)

J&K FES Recruitment Scam: 12 More Held By ACB

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested 12 more individuals in connection with the Jammu and Kashmir Fire and Emergency Services (FES) recruitment paper leak case, officials said on Monday, taking the investigation further into what authorities describe as a well-organised conspiracy to compromise the recruitment process.

The fresh arrests were made in connection with FIR No. 01/2025, registered over the alleged leakage of the examination paper and the larger criminal conspiracy behind the irregularities in the recruitment drive. | [More on P6](#)



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2

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E- mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e- NIT No:- 40/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for "registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells" as per details given below The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Table-I

S. No	S. No of AA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Major Head /Programme	Technical Sanction	Ten der Call
1	01	Installation of Machine Drilled Borewell Goger Basti Kandi Khud C I Dass (C S Pora Achabal in District Anantnag).	Rs. 3.30 Lacs	Rs.9,900/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)95 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
2	02	Construction of Hand Pump NHO Gh. Mohammad Dar, Mohd. Yousof Dar, Mohd. Anwar Mir & others at Matipora (Matipora, Anantnag in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.10 Lacs	Rs.6,350/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)96 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
3	03	Tube well NHO Farooq Ahmad near Masjid shareef new colony chenigund community benefit (Bewoora, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.97 Lacs	Rs.8,950/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)97 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
4	04	Borewell NHO Javid Ah itoo and others chokardar mohalla hatigam for community benefit (Hatigam, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 3.03 Lacs	Rs.9,100/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)98 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
5	05	Tubewell near Masjid shareef Bonpora (Kanewan, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.48 Lacs	Rs.7,450/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)99 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
6	06	Tube well NLO Muzaffar Bhat Dagi at Tulmorgen community benefit (Khirm Bala, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 6.27 Lacs	Rs.18,850/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)100 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
7	08	Machinery for borewell at kotshipora (Sallar-A, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 0.49 Lacs	Rs. 1,500/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)101 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
8	09	Bore well at padderpora near Jamia Masjid (Trail-A, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.48 Lacs	Rs.7,450/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)102 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
9	10	Bore well NHO Mehraj u din bhat new colony trail community benefit (Trail-A, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.10 Lacs	Rs.6,350/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)103 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st

Page 2nd GIST of e-NIT No. 40 of 2026-27

10	11	Bore well at khanday pora near masjid trail community benefit (Trail-A, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.48 Lacs	Rs.7,450/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)104 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
11	12	Bore well at Mangergund near chinar tree (Trail-B, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.10 Lacs	Rs.6,350/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)105 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
12	13	Borewell near shkreen Masjid shareef (Trail-B, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.48 Lacs	Rs.7,450/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)106 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
13	14	Bore well near kashdar masjid shareef (Trail-B, Dachnipora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.48 Lacs	Rs.7,450/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)107 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
14	15	BoreWell Near Masjid Sharief at TangTrajan Manzmo (Manzmoh, Hiller Shah Abad in District Anantnag).	Rs. 5.12 Lacs	Rs.15,400/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)108 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
15	16	Construction of Machine Drilled Borewell Near Masjid Shareef Cherward at Brad (Brad, Khoveripora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 3.46 Lacs	Rs.10,400/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)109 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st
16	17	Construction of Machine Drilled Borewell at chek Hasan road near orchard of Rehman Ganie hutmurra (Hatmurrah, Khoveripora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 2.59 Lacs	Rs.7,500/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (PRI)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Dist. Capex Budget (PRI)110 of 07/2026, Dt: 15-07-2026	1 st

Position of Funds:- Available:

➤ Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Anantnag Vide Order No: 299-DDCA of 2026, issued under endorsement No. DDCA/ Capex/2026-27/4034-42, Dated: 15-07-2026.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

From 27.07.2026 (10:00 AM) to 17.08.2026 (01:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website:

<https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II

1.	Publishing Date	27-07-2026 (10:00 A.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	27-07-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 17-08-2026 (01:00 P.M.)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	27-07-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 17-08-2026 (01:00 P.M.)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	18-08-2026 (01:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (If available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication.

The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 18-08-2026 (01:00 PM) 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.

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

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/5192-201

Dated:- 18-07-2026.

DIPK-3761/26 dated: 27-07-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I intend to get the spelling of my name/parentage corrected as "Mohd Yousuf Ganai S/o Ab Samad Ganai" in my service records, as the same has wrongly been recorded as "Mohd Yousf Ganie S/o Ab Samad Ganie" in my service records at DPO Srinagar. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the SSP Office Srinagar within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.
Sd/- Mohd Yousuf Ganai S/o Ab Samad Ganai
R/O Ratnipora Budgam cell: 9797931401 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Late Farhad Hussain Mir, S/o Abdul Rehman Mir, R/o House No. 11, Lane No. 3, Sector-A, Pine Avenue Colony, Rawalpura, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, passed away on 16/12/2024.

The deceased left behind the following surviving dependents/legal heirs:

1. Mrs. Rubina Ellahi – Widow

2. Mr. Taifoor Aali Mir – Son

3. Ms. Furrukh Faizan Mir – Daughter

If any person has any objection, claim, or interest regarding the issuance of the Legal Heir Certificate, he/she may submit the objection in writing, supported by relevant documentary evidence, before the competent authority Tehsildar, Chanapora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any objection, and the Legal Heir Certificate may be issued in accordance with law.

Place: Srinagar

Date: //2026

Applicant

Mr. Taifoor Aali Mir

House No. 11, Lane No. 3, Sector-A, Pine Avenue Colony, Rawalpura, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

Sub-Office Pulwama
PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that Mr. Tahir Bashir, S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Nehama, Pulwama, has reported the loss of his original Class 10th Date of Birth (DOB) Certificate bearing Roll No. 733265, Annual (Regular) Session 2011. The applicant has applied for the issuance of a duplicate copy of the said certificate. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same to the J&K Board of School Education Bemina Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained, and the case shall be processed accordingly. fko

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION Bemina Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in my service records as Ibrahim Sajad while his correct name is Mohammad Ibrahim Sajad. 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 concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sajad Ahmad Ahanger
No: 12964988A
RANK Havaldar Unit 161 Inf BN
TA (H&H) JAKLI
S/O Abdul Salam Ahanger
R/O Wahipora Tehsil Tangmarg Baramulla FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Fameeda Begum instead of Fahmeeda Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 569263261874. I have applied for the correction/rectification of my name to Fahmeeda Begum. Any person having any objection regarding this correction may file it in writing before the concerned Aadhaar Centre / authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.
Fahmeeda Begum
W/o Ab Rahman Gojri
R/o Zaloor, District Baramulla, J&K (UT) fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the general public that my ward's name has been wrongly entered as MUSAVEER TARIQ BEIGH instead of MOHAMMAD MUSA BEIGH in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7746 8555 2374. I have applied for correction of his name to MOHAMMAD MUSA BEIGH as per his Birth Certificate. Any person having any objection regarding this correction may file it in writing before the concerned Aadhaar Centre within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice.
Tariq Ahmad Beigh (Father)
S/o Abdul Ahad Beigh
R/o Gul Neelofar Kralweth, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT) fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I have lost the No Objection Certificate (NOC) pertaining to my vehicle bearing Registration No. JK01AE-1452. Despite my best efforts, the said document could not be traced and is presumed to have been lost.

I have, therefore, applied to the concerned authority for the issuance of a duplicate NOC. If any person has any objection to the issuance of the duplicate NOC, he/she may file the same before the concerned office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Sheikh Tariq Ahmad

S/o Sheikh Nazir Ahmad

R/o Mustafa Abad, Rambagh, Srinagar iko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Shazia Akhter in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6401 9160 2084.

My correct and actual name is Shaista Fayaz, as recorded in my official school records.

I have applied for the correction/rectification of my name in my Aadhaar card to Shaista Fayaz. If any person has any objection to the said correction, he/she may file the same in writing before the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Shaista Fayaz

D/o Fayaz Ahmad Bhat

R/o Mulla-Bangil, Tehsil Tangmarg,

District Baramulla, J&K (UT) fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father late Sh. Gopi Nath Bhat S/o Late Sh. Keneth Bhat R/o Hawal District Pulwama has expired on 03-11-1980 at his residence Hawal Pulwama, I Tej Krishan Bhat S/o Late Sh. Gopi Nath Bhat is applying for death certificate of my father for legal hear certificate. If anyone has any objection please submitted it to office of Naib Tehsildar Rajpora, Pulwama within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. inf

Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool and Associates

In the case of
Gh Rasool sheikh S/o : Ab Gani Sheikh
R/o : Tantraypora Palhallan Pattan Baramulla

(Caveator)

V/s

Public at large

(Non-Caveators)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventually the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
fko Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shafeeqa Akhter, D/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Bhat, R/o Krishama, Kunzer, Baramulla, inform the public that my Date of Birth is 01/03/1998, which was not registered at birth in police or municipal records. I am applying for a Birth Certificate. Any objections may be submitted in writing to the concerned authority within 7 days of this notice.
Shafeeqa Akhter
R/o Krishama, Kunzer, Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Sidiq Kumar, S/o Quadir Kumar, R/o Jawalapora, Tehsil and District Budgam, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby declare that in my Aadhaar Card (No. 218191993923), my details have been wrongly recorded as:
Name: Mohammad Sadiq Kumar
Father's Name: Ghulam Qadir Kumar
Date of Birth: 16/05/1953
My actual and correct details are:
Name: Mohd Sidiq Kumar
Father's Name: Quadir Kumar
Date of Birth: 23/01/1953
The correct details should be recorded in all my official documents. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Mohd Sidiq Kumar
R/o Jawalapora, Budgam, J&K inf

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چاڈورہ

عنوان درخواست: سید ابرار احمد شاہ ولد غلام احمد شاہ ساکنہ روپورہ تحصیل چاڈورہ بابت آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ۔

استقرار میرا آگاہی ہر غاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر حد میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ کثیر بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام معدودیت	عمر	پیشہ
1	مصغرہ زوجہ ایوا حکم شاہ	79	گھریلو کام
2	غلام احمد شاہ ولد ایوا حکم شاہ	52	ملازمت
3	نصرت آرزو زوجہ غلام احمد شاہ	52	گھریلو کام
4	فاخرہ ثار دختر غلام احمد شاہ	28	زیر تعلیم
5	صالحہ ثار دختر غلام احمد شاہ	25	زیر تعلیم
6	سید ابرار احمد شاہ ولد غلام احمد شاہ	18	زیر تعلیم

لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو مسامحت و ان کے اندر در دفتر حد میں پیش کرے۔ بعد از مینار کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہو گا۔ تحریر الصدر

نائب تحصیلدار چاڈورہ

inf

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

S. No. 1: Tender Notice No. : OT-19-JRC-2026

Name of work : Casting of PSC slabs from 3.05m to 12.2m based on approved drawings in the PSC Yard of Bridge Workshop, Jalandhar Cantt

Approx Cost : Rs. 8,99,42,555.06

Estimated Money : Rs. 17,98,99,000

Date of opening : 17.08.2026

Bidding start date on IREPS : 03.08.2026 to 17.08.2026

Cost of tender form : 0

Completion period of work : 18 Months

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender : Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs. on same date.

Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & Downloaded : The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in

Enq. No.: 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 24.07.2026

2578/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDEBAL

PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, EMAIL-exenifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 15 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	Advertise ment 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 lining wall of Canal at Khuddar Wussan	Distt Dev Com. Ganderbal's Order No: 59-DDCG of 2026 Dt: 29.04.2026	10.06	500	30200/-	45 Days	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	UT CAPEX (TRIBAL)
02	Construction of R/wall, culvert from H/o showket Ah. Lone to Ab Ahad Lone at Sehpora, Ward 4	Distt Dev Com. Ganderbal's Order No: 54-DDCG of 2026 Dt: 09.05.2026	1.32	100	4000/-	21 Days	DEE	Constituency Development Fund of Hon'ble MLA Ganderbal
03	Construction of lining wall with Culvert from H/o Feroz ah Magray and others		2.51	200	7550/-	21 Days	DEE	

Total Number of Work is 03 (Three 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	24-07-2026	06:00 P.M
02 Download Date Start	24-07-2026	06:00 P.M
03 Bid submission Date Start	24-07-2026	06:00 P.M
04 Bid submission Date End	03-08-2026	04:00 P.M
05 Bid opening Date	04-08-2026	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 **04.08.2026 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- transferrable) 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.**

6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:

A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
B) encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
C) criminal proceedings.
D) Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.

7) 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 and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.

d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.

8) **Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

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

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act- 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at Serial No. 1.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents.

NOTE: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 3908-57
DIPK-3746/26

Dated: 27.07.2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Ganderbal

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Time to Act

Kashmir has escaped another flood scare, and that should be enough to change the conversation. A few days of heavy rain now bring the same cycle of fear. River gauges become alarming news, families stay awake watching the Jhelum, roads disappear under water, schools shut their gates, officials issue updates by the hour, and life slows until the rain finally eases. Such scenes have become part of the valley's summers. And that is a worrying shift. Floods once belonged to rare moments in memory, but today they have started to shadow seasons. Recent flooding in Beerwah and several other places showed how quickly normal life can turn into disruption. The Jhelum rose sharply, flood channels came under pressure, and low-lying areas prepared for the worst. The valley escaped a disaster this time, though escape alone cannot be mistaken for success. September 2014 still stands as one of Kashmir's darkest chapters. That tragedy led to promises of stronger embankments, river dredging, better forecasting and improved flood management. Those measures have made a difference, though high water levels still reveal weaknesses in the system. A river has its limits. Wetlands once helped by absorbing excess water and slowing its flow. Hokersar, Wular and many smaller marshes acted as natural buffers before floodwaters reached homes, roads and markets. Years of encroachment, pollution and land conversion have reduced that natural protection. Scientific research from the University of Kashmir and the National Institute of Hydrology has repeatedly highlighted the role of wetlands in reducing flood risk. Nature had already built part of Kashmir's flood defence, but human activity weakened it. Climate change has made the challenge much harder. The Himalayan region is seeing more intense rainfall over shorter periods, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. That means rivers rise faster, drains fill sooner and flood forecasts leave far less room for comfort. Kashmir now has a chance to think beyond emergency response. A fresh flood audit could identify vulnerable neighbourhoods, blocked flood channels and shrinking wetlands. Riverbanks reclaimed through encroachment should return to the river. Urban drains should receive the same attention as major roads. Flood maps should guide future construction instead of gathering dust in government files. Local communities should become active partners in preparedness before dark clouds gather. A flood is often described as a natural disaster. Much of the damage comes from human choices. Kashmir cannot change the rain, though it can change the way it prepares for it. The valley has reached a moment where living with seasonal flood scares should no longer feel normal. A safer future will begin the day flood planning becomes part of development itself rather than a response after rivers start rising.

Kashmir's Balance Sheet Is Wrong

The mountains, forests and rivers that define Jammu and Kashmir hold the answer to its budget crisis, if officials finally start counting them as assets instead of scenery.



Javed Hussain Mir



Omar Abdullah's original complaint stands: the treasury is thin. But the region isn't short of assets. It only lacks an accounting system willing to count the one it already owns.

and scrub pollution out of the air. Productive soil grows food while locking away carbon. Rivers supply households, farms, hydropower stations and tourist economies at once. Economists have a name for this: natural capital, an asset that produces returns over decades rather than quarters. The real policy question is how the government can protect this valuable asset and turn it into lasting economic gains. Nature-based solutions, including protecting, restoring and managing ecosystems while tackling floods, drought and biodiversity loss, make economic sense because they generate avoided costs, and those costs are already visible in the ledger. Between 2018-19 and 2024-25, the Jammu and Kashmir government spent more than Rs 3,814 crore on disaster management, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Restored wetlands that store floodwater cut damage downstream. Restored watersheds that recharge groundwater reduce future spending on water infrastructure. Restored forests that stabilize slopes lower the bill for landslide clean-up and road repair. More tree cover in cities cuts electricity demand and heat-related illness. Add those savings together and they amount to new budgetary room the government doesn't have to borrow or tax for. Few places have more of this asset sitting idle than Jammu and Kashmir. Its forests, rivers, wetlands, mountains and farmland already support tourism, horticulture, agriculture and drinking water supplies while providing ecosystem services with global significance. Two of them stand out. Start with carbon. Global estimates put the carbon stored in the region's forests at roughly 470 million tonnes CO2e in 2000, climbing to about 550 million tonnes by 2025, a net addition of 80 million tonnes, or 3.2 million tonnes a year. Priced at \$30 a tonne, a figure already used in comparable regional carbon deals, that 25-year gain carries a theoretical value near Rs 23,175 crore. International carbon markets increasingly treat this type of storage as a saleable environmental service, and India is building its own national carbon-credit registry alongside active voluntary markets abroad. Measured, monitored and verified properly, Jammu and Kashmir's forests and farmland could generate real government revenue while lifting rural incomes and biodiversity at the same time. Then there's water. Forests, alpine meadows, wetlands and catchments function as natural plumbing: they regulate snowpack and its melt, manage streamflow, cut erosion, recharge aquifers and keep water clean. Restoring watersheds lowers long-term spending on dams, treatment plants, sediment removal and flood control. Elsewhere, downstream water utilities and hydropower operators pay upstream communities directly for these services through Payments for Ecosystem Services arrangements. Nothing rules out that model here, and the Himalayan context makes it worth serious study.

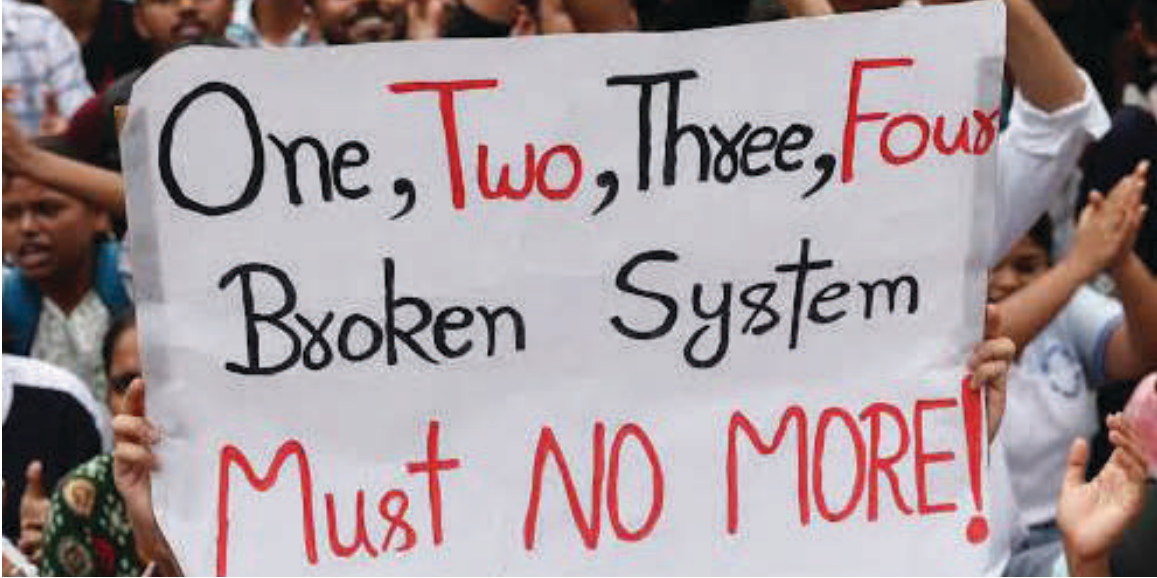
None of this stops at conservation. Climate-smart farming improves soil health, cuts water waste and builds drought tolerance. Techniques like enhanced rock weathering, biochar, agroforestry and precision nutrient management can raise both yields and farmer income while cutting emissions, a real opening for paddy growers looking to use less water and produce less methane. Apple orchards, one of the economy's biggest engines, depend on healthy soil, pollinator habitat and efficient irrigation to stay profitable, and orchard waste that now fouls the air could instead become biochar or renewable energy. Tourism depends on the same foundation: clean rivers, healthy forests, landscapes worth travelling to see. Restoring that ecology is an investment in the industry's competitive position, full stop. The payoff extends past any market too. Access to green space improves mental health, lowers stress and sharpens learning. Students do measurably better in greener school settings. Parks and forests raise activity levels and ease anxiety. Older residents who stay connected to nature report less isolation and better long-term health outcomes, which eventually shows up as lower health spending. None of this appears on a balance sheet today, but it produces real economic value all the same. Technology finally makes tracking all of this possible. Satellite observation, drones, digital mapping and artificial intelligence let officials watch forests, wetlands, farm output, floods, droughts and carbon reserves close to real time. Instead of reacting once a disaster hits, planners can anticipate risk, test policy options and target spending before the damage happens. Pairing nature-based solutions with this type of monitoring may be the sharpest tool available for climate-smart development anywhere in the Himalayas. Omar Abdullah's original complaint stands: the treasury is thin. But the region isn't short of assets. It only lacks an accounting system willing to count the one it already owns. August's conference is the moment to move past discussion. Officials can keep rebuilding the same roads after the same floods, or they can start banking the fortune that's been growing untouched in the mountains all along. The author is Professor of Practice in Sustainable Development at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Avantipora, Kashmir.



Aabroo Hussain

Merit Fights Back

A satirical protest built around vermin exposed something India's political class had spent decades trying to bury: an examination system that millions no longer trust.



There is a particular type of humiliation in discovering that the test you sacrificed years for was rigged before you ever sat down to take it. That humiliation, multiplied by two million candidates, is what set off the largest student mobilization India has witnessed in a generation, and it explains why a satirical campaign named after a cockroach ended a cabinet minister's career. The facts are stark enough on their own. On May 3, 2026, more than 2.2 million students sat for NEET-UG, the exam that determines who gets to study medicine in India. Within days, investigators found that a leaked question paper matched the real one. The National Testing Agency cancelled the exam. The government ordered a CBI investigation, and a re-test followed on June 21. On paper, the system corrected itself. But off paper, something broke that no re-examination could fix. Student suicides followed in the weeks after the leak, and while every case carried its own private circumstances, families and local reporting kept returning to the same themes: years of coaching debt, repeated exams, and a creeping suspicion that merit no longer decided outcomes. Mental health professionals warned publicly that prolonged uncertainty over high-stakes testing was compounding anxiety on a national scale. This was the backdrop when remarks attributed to India's Chief Justice, made during a discussion of unemployment, landed with young Indians as dismissal rather than diagnoses. Anger needed an outlet, and it found one online. Abhijit Dipke, a Boston University graduate who had once run social media strategy for the Aam Aadmi Party, gave that anger a name and a symbol on May 16: the Cockroach Janta Party.

The choice of insect was deliberate. A creature that survives poison, neglect, and institutional indifference became shorthand for a generation that felt treated the same way. What began as memes and satirical video content became, within weeks, a physical presence on the ground. The first Jantar Mantar gathering came on June 6. By June 20, it had become an indefinite sit-in, and the crowd composition told its own story. Parents who had spent family savings on coaching institutes stood beside rural aspirants who had travelled from dis-

tricts where exam preparation absorbs a decade of household income. Admit cards and coaching notes became protest props, personal evidence turned into public argument. This was a grievance crowd, and grievance crowds are harder for governments to dismiss than partisan ones. Politics surfaced anyway, because politics always does when a movement grows large enough to matter electorally. Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Arvind Kejriwal, and regional leaders from Jammu and Kashmir all made appearances at Jantar Mantar, framing examination integrity

as a national failure rather than a regional or partisan one. But it was Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike, begun June 28, that transformed a student protest into a national one. When Delhi Police removed him to a hospital on July 18 as his health deteriorated, the optics did what months of testimony could not: they forced the government's hand. What followed was a study in the limits of technocratic fixes. The government replaced NTA officials, tightened anti-paper-leak legislation, and promised compensation. Prime Minister Modi announced fast-track courts and additional reforms on July 23. Protesters rejected all of it as insufficient, because their demand was never procedural. It was about accountability, and accountability in a parliamentary system has a name and a face. On July 20, tens of thousands tried to march on Parliament and were met with tear gas and detentions. Five days later, Dharmendra Pradhan resigned. His resignation letter framed the decision as an act of political responsibility, a preemptive move to protect public confidence before it eroded further. Opposition parties framed it as a victory extracted through sustained pressure. Both readings can be true simultaneously, and the distinction matters less than what happened next: Dipke and the BJP refused to declare victory. He called the resignation "only the first step" and pledged to monitor NTA restructuring, the new anti-leak law, and accountability for officials implicated in the leak itself. The movement, he said, would widen its focus to recruit exams and youth unemployment more broadly. That refusal to disband is the real story here, more consequential than any single resignation. India has weathered paper leak scandals for two decades without producing sustained civic pressure of this scale. What changed is that a generation raised on constant digital connection proved capable of converting online anger into physical, sustained occupation of public space, then translating that occupation into ministerial resignation. Whether the promised task force under Nandan Nilekani produces measurable reform, or simply buys time until public attention moves elsewhere, will determine whether this becomes a template for accountability or a cautionary tale about symbolic victories. Millions of students are waiting to find out the outcome.

The author is a multimedia storyteller from Srinagar, and can be reached at h.aabroo001@gmail.com.

My Kashmiri Mother Was the Only Home I Trusted

A daughter learns that grief, like exile, never really ends. It only changes address.



Khurram Rasool



The loss of a parent behaves like a collapsed roof. When it first falls, everyone gathers. Neighbours bring food, and friends sit with her in the wreckage. The damage is visible and therefore bearable, in its way.

Rain fell over the valley all morning, soft and steady, turning the window into a mirror and the kitchen into a place where people spoke their hearts.

She stood watching it collect on the branches of the old deodar in the courtyard, a tree older than the house itself, older than the war that had come and gone through this town more times than anyone cared to count.

The kettle whistled, and upstairs her children argued over something that would be forgotten by dinner. The washing machine turned. It was, on paper, an ordinary day.

Nothing was wrong, and that was precisely the trouble.

Chores waited, messages piled up faster than hands could answer them, and the weight of an unremarkable afternoon pressed down anyway, the way it does when a person is missing someone who used to make sense of the noise.

She wiped her hands on her apron and reached for the phone, a motion so practiced it bypassed thought entirely. She knew, for one full second, exactly whom she wanted to call.

Her mother.

She wanted the voice that had steadied a dozen storms before this one, the one that let her complain without judgment and promised, the way mothers do, that things would settle on their own.

Her fingers stopped halfway to the screen. There was no number left to dial. The kitchen went still, and grief walked back in, the way a long-postponed storm finally breaks.

This was not the grief of funerals, the one wrapped in casseroles and condolence calls. This was the older, stranger variety, the one that waits years and then appears disguised as an ordinary Tuesday.

Kashmir teaches this lesson early and often, though rarely in words. A place defined by border and blockade knows better than most that home is not only geography.

It is the woman waiting at the gate after school, the man checking the locks before sleep, the smell of dinner drifting through a house on a winter evening, the



THEN ANOTHER STORM COMES, A HARD DAY, A DISAPPOINTMENT TOO HEAVY TO HOLD ALONE, and the wind finds every crack the sun had hidden. She looks up out of instinct, searching for the shelter that raised her, forgetting for one heartbeat that it fell long ago.

certainty that someone stays awake when the nightmares come.

Long before a daughter understands how complicated the world can be, she already knows her parents are the shelter standing between her and it.

Marriage moves a woman elsewhere. It hands her new obligations, new rooms to manage, and new versions of herself to grow into.

Something underneath all of it stays fixed, though: the knowledge that if the weight ever becomes too much, there is somewhere to go back to. Not a house necessarily. The people who made any

house feel like one.

That certainty becomes the floor beneath an entire life, unexamined until the day it gives way.

The corridor comes for everyone eventually. The doctor's face, the antiseptic smell of a waiting room built for exactly this type of news, and family members lowering their voices as if volume alone could change the outcome.

A goodbye that never feels final, because the heart understands what the mind still refuses.

The world splits cleanly into two ages after that: before and after.

Grief occupies every room at first. It sits at the table, follows a person into closets full of clothes that will never be worn again, smiles out from photo albums nobody has the strength to close.

Time moves regardless. Children grow, responsibilities multiply, and the rawness dulls into something survivable, and people start calling her strong. Maybe she is.

Then, years later, a kitchen. Rain on the glass. A hand reaching for a phone that no longer connects to anyone.

The loss of a parent behaves like a collapsed roof. When it first falls, everyone gathers. Neighbours bring food, and friends sit with her in the wreckage.

The damage is visible and therefore bearable, in its way.

The weather clears eventually. Sunlight returns, and for a while a person can almost believe the house has adjusted to its missing ceiling.

Then another storm comes, a hard day, a disappointment too heavy to hold alone, and the wind finds every crack the sun had hidden.

She looks up out of instinct, searching for the shelter that raised her, forgetting for one heartbeat that it fell long ago.

So she does what daughters everywhere eventually learn to do. She stands in the open, gathers what she can, becomes, for someone else now, what her own parents once were for her.

Somewhere underneath the woman she has built herself into, a child remains who still believes one phone call could fix anything, and who still turns toward a voice that will not answer.

Loss like this is not counted in absence alone. It is measured in the shelter that absence took with it.

Few shelters on this earth come as complete as a parent's love, waiting patiently at the other end of a line that, one day, simply stops ringing.

— The author is a senior scribe from Kashmir. She can be reached at khan.khurramrasool@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Invisible Teachers

Thousands of contractual lecturers keep classrooms running while struggling for recognition, security and equal treatment.



Dr. Rameez Ahmad

I entered teaching with a sense of awe. Since childhood, I had been told that teachers were almost prophetic figures: guides of truth and justice, carriers of light in a darkened world.

Iqbal's verses rang in my ears: Sabak phir parh sadaqat ka, adalat ka, shuja'at ka. In our tradition, even kings once bent before their teachers. Hazrat Ali's words, that the one who teaches a single word deserves lifelong respect, seemed to sum up everything I believed.

Then I began teaching in Kashmir.

My first assignment was in a Srinagar college. I carried the load of five classes a day, preparing lectures deep into the night, driven by both duty and hope. Yet my position was never secure.

I was called "need-based," as if my years of research and my PhD were conditional and temporary, as if my worth lasted only until the end of the semester.

At staff meetings, my presence was tolerated but seldom acknowledged. In seminars, I often discovered events through

my students rather than official notices.

This gap between reverence and reality has haunted me throughout my five years in higher education here.

The stories from colleagues echo my own. A lecturer in Sopore told me how he felt the sting of exclusion when students whispered that perhaps he was not allowed to attend a seminar.

Another, in Baramulla, described being asked to maintain registers for permanent staff or being barred from the library. Some were even taunted before students.

These are not small slights. They cut into the dignity that sustains teaching.

When nearly half the teaching posts in government colleges are held by contractual faculty, according to the Higher Education Department, such exclusion distorts the entire culture of learning.

Students see the divide between permanent and contractual, and they draw their own conclusions.

They notice attendance registers that gather dust, evaluations marked by favouritism, and exam halls where some students enjoy special leniency. Many stop believing in the system altogether.

I have seen students drift from classrooms to parks, where reels on their phones hold more promise than lectures. It is easy to call them careless. But their indifference mirrors a deeper disillusionment.

Why invest in an education system where sincerity seems unrewarded, where teachers themselves are diminished?

Outside Kashmir, I have seen another face of academia.

At AMU and JNU, at conferences in Delhi and Hyderabad, I met professors who carried themselves with humility,



Students notice the divide between permanent and contractual teachers, and many stop believing in the system altogether.

who welcomed questions and encouraged younger faculty. They treated teaching as a shared calling rather than a personal fiefdom.

These encounters remind me that change is possible if we choose it.

The starting point must be dignity. Teachers who give their labour, intellect, and time cannot be reduced to "need-based" staff. Even a change of address, recognizing contractual lecturers as Assistant Professors, would signal respect.

More importantly, fair salaries under UGC norms, year-long employment, and transparent paths to regularization for those with PhDs and years of service would stabilize both classrooms and careers.

With more than 60,000 unemployed postgraduates in Kashmir, such reforms would also open doors for merit rather than favouritism.

Respect must also extend beyond pay scales. Teachers should be judged by honesty, fairness, and integrity, not by their contractual status.

Students should have safe spaces for feedback. Principals and senior staff should resist the temptation to demean colleagues in public.

Even a casual word can wound deeply when spoken in a classroom or gathering.

At the same time, teachers themselves must guard the sanctity of their bond with students. Approachability should not slide into over-familiarity.

I have seen teachers blur boundaries, mistaking casual gestures for friendship. A teacher can be warm and accessible without dissolving the respect that anchors this relationship.

The light of knowledge has been passed across centuries, from Socrates to Radhakrishnan, from the Prophet (PBUH) to our classrooms.

That light flickers when teachers are humiliated, students lose faith, and hierarchy matters more than learning.

— The author is a former Senior Research Fellow in Sociology from Aligarh Muslim University. He can be reached at rameez1n777@gmail.com.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heavy Rain,

thereafter.

From July 28 to 31, the Kashmir division is expected to witness light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places, with brief spells of intense rainfall in a few districts, mainly during the early morning and late afternoon or evening hours.

In the Jammu division, light to moderate rain is also expected at most places, while a few districts may experience heavy to torrential rain and brief intense showers. Udhampur and adjoining areas are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, particularly during the late night, morning and evening hours, with the peak weather activity forecast for July 30 and 31.

The weather office said intermittent rain and thundershowers are likely to continue across the Union Territory on August 1 and 2, while another spell of heavy rain, intense showers and torrential rainfall may affect a few districts of the Jammu division on August 3 and 4.

The MeT department warned that heavy rainfall and brief intense showers during July 28-31 could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas, particularly during the peak wet spell on July 30.

It advised residents, tourists, transporters and travellers to remain vigilant, avoid flood- and landslide-prone areas and follow advisories issued by the administration.

Meanwhile, day temperatures remained above normal across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

According to the MeT Department, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.8 degrees Celsius, 0.9 degrees above normal, while Jammu registered 35.3 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above the seasonal average.

Qazigund recorded 30.5°C (2.6°C above normal), Banihal 30.8°C (2.5°C above normal), Katra 32.2°C (2.7°C above normal), Bhandarwah 31.6°C (1.2°C above normal), Batote 27.6°C (1.2°C above normal) and Kokernag 28.7°C (1.3°C above normal). Kupwara recorded 30.2°C, 0.9°C below normal, while Pahalgam and Gulmarg settled at 25.6°C and 20.7°C, respectively, both marginally below normal.

Minimum temperatures also remained close to or slightly above normal at most places, with Srinagar recording 18.9°C and Jammu 25.8°C.

No Fresh Traffic

Udhampur and Ramban is being cleared through a single carriageway while restoration work on the damaged stretch is underway.

He said passenger vehicles are being given priority to facilitate the movement of stranded commuters, while heavy machinery has been pressed into service to restore the affected road.

The official said no fresh traffic from Udhampur towards Srinagar, Doda, Ramban and Patnitop, or from Qazigund towards Jammu, will be allowed until the restoration work is completed and the highway is declared safe for vehicular movement.

He said the highway is expected to be fully restored by Tuesday, subject to favourable weather conditions.

"The weather is currently cloudy in Udhampur. Restoration work is progressing, and stranded vehicles are being cleared on priority," the official said.

He advised commuters to avoid travelling on the highway until further orders, warning that fresh landslides and shooting stones could occur at vulnerable locations. (KNO)

Anti-paper

which has been witnessing protests ever since the Monsoon session started on July 20, failed to transact any business on Monday with no sign yet of ending the logjam.

The Upper House saw repeated adjournments as opposition ruckus demanding the accountability of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over police action against protesting students continued.

A parliamentary source said all political parties have agreed to discuss the Bill to amend the anti-paper leak law on Tuesday.

"Following Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's initiative and sustained dialogue, floor leaders of political parties have agreed to commence discussion on the anti-paper leak bill," the source said.

The speaker announced in the Lok Sabha that he has allocated six hours for the debate on the Bill and if necessary, more time can be given based on the sense of the House.

The proposed legislation was brought as a response from the government to the students' protests led by the CJP, which started on June 20 and culminated after 36 days on July 25 following resignation of Pradhan and acceptance of other demands by the government.

According to the Bill, investigations into paper leak cases are to be completed within two months.

It says that individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get jail terms for a minimum of five years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh.

For organised crimes, the Bill proposes a minimum sentence of seven years and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore.

The present law has provisions for a minimum of three to five years of imprisonment to curb cheating and those involved in organised crimes of cheating face five to 10 years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs 1 crore.

All the states and UTs will be empowered to set up fast-track courts, which will conduct hearings swiftly and complete the trial within three months of filing of the chargesheet, according to the Bill.

The Centre will be empowered to set up a special task force to investigate cases of paper leaks in certain circumstances, it says.

After the introduction of the Bill, Speaker Birla said it was the first step towards improving the public examination process.

"Instead of sloganeering, you should discuss the Bill in the House. The government will try and incorporate the improvements suggested by you," Birla said.

The 2024 law was brought in when the government faced raging paper leak controversies. Before this legislation, there was no specific substantive law to deal with unfair means adopted or offences committed by various entities involved in the conduct of public examinations by the central government and its agencies.

The Act aimed to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the railways, banking recruitment examinations and the National Testing Agency (NTA), among others.

The Act aimed to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the railways, banking recruitment examinations and the National Testing Agency (NTA), among others.

In the wake of student protests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised a law to deal with cases like the NEET-UG paper leak. He also said that cases of accused in such cases will be tried in fast-track courts.

Modi on Sunday also announced the constitution of a high-powered task force headed by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani to recommend reforms to make the exam system leakproof.

The Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha notes that in recent years, there have been some incidents of question paper leaks and malpractices in examinations conducted by public examination authorities, "which tend to affect the transparency and fairness of the public examination system".

The amendment Bill seeks to empower all the state governments and UT administrations to designate any court of session to be a special fast-track court to try offences under the proposed law.

It also provides that the proceedings in such courts are continued on a day-to-day basis and the trial is completed within three months from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

The Bill also empowers the central government to constitute a special task force for investigation of any offence, if necessary.

It has provisions for "engagement of services of other government agencies by public examination authority", "preparation of norms, standards and guidelines" and "reporting of incidents of unfair means or offences", among others.

Pre-examination activities such as pre-audit for the examination readiness of the public examination centres, candidate check-in, biometric registration, security and screening, seat allocation, question paper setting and loading, invigilation in the examination, post-examination activities and guidelines for providing scribes were also part of the norms.

The Bill outlines 15 illegal acts including leaking question papers, tampering with OMR sheets, creating fake websites and issuing fake admit cards.

Fast-Track Court

Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Bail pleas of two accused, Dinesh Biwal and Vikas Biwal, were listed for hearing before Special Judge Anu Grover Baliga.

"None appears on behalf of the state till 10.45 am to argue on the bail application," the judge said.

She noted the submissions of the counsel of the accused that the matter be adjourned to August 3 as he had to argue a matter in the Rohini district courts and that he was unable to wait any longer.

Adjourning the matter to August 3, the judge directed the "director of prosecution to depute a public prosecutor in the present court".

The special judge took charge of the designated court to deal with criminal cases arising from paper leaks and the use of other unfair means in public examinations on Saturday.

Earlier on July 23, the Delhi High Court had issued a notification, saying that Judicial Officer Baliga's court would function as a "Specially Designated Fast Track Court" to try offences under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 and connected offences with immediate effect.

The notification was issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement that fast-track courts would be set up to swiftly deal with cases of paper leaks.

Earlier on Friday, Special Judge Ajay Gupta, who was initially hearing the NEET paper leak case, had extended the judicial custody of all 13 accused till August 6 while dismissing the bail plea of accused paediatrician Dr Manoj Bhagwanrao Shirure, saying it is prima facie clear from the probe that he was "one of the active conspirators of an organised paper leak gang".

On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of a paper leak.

A re-exam was then held on June 21

Schools Reopen Across

activities on Monday despite the Meteorological Department forecasting another spell of inclement weather. The weather office has predicted light to moderate rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir from July 28 to August 2, with heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides and mudslides likely at vulnerable locations during the period.

Yatra Movement

is presently being carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner said the

Pahalgam route would be reopened only after the restoration work is completed and the track is declared safe for pilgrims.

"If there is fresh rainfall in the coming days, the restoration work may take longer. The Pahalgam track is a long stretch, unlike the shorter Baltal route, and a decision on reopening it will be taken only after the track is fully restored and declared fit for movement," he said.

Referring to the IMD forecast of heavy rainfall between July 28 and July 31, Garg said review meetings involving the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and all stakeholder departments are held every evening to assess weather conditions and the status of the tracks before deciding the next day's movement of pilgrims.

"A conscious decision is taken after reviewing the weather forecast and the condition of the track, and accordingly the strategy for the following day is finalised," he said.

Garg said no pilgrim was currently stranded at the Nunwan base camp, as those who had been halted there earlier had already been facilitated for the pilgrimage.

"All fresh convoys arriving from Jammu, including pilgrims reaching by train over the past two days, are being sent directly to the Baltal base camp so that they do not face any inconvenience," he said.

On arrangements at Baltal, Garg said the administration had enhanced the base camp's holding capacity to accommodate 40,000 to 45,000 pilgrims. At present, the daily pilgrim load is around 15,000 to 20,000, nearly half of its capacity.

"We have also witnessed a slight decline in daily arrivals over the past few days. Therefore, the Baltal base camp is adequately equipped to handle all incoming pilgrims. If the inflow increases, further decisions will be taken accordingly," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner also credited the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage to the coordinated efforts of the Mountain Rescue Teams, health teams, sanitation staff, camp commanders, the district administration and other stakeholder departments.

Prosperity Must

"However, the true success lies not in numbers alone but in ensuring that prosperity reaches local communities and contributes to social inclusion," he said.

Sinha said tourism must remain inclusive and create opportunities for those directly dependent on the sector, including boatmen on Dal Lake, pony owners, artisans, homestay operators and local youth.

"Profits should not remain confined to large enterprises. Tourism must provide dignified incomes, training and opportunities to all stakeholders to ensure sustainability. Together, let us ensure that prosperity reaches the last village, the last family and the last citizen in the queue," he said.

Calling for a balance between development and environmental conservation, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that forests, lakes and rivers must be protected while expanding tourism infrastructure.

He said roads, hotels and tourism facilities should be developed with minimal ecological impact and urged tourists and stakeholders to avoid single-use plastics, adopt proper waste management practices, conserve water and energy, and respect wildlife.

Sinha also proposed certification standards for eco-friendly homestays and hotels, comprehensive training programmes for youth to become ambassadors of nature and culture, and greater use of digital platforms to connect tourists directly with local communities.

He urged all stakeholders to translate discussions at the conclave into concrete action with clearly defined goals, timelines and evaluation mechanisms.

"If local communities and youth combine innovation with sensitivity, technology with culture, and development with environmental conservation, Jammu and Kashmir can emerge as a model of sustainable tourism for the entire country," he said.

The conclave was attended by Tourist Trade Interest Guild Chairman Zahoore Ahmed Karnai, University of Kashmir Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan, Islamic University of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, senior police officers, industry leaders and members of the tourism sector.

Statehood Decision

Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Forest Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, visited the Halmulla cricket bat manufacturing hub in Anantnag, where he met members of the bat manufacturers' association.

He said the association had raised three major demands and the government had assured them that efforts would be made to address all of them.

"Their biggest concern is the supply of raw material, which is under stress," Abdullah said, adding that while a large number of willow trees had earlier been cut around Wular Lake, fresh plantation was not being allowed because of a High Court order.

He said the manufacturers had also sought an uninterrupted electricity supply for cricket bat manufacturing units, and the government would work towards resolving the issue.

How One Bungalow

members say the records raise wider questions about accountability.

Shahid Rasool, Dean of Academic Affairs and Director of Media and Public Relations, confirmed that Prof. Tiwari occupies the Vice-Chancellor's official residence with his permission because she serves as a non-local faculty member living away from her family.

He described the arrangement as a humanitarian gesture made with her "safety

and security" in view.

Government records tell another part of the story.

Documents from the Estates Department of the Jammu and Kashmir administration show that Quarter No. J-16 in Jawahar Nagar remains officially allotted to Vice-Chancellor Ravindernath.

The allotment letter, signed by the then Principal Secretary, Alok Kumar, requires the occupant to furnish an undertaking confirming that he serves within the municipal limits of Srinagar.

The Central University of Kashmir functions from Tulmulla in Ganderbal district, placing the Vice-Chancellor's posting outside Srinagar municipal limits and prompting questions about compliance with the allotment conditions.

Asked where the Vice-Chancellor lives, Rasool said he "made his own arrangements for stay" and does not draw House Rent Allowance, although he declined to identify the location.

A separate RTI response from the National Institute of Technology Srinagar fills that gap.

The institute confirmed that Ravindernath stayed in its Old Guest House from May through December 2023. He shifted to the Director's Lodge after taking charge as Director (In-Charge) in January 2024 and remained there until October 2024 before returning to the Old Guest House.

The accommodation comes on a chargeable basis, according to the RTI reply, while the applicable rent remains under consideration before the institute's Board of Governors.

Financial records show the arrangement also generated substantial expenses.

University communication dated October 10, 2023, states that the Central University of Kashmir had accumulated lodging dues of 749,280 payable to NIT Srinagar by December 2023. The university had paid 1,52,400 and requested that boarding and lodging charges receive revision as a "special" case before settlement of the final bill.

Those disclosures leave an unusual picture.

The university confirms that the Vice-Chancellor receives no House Rent Allowance, while records also show the institution paying lodging charges for his accommodation at NIT Srinagar. His officially allotted government residence remains under his possession while another faculty member lives there.

Prof. Tiwari also continues to receive House Rent Allowance because she remains technically unauthorised to occupy the government residence.

One senior professor, speaking anonymously because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the arrangement extends beyond personal choice.

"If a Vice-Chancellor voluntarily gives up his officially allotted residence and chooses to live in a modest one-room guesthouse while that accommodation is occupied by someone else, the issue is one of propriety," the professor said. "A Vice-Chancellor, under Clause 7.3 of the UGC Regulations, is expected to uphold the dignity of the chair."

Accommodation forms only one strand of the wider scrutiny.

University records show that Tiwari holds or has held an unusually broad collection of administrative assignments. They include Head of the Departments of English, Urdu and Kashmiri, Dean of the School of Languages, In-Charge Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Dean of International Affairs, Chairperson of the Internal Complaints Committee and Women's Cell, member of the Finance Committee, Executive Council and University Court, besides serving as In-Charge Registrar and In-Charge Finance Officer.

Rasool defended those appointments.

He said Tiwari served on various bodies because she was "the only female professor available in the University then" and contributed to advancing gender equity within institutional decision-making.

Another dispute has unfolded in the courts.

Prof. Mohammad Afzal Zargar, the university's former registrar and son of Abdul Gani Zargar, the university officer killed alongside Vice-Chancellor Mushir-ul-Haque during a militant attack in 1990, says he has remained without salary for nine months.

Rasool maintains that Zargar ceased to serve as a university employee after completing his tenure as registrar.

Zargar disputes that claim.

He points to University Order No. CUKmr/Admin/F.No.709/19/1067 dated December 17, 2020, which confirmed his appointment as Professor in the Department of Biotechnology with effect from March 14, 2019. The Executive Council approved that order, he said, and it remains part of the university's official record.

When asked about the confirmation order and any relieving order, Rasool said a committee had begun examining the issue and declined additional comment.

The dispute now sits before a court, which has granted the university a final opportunity to file objections before the next hearing scheduled in July 2026.

Audit observations have generated another financial question.

According to university records, Abdul Rashid, the In-Charge Finance Officer, allegedly received excess salary because of incorrect pay fixation, producing a recoverable amount exceeding 25 lakh.

Rasool acknowledged that the Finance and Accounts Section is examining the issue.

Rashid approaches retirement within two years, placing attention on whether the university can recover the amount identified during the audit process.

Fresh questions have also emerged over institutional priorities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently directed public institutions to embrace austerity by reducing non-essential expenditure, limiting foreign travel, curbing official perks and rationalising the use of government residences and vehicles.

During that period, Registrar Nisar Ahmad Mir proceeded to the University of Sussex in Britain for a three-week capacity-building and study programme.

Another senior professor questioned the value of that visit because the registrar has roughly 15 months remaining before retirement.

"What institutional benefit follows when someone returns so close to retirement?" the professor asked. "Institutional knowledge grows through continuity and implementation."

The professor also contrasted the overseas programme with the unresolved salary dispute involving the former registrar.

Additional concerns raised within the university include the conversion of a pre-fabricated engineering block at the Tulmulla campus into an administrative block without statutory approval and the allocation of office space designated for the Finance Officer to another faculty member.

Rasool rejected those allegations and said all expenditures and administrative decisions received approval from the university's statutory bodies.

These disclosures have shifted attention from individual decisions to the record itself.

And as more documents surface, the university's explanations are likely to face continued scrutiny.

HC Upholds Eviction

Radha Krishen, and a 1988 decree passed by the Assistant Collector, Agrarian Reforms. They contended that the documents conferred lawful ownership and possession over the property.

Rejecting the plea, the Court ruled that an unregistered agreement cannot legally transfer ownership of immovable property and cannot be relied upon to claim possession. It observed that the petitioners, if seeking enforcement of the agreement, must approach the appropriate civil court rather than invoke writ jurisdiction.

According to the petitioners, the original owner, Radha Krishen, had executed a mortgage-cum-conditional sale agreement in 1986 after borrowing Rs 3.60 lakh from their predecessors. They contended that the land was mortgaged as security for the loan with a stipulation that, if Radha Krishen failed to repay the amount, ownership of the property would automatically stand transferred to the mortgagees. On this basis, they claimed lawful possession and ownership of the land since 1986.

The petitioners also relied on a decree dated March 22, 1988, passed by the Assistant Collector, Agrarian Reforms, Verinag, contending that it further strengthened their claim over the property.

Rejecting the plea, the High Court ruled that the agreement, being an unregistered document, did not create any legal title or ownership in favour of the petitioners. It observed that any claim arising out of such an agreement must be pursued before a competent civil court and not through a writ petition.

The Court further held that the property was a protected migrant property under the 1997 Act and noted that the petitioners had themselves admitted this status in earlier proceedings. It reiterated that the District Magistrate, as custodia legis, is empowered to protect migrant properties and evict unauthorized occupants.

On the 1988 decree relied upon by the petitioners, the Court held that the Assistant Collector, Agrarian Reforms, had exercised powers that were never conferred upon him under law. Declaring the decree without jurisdiction, void ab initio and a nullity, the Court observed that a decree passed by a court or authority lacking inherent jurisdiction is coram non iudice and has no legal sanctity. It further held that where an authority acts wholly outside its jurisdiction, a citizen is not required to file an appeal against an order that is already legally non-existent.

Finding no illegality or perversity in the impugned orders of the District Magistrate and the Financial Commissioner, the High Court dismissed the writ petition as devoid of merit without imposing costs.

J&K FES Recruitment

The arrested accused have been identified as Abdul Majid Ganie of Chadoora in Budgam, Bilal Ahmad Halwai of Bijbehara in Anantnag, Irshad-ul-Hamid Hakeem of Hajin in Bandipora, Shah Nawaz Ahmad Khan of Sumbal in Bandipora, Ali Mohammad Bhat of Chadoora in Budgam, Shabir Ahmad Malik of Soibugh in Budgam, Mohammad Akram Bhat of Dharmunna in Budgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Rathoi of Tangmar, Sameer Ullah Rather of Chadoora in Budgam, Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat of Kakapora in Pulwama, Zaker Hussain of Phagsoo in Doda and Sanjay Datta of Jammu.

Officials said the arrests, spread across several districts including Budgam, Bandipora, Pulwama, Anantnag, Doda and Jammu, indicate the existence of a well-coordinated network operating across the Union Territory.

According to officials, the arrests followed sustained interrogation of suspects and the collection of incriminating evidence during the course of the investigation.

A senior official said that the ACB is probing multiple aspects of the case to identify all beneficiaries and establish the specific role of each accused in the alleged conspiracy to subvert the recruitment process.

The official said the investigation is continuing and that further arrests, searches and legal action are likely as the agency examines additional evidence and financial transactions linked to the case.

CS Reviews Implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on the progress achieved under its key components, adoption of digital health solutions, and their impact on healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department; Mission Director, National Health Mission; Managing Director, ABDM J&K; Principal, GMC, Srinagar/Jammu; Director, Health Services, Jammu; senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department, and other concerned officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary underscored that the core objective of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is the cre-



ation of comprehensive digital health records for every individual, and stressed that all efforts under the Mission must remain aligned with this fundamental goal.

He observed that while substantial progress has been achieved in creation of ABHA IDs and digital health infrastructure, the ultimate measure of success would be the availability of complete, secure and interoperable digital health

records for every citizen.

To realise this objective, Dulloo directed the Mission to put in place a well-defined implementation strategy with clearly identified milestones for progressively enhancing the generation and linkage of electronic health records across the Union Territory.

He emphasised that implementation of the Hospital Management Information System

(HMIS) should be expedited in all healthcare institutions, with primary focus on public health facilities, so that every patient interaction contributes towards building comprehensive digital health records.

He further directed that the number of ABHA IDs created should progressively be brought at par with the number of Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards is-

sued in the Union Territory, with targets fixed and closely monitored as important milestones towards achieving universal digital health coverage.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need to maximise utilisation of citizen-centric services available through the JK Sehat App. He called upon the department to promote greater public uptake of home healthcare services, online doctor appointment booking, tele-consultation facilities and doorstep delivery of medicines through local pharmacies, observing that these services have immense potential to improve accessibility, convenience and quality of healthcare delivery for the people.

Appreciating the JK Sehat App as a comprehensive digital healthcare platform, the Chief Secretary observed that the Department has developed an excellent online product catering to the needs of citizens as well as healthcare professionals.

CM Omar Says PDP Chief Should Have Apologized Instead of Blaming AI-Generated Video

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday launched a sharp attack on People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti over her remarks at Jantar Mantar, accusing her of attempting to appease certain sections outside Jammu and Kashmir and refusing to acknowledge what she had said despite widespread criticism.

Speaking to reporters, Omar Abdullah said Mehbooba Mufti had not gone to Jantar Mantar to speak for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Instead, he alleged, her remarks justified and even advocated the use of force in the Kashmir Valley.

He said that while militancy remains a challenge, it cannot justify arbitrary actions against ordinary people. "If there is militancy here, that does not mean there should be random arrests or that passports should be withheld," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister criticized Mehbooba Mufti for what he described as her long-standing practice of adopting different positions in Kashmir and in New Delhi.



"She has not forgotten the habit of saying one thing here and another in Delhi," he remarked.

Referring to the controversy surrounding the video of Mehbooba Mufti's speech, Omar Abdullah said she would not have lost any political stature had she admitted her mistake and apologized publicly.

"Instead of apologising before the media, one of her MLAs claimed the video was AI-generated. Everyone saw that reel. She should have accepted that what she said was not correct," he said.

As per KNT, Omar Abdullah further alleged that Mehbooba Mufti had rarely expressed remorse over controversial political decisions in the past. He referred to the PDP's alliance with the BJP in 2015 as well as other controversial remarks associated with her political career, saying she had neither apologized nor expressed regret over those episodes.

GoI Sanctions Multiple Tourism Projects for J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned multiple tourism infrastructure projects for Jammu and Kashmir under various flagship schemes, including Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD, with several destinations across the Union Territory receiving central financial assistance.

According to information tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Tourism, accessed by KNO, the primary responsibility for developing tourism destinations rests with States and Union Territory administrations, while the Centre supplements these efforts through schemes such as Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, PRASHAD, Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) and SASCI.

The ministry said these schemes focus on improving tourism infrastructure, connectivity, sanitation, safety and visitor amenities while promoting sustainable and responsible tourism. It also informed Parliament that the National Board for Sustainable Tourism has been constituted to coordinate sustainable tourism initiatives, while the Travel for Life programme encourages environmentally responsible tourism practices.



As per the annexure to the parliamentary reply, Jammu and Kashmir received sanction for several projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. These include development of the Jammu-Srinagar-Pahalgam-Bhagwati Nagar-Anantnag-Salambad Uri-Kargil-Leh circuit at a sanctioned cost of ₹77.33 crore, development of tourist facilities in Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama at ₹81.60 crore, construction of tourism assets damaged in the 2014 floods under the Prime Minister's Development Package at ₹90.43 crore, development of tourist facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev at ₹91.99 crore, tourism infrastructure in Anant-

nag-Pulwama-Kishtwar-Pahalgam-Zanskar Padum-Daksum-Ranjit Sagar Dam at ₹86.39 crore, and development of tourist facilities in Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Kargil-Leh at ₹96.75 crore.

The ministry further informed Parliament that under the PRASHAD scheme, the Centre sanctioned ₹40.46 crore for the development of Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, of which ₹34.30 crore has been released and utilised.

The reply also noted that no project from Jammu and Kashmir figures in the lists of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, CBDD and SASCI included in the latest parliamentary statement.

Aqua Kashmir Avengers Return for Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2026



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Aqua Kashmir Avengers have been confirmed as the third franchise for the second edition of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League (KSL) 2026, reaffirming their participation ahead of the tournament scheduled to begin in August at the TRC Ground, Srinagar.

The franchise, runners-up in the inaugural edition of the league, formalised its participation through representative Arshid in the presence of league management.

Welcoming the team's return, league officials said Aqua Kashmir Avengers had impressed football fans during

the inaugural season and that their continued association reflected growing corporate confidence in the league and its vision for promoting football in Jammu and Kashmir.

Arshid said the team's run to the final in the first edition strengthened its belief in the potential of football in Kashmir. He expressed optimism about assembling a stronger squad for Season 2 while continuing to support local football talent.

With three franchises now confirmed, the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2026 is expected to feature increased competition and greater corporate participation when it kicks off next month.

Govt Says J&K Received 9 Central Environmental Clearances in Five Years

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir received nine Environmental Clearances (ECs) from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the Central level during the last five financial years, the Union Government informed Parliament on Monday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh, as reported by KNO, said proposals requiring Environmental Clearance are appraised under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) at the Central level and the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) at the State/UT level after examining environmental impacts and issues raised during public consultation.

The minister said environmental clearances are granted after incorporating necessary environmental safeguards and mitigation measures under the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). He added that the EIA Notification mandates prior Environmental Clearance for projects falling under 38 specified categories.

As per the state-wise data annexed to the reply, Jammu and Kashmir was granted nine Environmental Clearances by the ministry between FY 2021-22 and FY 2025-26.

Regarding compliance with National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders, the Ministry said all directions issued by the Tribunal are followed up by the concerned divisions and sectors for necessary action and compliance, while the Tribunal is informed of the action taken wherever required.

J&K Has Two Central Universities, Ladakh One: GoI

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has two Central Universities, while neighbouring Union Territory of Ladakh has one, with Sindh Central University being among the two new Central Universities established in the country during the last five years, the Government of India (GoI) informed Parliament on Monday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Education Dr Sukanta Majumdar, as reported by KNO, said there are 57 Central Universities currently operational in the country, of which 47, excluding the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education.

The ministry said all

Central Universities are statutory autonomous institutions established under Acts of Parliament and are empowered to take academic and administrative decisions through their respective statutory bodies.

According to the annexure to the parliamentary reply, the Central University of Kashmir, headquartered at Sonwar in Srinagar, was established in 2009, while the

Central University of Jammu, located at Bagla, Samba, was established in 2011. The Sindh Central University in Ladakh was established in 2021.

The minister further informed Parliament that Sindh Central University in Ladakh and Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana are the only two Central Universities established in the country during the last five years.

Jamkash Vehicleleades Launches All-New Maruti Suzuki Brezza



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jamkash Vehicleleades (KMR) Pvt. Ltd., an authorised dealer of Maruti Suzuki India Limited, on Monday launched the All-New Maruti Suzuki Brezza at its Arena showroom in Hyderabad, Srinagar.

The launch event was attended by customers, banking professionals, business associates, dignitaries and automobile enthusiasts.

The new compact SUV was formally unveiled by Zonal Head of J&K Bank, Sheikh Mohammad Muzafar, in the presence of Jamkash Vehicleleades Executive Director Dr. Nahid Ali, Chief Operating Officer Dr. Amber Ahmad, Chief General Manager A.R. Bhat, senior banking officials, valued customers and members of the Jamkash management.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Amber Ahmad described the launch as a significant milestone in the compact SUV segment. She said the All-New Brezza, with an introductory price starting at ₹7.39 lakh, combines bold styling, advanced technology, class-leading safety features

and strong performance to meet the expectations of modern customers.

"We are confident that the All-New Brezza will further strengthen Maruti Suzuki's leadership in the SUV segment across Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Highlighting the company's customer-centric approach, Dr. Ahmad said Jamkash Vehicleleades remains committed to building long-term relationships through transparency, trust and quality ownership experiences.

"Being recognised as North India's No. 1 Maruti Suzuki dealer reflects the confidence our customers have placed in us over the years, and we remain committed to exceeding their expectations at every touchpoint," she added.

The company said the All-New Brezza is available with a 1.0-litre Turbo Boosterjet engine producing 110 PS of power and 170 Nm of torque. Customers can also opt for the K15C Smart Hybrid Petrol and S-CNG powertrain variants, offering multiple choices to suit different driving needs.

CRPF Head Constable Dies after Falling Unconscious in Handwara

HANDWARA: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel died after suddenly falling unconscious at District Police Lines (DPL) Handwara on Monday, officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Head Constable (GD) V. Shiv Kumar, a resident of Ramambal village in Tamil Nadu, who was serving with D Company of the 92 Battalion CRPF.

Officials said the CRPF personnel suddenly became unconscious at DPL Handwara and was immediately rushed to Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara for medical treatment. However, doctors at the hospital declared him brought dead.

As per KNT, the body has been kept in the mortuary of GMC Handwara, where medico-legal formalities are being completed. The exact cause of death will be ascertained after the necessary medical examination. (Agencies)

Rajouri DC Office Declared Unsafe After Structural Cracks Emerge

RAJOURI: The office building of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) in Rajouri has been declared unsafe after continuous heavy rainfall led to the appearance of structural cracks in the premises.

Officials said the administration has initiated the process of shifting the District Development Commissioner's office to an alternate location as a precautionary measure to safeguard employees and the public. As per KNT, the decision was taken after the building developed visible structural cracks following persistent rainfall, raising concerns about its safety.

The district administration said necessary arrangements are being made to ensure that public services and official work continue without interruption during the relocation process.

Further assessment of the building will be carried out by the concerned technical authorities to determine the extent of the damage and the measures required for its restoration. (Agencies)

J&K Reported Three Organised Wildlife Crime Cases Since 2021

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has not reported any organised wildlife crime case to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in the last three years, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Replying to Unstarred Question on "Data on Wildlife Crimes," Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh, as reported by KNO, said the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 mandates the WCCB to collect and collate intelligence related to organised wildlife crime activities, disseminate it to States and enforcement agencies, and establish a centralised wildlife crime databank.

According to Annexure-I of the reply, Jammu and Kashmir reported two organised wildlife crime cases in 2021 and one case in 2022. However, the Union Territory reported no organised wildlife crime cases (NR – Not Reported) during 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The ministry also furnished another set of data in Annexure-II, which showed that Jammu and Kashmir recorded 10 wildlife crime cases in 2021, while no cases were reported from 2022 to 2025 under that category.

Responding to queries on the availability of a national wildlife crime database, integration of records maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and WCCB, public access to WCCB data, and the number of cases not reflected in NCRB's Crime in India report, the ministry said the WCCB already collects and collates intelligence on organised wildlife crimes from States and Union Territories and maintains a centralized wildlife crime databank under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. (Agencies)

J&K Haj-2027 Registrations Reach 4,693

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir has recorded 4,693 registrations for Haj-2027, with Srinagar emerging as the highest contributor with 1,152 applications, while the overall number of registrations remains almost on a par with last year's 4,717 pilgrims who undertook the annual pilgrimage.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the J&K Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, told KNO, that a total of 4,693 intending pilgrims from the Union Territory have registered for Haj-2027.

According to the district-wise figures, Srinagar accounted for the highest 1,152 applications, followed by Baramulla (595), Anantnag (420), Budgam (404), Pulwama (361), Kupwara (323) and Kulgam (265). The remaining registrations were received from other districts across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Qureshi said the registrations from J&K form part of the 2,01,725 Haj applications received across the country after the Haj Committee of India extended the registration period.

"The registration process has been completed smoothly. The remaining Haj-related formalities will now be carried out as per the schedule notified by the Haj Committee of India," Dr Qureshi said. (Agencies)

Special DG Kumar Lauds CRPF for Playing Crucial Role in Curbing Terrorism

SRINAGAR: Describing CRPF's 88-year journey as one of courage, sacrifice and service to the nation, Special Director General (SDG), J&K Zone, CRPF, Rajesh Kumar on Monday said the force played a pivotal role in curbing terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the 88th Raising Day celebrations at the Group Centre (GC) CRPF Srinagar, Rajesh Kumar as per KNO, extended warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to all CRPF personnel.

He said the Force has built a glorious legacy over the past 88 years through its unwavering commitment to safeguarding the country's internal security. The SDG lauded CRPF's commendable operational role in Punjab, Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected areas, the Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir, saying the Force has consistently discharged its responsibilities with dedication, professionalism and valour under challenging circumstances.

Highlighting the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajesh Kumar said the CRPF has played a vital role in curbing terrorism by working in close coordination with sister security agencies. (Agencies)

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) Tauseef Rashid Lone to (New Name) Tauseef Rashid Lone. In future I will be known as (New Name) Tauseef Rashid Lone.. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

624 Wounded: US Quietly Revises Iran War Toll After Cover-Up Row

Trans Asia News

LONDON—The Pentagon has dramatically revised the US military's casualty toll in the war against Iran, quietly acknowledging that 18 American troops have been killed and 624 wounded, after facing mounting criticism over the disappearance of casualties from its official database, according to The Daily Beast and the Associated Press.

The updated figures, published over the weekend in the Pentagon's Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS), include more than 140 previously unreported wounded troops and restore the names of four American soldiers killed in recent Iranian strikes after they mysteriously vanished from the casualty records last week.



The revised data now lists 14 dead and 417 wounded under Operation Epic Fury, the military campaign launched on February 28, while another four deaths and 207 injuries have been shifted to a newly created category titled "Overseas Oper-

ations." Combined, the figures bring the confirmed US toll to 18 dead and 624 wounded.

The move has triggered fresh accusations that the Trump administration is attempting to blur the true human cost of the conflict.

According to The Daily Beast, the Pentagon sparked outrage after the names of four fallen service members and dozens of wounded troops disappeared from the public casualty database. Officials blamed the omissions on a "temporary technical disruption," promising the records would soon return.

Instead, they resurfaced under a new category covering casualties from July 7 onward—a date that coincides with President Donald Trump's claim that a new phase of the Iran war began after the collapse of a ceasefire, a legal argument his administration is using to reset the 60-day clock under the War Powers Act.

The reclassification has drawn sharp criticism from lawmakers, who accuse the administration of manipulating

casualty reporting while sidestepping Congress's constitutional authority over war.

Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski questioned whether the administration was stretching legal provisions to avoid seeking congressional approval, while 12 Democratic senators demanded an explanation from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over the shifting casualty figures.

According to CNN, the updated Pentagon database also includes 140 wounded service members who had never previously been disclosed.

The four troops killed in the latest Iranian attacks—1st Lt. Tyler James Feehan, Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, Pvt. Isabella Gonzales, and Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton—have now been restored to the official records.

2020 Delhi Riots Case Police Seeks Death for AAP Leader Tahir Hussain

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police on Monday sought the death sentence for former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four others convicted in the sensational murder case of IB officer Ankit Sharma, saying that "they fell to the level of being animals" while relentlessly assaulting the victim.

The submissions were made before Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh, who was hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence for the five convicts.

Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey submitted before the court that Sharma was abducted, assaulted relentlessly and killed by the convicts. They kept torturing him even after he had died, he said.

He asserted that the nature of the crime was heinous and brutal and the convicts should be given the death sentence.

"This was a cold-blooded murder. These people turned into butchers during the crime. There was not even a single cloth except underwear on the body of Sharma. These people should be kept behind bars (and) given the maximum death sentence," he said.

"The manner of this killing is not to be seen in isolation but with the 53 people killed in these riots. So, the context also became relevant, the context in which the riots took place," he added.

It was further submitted that the deceased never provoked anyone, but the convicts themselves got involved in the murder.

"My humble submission is that the commission of this offence, the conduct of the convicts was such that there should be no leniency given to the convicts. There was no provocation in this case. They deliberately got involved in a cold-blooded murder. In this case, the balance of sentenc-



ing policy should be shifted towards the death sentence," Pandey said.

Representing Hussain, advocates Rajiv Mohan and Tara Narula opposed the State's contention and argued that no specific role has been attributed to their client and it should also be considered that out of the 11 accused, six were acquitted in the case.

"Every convicted person should not be given the death sentence. Aggravating circumstances should be considered first and then the mitigating circumstances. Of conviction, out of the 11 accused, six have been acquitted," advocate Mohan said.

He contended that the death penalty is only given in rarest of rare cases and in this case, the judgement only mentions the presence of mob at the crime scene, but not about the specific role of the convicts.

"The punishment of death cannot be determined merely on the basis of the injuries sustained. His (Hussain) conduct was good in jail during the custody. The court had recorded the statements of 91 witnesses, after which only five out of the 11 accused were convicted by the court," he said.

Hussain's counsel said that throughout the trial, no evidence of criminal conspiracy (under IPC Section 120B) was presented before the court.

"Police themselves were unable to control the violent mob, and in such a situation, a single individual cannot be held responsible for the murder. He should be given a chance to reform," he said.

India Now Has 576 Billionaires: Tax Data

NEW DELHI, JUL 27 (PTI) As many as 576 individuals have reported a gross total income of Rs 100 crore or more in their income tax returns in the 2025-26 assessment year, registering a 4-fold growth over the past five years, Parliament was informed on Monday.

This was stated by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha in reply to a question on whether the government is aware that there has been a significant increase in the number of billionaires in the country and that it is among the leading nations in the world in this regard.

In a written reply, Chaudhary said there is no statutory definition of the term 'billionaire' either under the Income-tax Act, 2025 or under the erstwhile Income-tax Act, 1961.

However, the number of individuals having reported gross total income of Rs 100 crore or more in the

Income-tax Returns (ITRs) filed in Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 stood at 576. This is a sharp 4-fold spike from 142 reported in AY 2021-22.

The number of individuals with gross total income of Rs 100 crore and above was 301 in AY 2022-23, dipping to 284 in AY'24, before rising to 415 in AY'25.

To another question on whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the impact of the increasing concentration of income and wealth on income inequality, investment, employment generation and inclusive economic growth, Chaudhary said the Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report showed that labour markets have recovered beyond pre-COVID levels in both urban and rural areas.

The unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 and above has decreased from 3.6 per cent in 2022 to 3.1 per cent in 2025.

CJP Demands FIR Rollback, Threatens Fresh Stir

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday said it was awaiting the government's promised written agreement on the withdrawal of criminal cases against protesters and organisers and warned that it would be forced to resume its agitation if the assurance was not received by Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, CJP national spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka said the issue was discussed during the third round of talks with the government before the 36-day protest at Jantar Mantra was called off.

"In the third round of talks, we had agreed that all FIRs filed against protesters and organisers across the coun-



try would be withdrawn and no new FIR would be filed against any organiser and protester in future," Ranka said.

He said the CJP had submitted a draft agreement to Union ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh, and it was agreed that the government would share a written agreement by Tuesday after legal consultations.

"We are waiting for the government to share the

written agreement. We hope a senior Cabinet minister will honour the agreement and FIRs will be withdrawn, no protester or organiser would be harassed, and no cases would be filed in future," he said.

Ranka said if the written agreement was not received by Tuesday and protesters and organisers arrested in connection with the agitation were not released, the outfit would be "forced to protest again."

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