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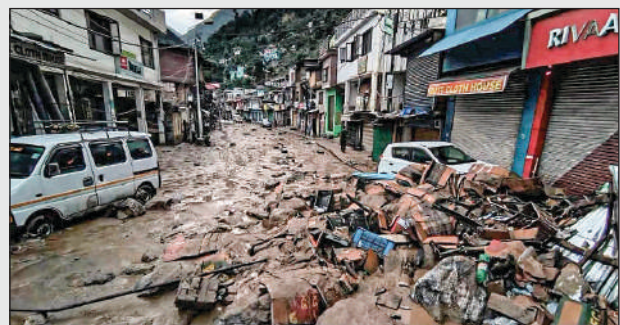
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Cloudburst, Flooding Disrupt Life Across J&K Parts

Homes inundated in Shopian; vehicles swept away & shops damaged in Kishtwar

Schools closed in Chenab Valley; MeT warns of more heavy rain



File Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Heavy rainfall triggered flooding and flash floods in parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, inundating residential areas in Shopian district and causing extensive damage to property in Kishtwar following a cloudburst, while authorities closed schools in parts of the Chenab Valley and warned of

more intense weather in the coming days.

In south Kashmir's Shopian district, rainwater entered several houses and a school in Pahlipora village after incessant rainfall, disrupting normal life and prompting an emergency response by the police, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the district administration. Rescue teams | [More on P6](#)

7-Yr-Old Dies As Boulder Rolls Down During Mudslide

A seven-year-old boy was killed after being struck by a boulder that rolled down a hillside during a mudslide near his school in the Mawer area of north Kashmir's Handwara on Saturday, officials said.

The incident occurred during the lunch break when a boulder dislodged from an adjacent hillside amid a mudslide and struck the child outside the school premises.

The boy was immediately rushed to the | [More on P6](#)

Crime Branch Chargesheetes Two In ₹3.11 Cr Bank Scam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against two former employees of the Central Co-operative Bank in connection with the alleged embezzlement of Rs 3.11 crore through fraudulent loans and unauthorised overdrafts at the bank's Langate branch.

The chargesheet was filed before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Handwara, under Sections 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery), 471 (using forged documents as genuine) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Ranbir Penal Code.

Officials said the investigation was initiated on the basis of a written communication from the then Registrar of



Co-operative Societies, Jammu and Kashmir, alleging large-scale financial irregularities and embezzlement in various branches of the Central Co-operative Bank in Baramulla district.

During the investigation, it was found that the then branch manager of the Langate branch, in alleged connivance with another accused, fraudulently sanctioned fictitious loans and permitted overdrafts far beyond his | [More on P6](#)

Kulgam Terror Attack: Hunt Intensified After 2 Migrant Workers Killed

LG orders intensified anti-terror operations; CM announces Rs 10 lakh ex gratia

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security forces on Saturday intensified search operations across south Kashmir to track down the terrorists responsible for killing two migrant labourers in Kulgam district, even as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered high-impact anti-terror operations and political parties demanded a thorough investigation into the attack.

The two labourers, Deepak Ratre (24) and Bhupendra Bhaina (28), both residents of Chhattisgarh, were shot by terrorists at a brick kiln in Kelam village of Kulgam district on Friday evening. While Ratre died shortly after the attack, Bhaina succumbed to his injuries during treatment at SKIMS Soura on Saturday,



Photo : Abid Bhat

taking the death toll to two.

Soon after the attack, police, Army and CRPF personnel cordoned off the area and launched a massive search operation, which was further intensified on Saturday. Director General of Police Nalin

Prabhat, accompanied by senior police and security officials, visited the attack site to review the security situation.

Security was also tightened across the Valley, with intensified checking and frisking of vehicles and | [More on P6](#)

LG Orders SOP Review, Insurance For Migrant Workers

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) to undertake a comprehensive review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the protection of workers from outside Jammu and Kashmir, besides making insurance coverage and police registration | [More on P6](#)



Trucks stranded on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway as restoration work continues after rain-triggered landslides. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

FDA Flags 'New Fast Tea' Batch As Unsafe

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has issued a public health advisory asking consumers not to purchase or consume a batch of "Dust Tea (Premium Instant Mix Tea)" marketed under the brand New Fast Tea after it was declared unsafe by the National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad. According to the FDA, the advisory pertains to Batch No. 10, packed | [More on P6](#)

Yatra Resumes Via Baltal Route

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed via the Baltal route on Saturday after remaining suspended for a day due to inclement weather and track repair work, officials said.

Pilgrims were allowed to proceed towards the holy cave shrine from Baltal after weather conditions improved and restoration work on the route was completed.

"The yatra has resumed from the Baltal route, and pilgrims were allowed to visit the holy cave shrine this morning," officials said.

The pilgrimage had been suspended on Friday following incessant rain, which caused minor damage to the track and prompted authorities to undertake repair work.

However, the yatra continued to remain suspended via the traditional Pahalgam route, where restoration work was still underway.

The annual pilgrimage, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

So far, over 4.5 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, which houses the naturally formed ice lingam, officials said. | [More on P6](#)

No Society Prospers on Govt Jobs Alone: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said no society had ever become prosperous solely through government employment or public expenditure, asserting that enterprise was the key to converting opportunity into lasting prosperity.

Delivering the keynote address at the inaugural session of the IIM Bangalore Alumni Association here, Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir's experience demonstrated that societies changed course when institutions altered the incentives shaping people's decisions over time.

"Enterprise is what converts

opportunity into prosperity. No society has ever become prosperous solely through government employment or public expenditure," he said.

The chief minister said Jammu and Kashmir was often viewed through the prism of politics, security and geography, overlooking its story of human development and resilience despite structural constraints.

"If you were shown only the physical geography of Jammu and Kashmir, you would predict an economy constrained by mountains, high transport costs, dispersed settlements, difficult logistics and limited industrialisation," he said, noting that the | [More on P6](#)

The Six-Hour Hunt For A Mother And Son In Kashmir's Canal Murder

What began with a body wrapped in gunny bags and abandoned in a Srinagar canal soon became a story about changing social bonds, public trust and the meaning of safety in Kashmir.

Haziqah Showkat

Srinagar: The body surfaced before the names did.

Just after dawn on July 30, officers from the Khanyar police station reached the Babademb Canal, beneath the Baba Dawood Khakhi Bridge, and pulled a corpse wrapped in gunny bags out of the water.

Within the hour, investigators had opened a case under Sections 103 and 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and senior officers assembled a Special Investigation Team to work the scene.

Six hours later, they had made two arrests.

Sleuths first identified



the dead man as Nazir Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, of Kalantpora in the Hawal neighbourhood of Srinagar.

Then they traced the killing to a rented room in Mughal Mohalla, Rainawari, where

a mother and son, Haleema Bano and Moomin Ahmad, had been living as tenants.

By the time detectives closed in, the pair had already fled the city, doubling back toward their home village of Machil, in Kupwara district, roughly a

hundred miles north.

Police followed, and tracked the two through Kupwara's mountain roads and caught them in Lolab, still within the six-hour window that had opened with the canal.

What emerged from questioning was smaller and sadder than the crime scene had suggested.

Bhat had gone to the rented room over a financial dispute, investigators say, and the argument turned fatal inside those walls.

Bano and her son wrapped the body, carried it to the canal, and tried to erase what had happened.

Officers | [More on P6](#)

A New Chapter

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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Nikon Scholarship Program 2026-27

Description: Nikon India Private Limited has launched the Nikon Scholarship Program 2026-27, offering up to INR 1,00,000 to students pursuing professional photography courses of 3 months or more. The program aims to nurture young visual talent and remove financial barriers to creative education. Eligibility: Must be an Indian citizen. Must be currently pursuing a professional photography-related course with a minimum duration of three months. Must have passed Class 12 (any stream). Annual parental income from all sources must not exceed INR 6,00,000. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship up to INR 1,00,000 based on the actual course fee. Last Date to Apply: 24-08-2026 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NIKON14

QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/nikon-scholarship-program-2026-271785206520.png

Scholarship Name 2: Panasonic Ratti Chhatr Scholarship 2026-27

Description: The Panasonic Ratti Chhatr Scholarship 2026-27 an initiative by Panasonic Life Solutions India aims to supports first-year B.E./B.Tech students from low-income families admitted to any IIT by providing annual financial assistance of INR 70,250. Eligibility: Open to students across India who have secured admission to B.E. or B.Tech. programs at any Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) for the academic year 2026-27. Applicants must have completed their Class 12 examination with a minimum of 75% marks. The annual family income should not exceed INR 8,00,000 from all sources. Only candidates from the 2026-27 batch are

eligible to apply. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of INR 70,250 per year. Note: Scholarship support will be provided until 2028, with the possibility of an extension. Last Date to Apply: 20-08-2026 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RSCP7 QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/panasonic-ratti-chhatr-scholarship-2026-271785206513.png

Scholarship Name 3: U-GO Scholarship Program 2026-27

Description: The U-GO Scholarship Program 2026-27, an initiative by U-GO, aims to provide financial assistance to talented young women pursuing professional undergraduate courses across India. The program supports academically deserving students enrolled in fields such as teaching, nursing,

pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law, and other related disciplines. Eligibility: Open to young women pursuing professional graduation courses in teaching, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law and related fields. Must be studying in any year of their graduation program, except the final year. Must have secured at least 70% marks in both the Class 10 and Class 12 examinations. Annual family income from all sources must be less than INR 5 lakh. Students from across India are eligible to apply. Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will get a chance to receive up to INR 60,000 per year. Last Date to Apply: 20-08-2026 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UGO6 QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/u-go-scholarship-program-2026-271785206505.png

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hajra Bano, W/o Lt. Ghulam Mohammad Malla, R/o Rai Pora Heeng, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, J&K UT, hereby inform the general public that in my Aadhaar Card (No. 4655 6893 3291), my Name has been wrongly recorded as HAJA BEGUM instead of HAJRA BANO, and my Date of Birth has been wrongly recorded as 18-10-1960 instead of 20-10-1980, as per my Domicile Certificate. I have applied for the necessary correction in the official records. If any person has any objection, they may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/- Hajra Bano W/o Lt. Ghulam Mohammad Malla R/o Rai Pora Heeng, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla. FKO

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & F C DIVISION

BARAMULLA-193101
CORRIGENDUM-II

Subject: Extension Notice.
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 04 of 2026-27 Dated: 16/07/2026 issued under endorsement No: I&FCDB/CS-30/2558-77 Dated: 16-07-2026. Read with Corrigendum-I issued under No. I&FCDB/CS-30/ 2708-28 Dated: 23-07-2026.

In view of nil response for Tender ID No. 2026_IFC_316410_2 advertised vide this office e-Nit No. cited above, the date for bid submission end is hereby extended as per following schedule:

S No.	Particulars	Previous Date	New Date
01.	Bid Submission end date	29-07-2026 upto 1800 Hours.	07-08-2026 upto 1800 Hours.
02.	Bid opening date	30-07-2026 at 1400 Hours.	08-08-2026 at 1400 Hours.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original e-NIT.

**I&FCDB/CS-30/ 3006-26
Dated: 30-07-2026**

**Executive Engineer
Irrigation & FC Division
Baramulla**

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shaista Rasool D/o Ghulam Rasool waza R/o Mamooosa. The Date of birth as per school record is 06/03/2002 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. mcb Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohammad Wani, S/o Sonaulah Wani, R/o Sumbal Bag Hardu Aboora, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, father of Lubna Jan, hereby inform the general public that in my ward's Aadhaar Card (No. 2218 1991 1008), her Name has been wrongly recorded as LUBABA JAN instead of LUBNA JAN, and her Date of Birth has been wrongly recorded as 15-02-2010 instead of 01-10-2011, as per her Birth Certificate. I have applied for the necessary correction in the official records. If any person has any objection, they may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/- Ghulam Mohammad Wani (Father of Lubna Jan) R/o Sumbal Bag Hardu Aboora, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla. FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Imtiyaz Ahmad Teli, S/o Mohammad Ramzan Teli, R/o Kralpora Hari Utnoo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, father of Arham Imtiyaz, hereby inform the general public that in my ward's Aadhaar Card (No. 3288 2950 7853), his Name and Father's Name have been wrongly recorded as TAAMIL IMTIYAZ, C/O IMTIYAZ AHMAD TALI instead of ARHAM IMTIYAZ, C/O IMTIYAZ AHMAD TELI, as per his Birth Certificate. I have applied for the necessary correction in the official records. If any person has any objection, they may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/- Imtiyaz Ahmad Teli (Father of Arham Imtiyaz) FKO R/o Kralpora Hari Utnoo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my name SONAULLAH GANIE Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005042 wants to be registered on my fathers name GH MOHAMMAD GANIE S/O GH RASOOL GANIE If anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....GH MOHAMMAD GANIE
S/O...GH RASOOL GANIE
R/O ...BANDIPAYEEN
BLOCKWAGOORA FKO

Gareeb Nawaz Welfare Society (NGO)

Palhallan Pattan Baramulla
Regd No: 7935 RS /763

Ref. No. GNW 192/PLN Dated: 01-08-2026

This is to inform the general public that I Irshad Ahamd Shah S/O Mohammad Akram Shah R/O Palhallan Pattan Have Resigned from my position as a member (feild officer) of Gareez Nawaz welfare Society (NGO) pelhallan Pattan and I am no longer associated with the NGO in any manner . From the date & my resignation, I shall not be respesible for any activities, decisions, representations made on behalf of the Society. Any person dealing with the society shall do so at their own responsibility This notice is being published for the information of general Public fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to Apply for pesticides licence under the name M/S The kehipora Tangmarg cooperative farmers producer organisation LTD(FPO) if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the(PPO) plant protection Officer Lalmandi srinagar with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained Mehak Mansoor D/O Mansoor Ahmad Lone R/O Farozpora Tangmarg fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Rizwan Ahmad Shah, S/o Ayaz Ahmad Shah, R/o Pinjwara, appeared in the SSE (Class 10th) examination conducted by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

It has come to notice that the Date of Birth has been wrongly recorded in the Board records as 23-06-2010 instead of the correct 23-08-2010 due to an inadvertent error. The applicant has applied to the competent authority of JKBOSE for the necessary correction in the official records. If any person has any objection to this correction, he/she may file the same before the Assistant Secretary (Certificates), JKBOSE, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained. Correct Particulars: Name: Rizwan Ahmad Shah bmg Father's Name: Ayaz Ahmad Shah Mother's Name: Naseema Correct Date of Birth: 23-08-2010 Residence: Pinjoora Mobile No.: 9146923598



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muneeba Begum W/o Mehboob Ahmed Khan, R/o Sangri Bala Ushkara, Tehsil Baramulla, District Baramulla, do hereby declare that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Zahoora Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing no. 6642-0568-6443. My correct and actual name is Muneeba Begum. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Majeed Parray, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Parray, R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, UT of J&K, have applied for the delayed registration of the birth of my son, Mehfooz Ahmad Parray, born on 19-10-2010 at our residence. The birth was not registered at the time due to unavoidable circumstances and is not recorded with the concerned authority. If anyone has any objection, they may submit it in writing before the Registrar Births & Deaths / BDO Wailoo within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Otherwise, the case shall be processed accordingly. Applicant: Abdul Majeed Parray R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, UT of J&K. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Mohd Mir, S/o Khazir Mohd Mir, R/o Khumbir Hazratbal, Srinagar, do hereby inform the general public that my Registration Certificate (RC) bearing Registration No. JK01E-9161 has been lost/misplaced.Despite my best efforts, the same could not be traced. If anybody finds the above-mentioned document, they are requested to kindly return it to the undersigned. In case no objection is received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, I shall apply for issuance of a duplicate RC from the concerned authority. Gh Mohd Mir Khazir Mohd Mir Mobile: 9596573500 Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bilkees Akhter, Daughter of Mohammad Yousuf Rather, Resident of Soibugh, Budgam, do hereby declare that my name has been inadvertently recorded as "Bilkeesa Akhter" in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 9721 3200 8543.My correct and actual name is "Bilkees Akhter". Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Bilkees Akhter for all purposes, and the name Bilkeesa Akhter appearing in the Aadhaar Card may be treated as incorrect.This notice is being published for the information of the general public and all concerned authorities to facilitate the correction of my name in the Aadhaar records and other related documents. Bilkees Akhter D/o Mohammad Yousuf Rather R/o Soibugh,Budgam MCB

اطلاع عام

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

0078040150002813 میرا DILSHADA AKHTER اندراج ہوا ہے جبکہ اب اس کا دھار پر میرا نام DILSHADA BANO ہے۔ اب اس کی درستی کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر برائے غیر مجوں و کشمیر ننگ بدگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معاذ کو کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

DILSHADA BANO W/O AJAZ AHMAD DAR
R/O RAZWAN JAGIR BUDGAM. mcb

اطلاع عام

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

007804010076435 میں میرا نام MYMOONA BEGUM W/O MYMOONABANO اندراج ہوا ہے جبکہ اب اس کا دھار پر میرا نام MYMOONABANO اندراج ہوا ہے۔ اب اس کی درستی کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر برائے غیر مجوں و کشمیر ننگ بدگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معاذ کو کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

MYMOONA BANO W/O FAYAZ AHMAD WAR
R/O NANDIWANPORA BUDGAM mcb

اطلاع عام

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

007804010076827 میں میرا نام MOHD AKBAR اندراج ہوا ہے جبکہ اب اس کا دھار پر میرا نام MOHMAD AKBAR DAR ہے۔ اب اس کی درستی کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر برائے غیر مجوں و کشمیر ننگ بدگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معاذ کو کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

MOHMAD AKBAR DAR S/O LASSI DAR
R/O SUNDIPORA BUDGAM
CELL: 8491070974 mcb

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR EXTENSION NOTICE 3

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

SNO	E.NIT No.	Name of the work	Tender ID	Cost tender document (In Rs)	EMD Cost (In Rs)
1	eNIT No STD-II / 41 of 2026-27 Dated 23-06-2026	Construction of Additional Bay for Receiving Station Wanganpora	2026_PDD_313479_1	Rs 500.00	Rs 16377.00

Last Date of Bid Submission extended up to

08-08-2026; 4:30pm

Bid Opening Date

10-08-2026; 2:30pm

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.**

**DIPK-NB-1274/26
dated: 01-08-2026**

No.: STD-II/3735-37/Ts
Dated: 01-08-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal-Shakti (I& F.C.) Division, Baramulla

e-NIT No. 06-IFCD.Bla. Of 2026-27

Dated: 29/07/2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, e-tenders on percentage basis (in Single Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Government, for the following nature of works as shown hereunder: -

S. No.	Name of the work	Advertised Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money CDR (In Rs.)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	M.H. of Account	Tender ID
1.	Improvements of Panzala Zamindari Khul at Village Panzala	40.77	81540/-	45 Days	AAY/ BEE	5000/-	5475-SSY	2026_IFC_318550_1
2.	Restoration and Improvement to LIS Aachabal	32.04	64080/-	30 Days	AAY/ BEE	3000/-	5475-SSY	2026_IFC_318550_2
3.	Restoration and Improvement to LIS Vijbal	24.27	48540/-	30 Days	BEE/ CEE	2000/-	5475-SSY	2026_IFC_318550_3

Position of fund : Budgetary Provision under 5475-SSY Budget for the year 2026-27.

Position of A.A.A : Accorded vide District Development Commissioner Baramulla Order No. 121/DDC of 2026 Dated: 08-07-2026.

Position of T.S : Sanctioned.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

1.	Date of Publishing	29-07-2026 from 1800 Hours.
2.	Start of downloading	29-07-2026 from 1800 Hours.
3.	Bid submission start date	29-07-2026 from 1800 Hours.
4.	Bid Submission end date	17-08-2026 upto 1800 Hours.
5.	Date of opening of Tender	18-08-2026 at 1400 Hours.

**No: I&FCDB/CS-30/2971-90
Dated:29-07-2026**

**Executive Engineer
Irrigation & FC Division
Baramulla**

**DIPK-3991/26
dated: 01-08-22026**

SMC Takes over J&K's First Mechanised Abattoir Project

Agencies

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has taken over the construction of Jammu and Kashmir's first modern mechanised abattoir at Allochi Bagh, reviving the long-delayed project aimed at introducing scientific and hygienic slaughtering practices in the Valley.

An official told KNO that the project, designed to process 5,000 sheep and goats a day, has been floated under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode and is expected to be completed within two years.

The project will replace conventional slaughtering methods with a modern, hygienic and environmentally sustainable system that meets national and international standards.

"The mechanised abattoir will improve hygiene, food safety and environmental management while ensuring scientific processing of livestock," the official said.

The project has witnessed repeated delays since its inception. It was initially assigned to the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC), where preliminary civil works, including foundation work, had begun. However, construction came to a halt after the financial closure of JKPCC in August 2023.

The project was later transferred to the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, but saw little physical progress, the official said, adding that the delay also came under judicial scrutiny through a Public Interest Litigation related to slaughterhouse infrastructure.

Following a comprehensive review, the SMC decided to execute the project through its own Works Division. A revised Detailed Project Report (DPR), incorporating modern technology and infrastructure, received administrative approval in March 2025, paving the way for fresh execution.

According to officials, the facility will include fully mechanised slaughtering lines, scientifically designed lairage areas, carcass dressing units, chilling and cold storage facilities and by-product processing units.

It will also feature an advanced bio-digestion system integrated with a modern Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) for scientific waste disposal and recycling of treated wastewater for non-potable use.

Blocked Drain Causes Waterlogging in Nishat

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of Bhatgoo Nishat on the outskirts of Srinagar have alleged that a blocked drainage channel has remained unattended for the past 13 days, leading to severe waterlogging, overflowing sewage and unhygienic conditions in the locality.

According to local residents, the clogged drain has caused water to spill onto the road and enter several nearby houses, disrupting daily life and causing considerable inconvenience to families. They said the situation has worsened with continuous accumulation of wastewater, raising concerns over sanitation and public health.

As per KNT, Residents further alleged that garbage and waste from the blocked drain have spread across the road, making it difficult for pedestrians to move and creating foul-smelling, unsanitary conditions in the area.

They claimed that despite repeated appeals, no official from the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LAWDA) has visited the locality to assess or resolve the problem.

The residents have urged LAWDA to immediately clear the blocked drain and take necessary measures to restore proper drainage before the situation deteriorates further.

Mashq-e-Arba'een Showcases Art & the Enduring Legacy of Karbala

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The 14th edition of Mashq-e-Arba'een, an annual community-led exhibition commemorating Imam Hussain (AS) and the Martyrs of Karbala through art and cultural expression, opened at the Mahatta Art Gallery on The Bund here on Saturday.

The exhibition brings together more than 20 professional artists and around 50 children from schools in Srinagar's old city, who are sharing the same gallery space to pay tribute to Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala through diverse artistic mediums.

A major highlight of this year's exhibition is Tiflan-e-Karbala (Children of Karbala), a summer workshop and exhibition featuring artworks by children from old city schools. As per organizers, the young participants had initially conceptualized their works during Muharram at Jalali House, Zadibal, before spending nearly two months, including their summer vacations, refining their creations for display at the exhibition.

"This year, around 50 children participated in Tiflan-e-Karbala. They worked throughout their summer vacations to improve their artworks, making this exhibition a heartfelt tribute from children to Imam Hussain (AS) and the Martyrs of Karbala," organiser Ilyas Rizvi said.

According to Rizvi, this year's central theme explores the relevance of Ashura in the 20th Century, encouraging artists to reflect on how the message of Karbala continues to resonate in an era shaped by social media and artificial intelligence.

"The participating artists have explored how, despite rapid technological changes and the influence of social media and AI, people continue to find relevance



and inspiration in the legacy of Karbala and Imam Hussain (AS)," he said.

The children's section of the exhibition focuses on the emotional dimensions of Azadari and highlights the traditional forms of mourning observed in Kashmir, showcasing how younger generations interpret and preserve these cultural practices through art.

Rizvi said the exhibition will also host a series of interactive sessions and discussions aimed at engaging young people with the cultural and spiritual significance of Azadari.

"Each day, experts will hold conversations on the tradition of Azadari and its relevance for Gen Z, with a focus on preserving these unique traditions that distinguish Kashmir's cultural identity," he said.

He said an upcoming critical writing workshop will be conducted by academic Khair-un-Nisa, while another session featuring Dr Nida

and Dr Sabahat will examine the emotional and spiritual dimensions of mourning traditions.

"The discussions will also explore the relationship between mental health and cultural spaces, and how such traditions and community spaces can contribute to emotional healing," Rizvi added.

Describing the journey of the exhibition, Rizvi said Mashq-e-Arba'een began in 2013 with a one-day open-air exhibition titled Dar'ke Azadari and has since evolved into an annual platform that combines artworks, calligraphy, poetry, elegies, oral narratives, photography and other creative expressions.

"Over the past 14 years, Mashq-e-Arba'een has grown into a forum for artistic and emotional expression, community building, intergenerational dialogue and the preservation of mourning traditions," he said.

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PDD: 0194-2450213
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PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
18 Safar
1448

PRAYERS
FAJR 4: 06
ZUHR 12:37
ASR 5: 31
Magrib 7: 35
ISHA 9: 07

This Day In History

- 338 BC - Macedonian army led by Philip II defeats combined forces of Athens and Thebes in the Battle of Chaeronea, securing Macedonian hegemony in Greece and the Aegean
- 216 BC - Second Punic War: Battle of Cannae - Carthaginian army lead by Hannibal defeats numerically superior Roman army under command consuls Lucius Aemilius Paullus and Gaius Terentius Varro
- 257 - St Stephen I ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1057 - Frederik van Lotharingen elected as 1st Belgium Pope Stephen IX [X]

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject: Selection of candidates for the post of Lecturer in the discipline of Chemistry in School Education Department.

NOTICE

In pursuance of the recommendations received from the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, Solina, Srinagar, for appointment as Lecturer in Chemistry in the School Education Department vide Letter No. PSC/DR-/Chemistry/SED/2024 (7826176) dated 15.07.2026, the following candidates are hereby directed to submit their valid E-Mail ID and Mobile Number in the School Education Department, (Gazetted Section) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, in person or on E-Mail ID: school-edu@jk.gov.in within a period of fifteen (15) days positively, for uploading their verification rolls on the Employees Verification System (EVS):

S. No	Name	Parentage	Address
1.	SONAKSHI SASAN	MAKHAN SHARMA LAL	NEAR VPO LAMBERI LAMBERI NOWSHERA
2.	MOHSIN YOUSUF LONE	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF LONE	521 USHKARA BARAMULLA
3.	CHANDANI SHARMA	BHUVNESH KUMAR SHARMA	597 OPPOSITE CIVIL AIR PORT SATWARI JAMMU CANTT JAMMU
4.	SHARIQ YOUSUF	MOHD YOUSUF SHEIKH	117 HEERPORA SHOPIAN
5.	SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT	AB MAJEED BHAT	20 VILLAGE KHIRAM MOHALLA TANGHADA SRIGUFWARA
6.	SAMEER AHMAD MALIK	ALI MOHD MALIK	245 WADWAN NARBAL
7.	ANU CHOUDHARY	SHAM LAL	R/O- PURO BHAN P/O- R.S PORA,
8.	ISHRAT GOWSIA	AB GANI DAR	05 LONE PORA BUDROO FRISAL
9.	SALMAN KHURSHIED	KHURSHIED AHMAD RATHER	SP 154 SAHIPORA KRALGUND
10.	BUSHRA CHOWHAN	MOHD IFTIKHAR UL ZAMAN	H. NO. 169 SHANKER NAGAR HAVELI
11.	IFTKHAR AHMAD	GHULAM MOHD	053 PASSERKOOT WANI MOHALLA INDERWAAL/CHATROO 64 FEERT PORA
12.	MOHAMMAD YAQOOB BHAT	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT	119 BADRAN MAGAM
13.	MUZAFFAR AHMAD BHAT	AB RAHIM BHAT	12 BHATYARI HIRANAGAR
14.	NARAYAN DUTT SHARMA	DWARKA NATH	RATHER MOHALLA SOURA
15.	RAFIQ AHMAD RATHER	NAZIR AHMAD RATHER	H NO 57 PARTAP GARH NEAR CITY CHOWK JAMMU
16.	NIHARIKA	CHANDER MOHAN GUPTA	HNO 4 VILL CHHAN MORIAN HIRANAGAR
17.	RAJNEESH PAUL SHARMA	RAM DASS SHARMA	209 QAMMARWARI HILALABAD
18.	QOUNSAR JAN	MERAQ USMANI AHMAD	R/O BINDLA P/O BARMEEN RAMNAGAR
19.	MANISHA SHARMA	SURINDER MOHAN	226 BATHIPORA D.H.PORA
20.	ASHIQ HUSSAIN PADDER	AB RASHID PADDER	WARD NO 1 JAWAHAR NAGAR LANE NO 2 KATHUA
21.	SORAV GUPTA	RAMESH CHANDER GUPTA	7 GANTAMULLA PAYEEN BARAMULLA
22.	DANISH FAROOQ	FAROOQ AHMAD WANI	0 SEER TRAL
23.	ZAHD LONE AHMAD LONE	BASHIR AHMAD	KHARIBAGH KHARIBAGH CHADOORA
24.	BILAL SALAM	AB SALAM SOFI	25 WUSSAN KANGAN
25.	HASHIM AMIN SHAH	MOHAMMAD AMIN SHAH	187 MAGAM HANDWARA
26.	SUHAIL AHMAD LONE	ABDUL RASHID LONE	41 VILLAGE FANGOTA DODA
27.	DIVYA RANI	RAKESH	R/O KHUGA MAJALTA
28.	ANIL MALIK	ASHOK KUMAR	

29.	ARUNA RANI	NAGO RAM	44 VILLAGE-GURAH BELDARAN HIRANAGAR
30.	JASWANT KUMAR	JANAK RAJ	SANJI MORH CHACK NATHAL MARHEEN
31.	SAJJAD AHMED	MOHD DIN	NAKA MANJHIARI MENDHAR MENDHAR
32.	SUNIL KUMAR	MANOHAR LAL	57 MANGHANI SURJAN PANYALAG BANI
33.	NARGIS AKHTER ASHASHI	BASHIR AHMED	W NO 5 NEAR WATER TANK BHARAT NAGAR BHARAT NAGAR
34.	ZAIB UL NISA	ABDUL RASHID	H NO 5 KATARMAL P/O GHAMBIR BRAHMANA MANJAKOTE
35.	PRETAM KUMAR	RATTAN CHAND	NEAR CHANDI MATA MANDIR BARRI VPO KANTHAL BANI KATHUA
36.	JEETINDER SINGH	BALBIR SINGH	WARD NO 3 BALJARALLAN RAJOURT
37.	RADHIKA ANAND	BIKRAM JEET ANAND	184 SUNDERBANI
38.	MUSHKAN FAROOQ	FAROOQ KHAN	HOUSE NO. 123 THANNAMANDI THANNAMANDI
39.	ATTA KALEEM	ABDUL WASAY	57 DEHRI RALYOTE MANJAKOTE
40.	AYAZ AHMAD MANHAS	MOHD AMIN MANHAS	41 CHAMKOTE KARNAH KUPWARA KARNAH
41.	VIJAY KUMAR	BHAGWAN DASS	H. NO. 21 VILL. KAMORE CAMP RAMGARH
42.	SHIVANI MANHAS	RATTAN LAL	VILL NARYANA P/O KHOUR TEH. KHOUR
43.	JAVEED AHMAD TALI	MOHD AKBAR TALI	TALI MOHALLA DRABGAM RAJPORA
44.	AQIB ASSADULLAH TELI	MOHAMMAD ASSADULLAH TELI	H-7 NEW COLONY VIZER WAGOORA
45.	TARIQ AHMAD WAGAY	GH AHMAD WAGAY	9 NEAR EMERGENCY HOSPITAL QAZIGUND KURIGAM QAZIGUND
46.	MANJEET SINGH	DINA NATH	H.NO-123 WARD NO 3 AMUWALA RAMKOT
47.	NARINDER SINGH	TARLOCHAN SINGH	WARD NO 02 SALORE RAMKOT
48.	SHANU SHARMA	TARSEM LAL	11 BHATYARI BRAHMANA HIRANAGAR
49.	MOHAMMAD UMAR SHAH	AB GANI SHAH	104 SANGUS KULGAM KULGAM
50.	RAMAN KUMAR	HANS RAJ	WARD NO. 3 JANKHAR BASOHLI

No. Edu-Lect/134/2026-01-(7774753)

Dated 31.07.2026

Deepika Sharma (JKAS)
Under Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department

DIPK-3981/26
dated: 01-08-2026

CONDOLENCE NOTICE



It is with profound grief and sorrow that we inform the sad demise of

Sh Ab Rashid Akhooon

S/o Ab Jabbar Akhooon

R/o Khanpora Baramulla,
at present Kanispora Baramulla

on 31st, July 2026

The condolence shall be observed for three (03) days only. Friends, relatives, colleagues, and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul and offer condolences to the bereaved family.

Those intending to pay a condolence visit are kindly requested not to bring fruits, juices, flowers, or any other items. Your prayers and presence are sincerely appreciated.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) forgive his shortcomings, grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and bestow Sabr-e-Jameel upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

AMEEN

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. JK-0520160055738 name is mentioned as MOHD ASHRAF MALLA, but my actual name is MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MALLA, and my father's Name is mentioned as ABDUL AHAD MALLA, but my actual name is ABDUL AHAD MALLA. I now want to correct it. If you have any objections, please get in touch with the ARTO Office, Sopote, within 7 days. After that, no objection will be accepted.
Name: MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MALLA
S/O: ABDUL AHAD MALLA
R/O BOTINGOO SOPOPRE BARAMULLA
BOTINGOO
BOTINGU, BARAMULLA JK
Pincode : 193201

ab

The Persian Mirror of Kashmir

Genetic studies, medieval court records and the legacy of a Sufi saint from Hamadan complicate a question that Kashmiris keep asking themselves: where did they really come from?



Ruvaidd Wani

Devotees fill the courtyard of Khanqah-e-Moula before dawn breaks over Srinagar's old city. Wooden lattices, carved by hands trained in techniques brought from Iran six centuries ago, frame the shrine's entrance.

Vendors along the narrow lane sell papier-mâché boxes painted with Persian floral motifs, a craft passed down since a Sufi saint named Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani first came here in the fourteenth century.

The scene looks, and in many ways feels, Persian. And it raises a question that circulates endlessly among Kashmiris, in university seminars, family dinners and heated posts online: are the people of this valley descendants of Iran?

Geneticists, historians and linguists who have studied the question give an answer more textured than the debate usually allows.

Kashmiris form an indigenous Northwest South Asian population, deeply rooted in the mountains they inhabit, with meaningful genetic threads connecting them to West Eurasia and a cultural inheritance so bound up with Persian civilization that for centuries scholars called this valley Iranian, Little Iran.

A 2025 study published in Scientific Reports supplied the first ancient DNA evidence from Kashmir, sequencing maternal genomes recovered from burials at Burzahom, a Neolithic site on Srinagar's edge.

The findings sketch a population both settled and connected.

A Neolithic woman buried nearly 4,000 years ago held the M65 maternal lineage, a marker still concentrated among modern Kashmiris and Tajiks living on the Pamir Plateau, pointing to a maternal line that stretches back roughly 7,000 years.

A Megalithic individual from around 550 CE held the U2b2 lineage, also documented in the Swat Valley and parts of Central Asia.

Two medieval-era samples reveal wider connections still: one held M30, common throughout Kashmir, Pakistan and western India, while the other held W4, a lineage more typical of Central Asia and Europe that appears in Bronze Age cultures such as the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Com-



Certain Kashmiri Muslim families do trace specific ancestors to Persian or Central Asian towns, a heritage preserved in surnames such as Hamdani, Kashani, Sabzwari and Kirmani, lineages folded into a broader, predominantly indigenous population.

plex, spanning present-day Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Researchers behind the study describe Kashmir functioning as a genetic and cultural bridge linking South and Central Asia, sustained by local continuity punctuated by episodes of contact along mountain corridors.

Medical genetics provides another piece of the puzzle.

Studies tracking mutations behind cystic fibrosis and congenital adrenal hyperplasia in Kashmiri families found frequencies aligning more closely with Turkey, Iran and Pakistan than with many other Indian populations.

Among suspected Kashmiri cystic fibrosis cases, about 24 percent matched patterns documented in Turkey and Iran.

A specific mutation linked to congenital adrenal hyperplasia, known as INT2S, appeared in 22 percent of Kashmiri cases, identical to the frequency recorded in Turkey and showing partial overlap with Iranian and Pakistani populations.

These overlaps signal shared ancestry with a broader West Eurasian gene pool, scientists caution, rather than a modern Iranian ethnicity.

Their genetic profile clusters instead with Northwest South Asian and neighbouring West Eurasian groups, sharing components that include ancient Iran-related farmer ancestry spread widely throughout the region thousands of years before national borders existed.

Endogamy, the long-standing practice of marrying within the valley and community, preserved particular gene pools over generations, sharpening certain genetic signals rather than creating them.

History supplies the deeper explanation for why Kashmir bears a Persian name at all.

Inscriptions in Sogdian, Parthian and Middle Persian confirm an Iranian-speaking presence around Kashmir well before Islam reached the region.

That presence intensified sharply in the fourteenth century, when the Shah Miri dynasty, ruling from 1349 to 1561, adopted New Persian as the language of the court.

Persian held that position for roughly five centuries, serving as the medium of literature, philosophy and administration.

Hindu Pandits and Muslim scholars worked together translating texts including the Mahabharata and Kalha's Ratanavali into Persian, and Persian vocabulary, idioms and literary forms wove themselves into everyday Kashmiri speech, producing a bilingual elite whose gaze turned west as often as south.

Amir Kabir, the Sufi saint from Hamadan born in 1314, anchors that transformation.

He reached Kashmir during the reign of Sultan Shihab-ud-Din and returned several times before dying en route to Central Asia in 1384.

Islamic tradition holds that he travelled with around 700 disciples and artisans drawn from Iran, Central Asia and beyond, many of

whom settled permanently in the valley.

They introduced skills that came to define Kashmiri material culture: shawl weaving known as kar-i-amiri, carpet making, papier-mâché, calligraphy, metalwork, bookbinding and woodcarving.

Shah-e-Hamadan's spiritual order, the Kubrawi Sufis, and his treatise on governance, Zakhirat al-Muluk, left lasting marks on religious practice, ethics and statecraft.

His shrine still draws crowds through Srinagar's old quarter. Later poets, Allama Iqbal among them, invoked the phrase Iran-e-Sagheer precisely because this Persianate overlay ran so deep.

Linguistically, scholars classify Kashmiris as a Dardic group within the Indo-Aryan family, sharing roots with populations in Gilgit, the Swat Valley and neighbouring highlands.

Koshur, the Kashmiri language, descends from Middle Indo-Aryan and absorbed heavy Persian and Arabic borrowing during centuries of Muslim rule.

Origin stories told within the valley diverge: some scholars stress an Indo-Aryan migration out of Central Asia, others point toward indigenous Naga and Pishacha traditions embedded in local mythology.

Genetic and archaeological evidence together support continuity with outside contact rather than replacement of one population by another.

Certain Kashmiri Muslim families do trace specific ancestors to Persian or Central Asian towns, a heritage preserved in surnames such as Hamdani, Kashani, Sabzwari and Kirmani, lineages folded into a broader, predominantly indigenous population.

Beyond identity politics, the question holds practical weight for medicine.

Accurate genetic mapping helps doctors anticipate hereditary disorders among Kashmiri families, design screening programs and counsel patients with precision.

Misreading the population's structure risks misdiagnosis and missed risk factors.

Simplified claims on either side, that Kashmiris arrived wholly from outside South Asia, or that their history holds zero West Eurasian threads, flatten a population formed by mountains that both separate and connect.

What survives in Srinagar's lanes, in the carved lattices and the papier-mâché boxes, is a civilization built where Persianate culture flourished beside a population that endured as something distinctly its own.

The author is a freelance journalist from Anantnag Kashmir, and can be reached at ruvaiddwani@gmail.com.

Kashmir Needs a Plastic Elimination Law

Collection and recycling alone cannot solve a crisis driven by relentless consumption of single-use plastic.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

Jammu and Kashmir just approved a large-scale waste management project at Achan, and officials are calling it a milestone.

It is not nothing.

Scientific collection, transport and processing beat the alternative that has defined the valley for years: garbage dumped into open fields, burned in villages, left to settle on riverbanks.

Praise for Achan is fair, but praise should stop short of relief, though, because Achan answers the wrong question.

The real question sitting underneath it, the one nobody in government has been forced to answer yet, is whether Kashmir plans to manage plastic waste forever, or whether it plans to stop so much plastic from entering the valley in the first place.

Anyone who drives through Kashmir today already knows the answer. Wrappers line the roadsides, streams pull bottles and food packets downstream, and irrigation canals choke on plastic bags.

Tourist sites once defined by natural beauty now compete with litter for attention. Villages without regular collection burn plastic or dump it straight into fields and water bodies,

sending it into soil, air and eventually the food chain as microplastic.

The problem has spread past cities and into farms, forests, lakes and rivers. The standard government response, build a bigger facility, collect more waste, process it faster, treats a symptom while leaving the source untouched.

Picture a leaking tap inside a house. Buckets can catch the water indefinitely, but the floor floods until somebody shuts the valve.

Waste management in Kashmir plays the role of the bucket. It expands as landfills fill, recycling plants demand a steady supply of discarded plastic, and budgets rise to accommodate the growing volume.

None of that logic is wrong on its own terms. Scientific disposal beats open dumping by any measure. But a policy built entirely around disposal assumes the plastic keeps coming, and that assumption is the actual problem.

This is the case for a Plastic Elimination and Safe Environment Act (PESE), a law modelled on the legal weight of the NDPS Act, built to phase out single-use plastic through a planned transition rather than a blanket ban.

Nobody is proposing to strip plastic from hospitals, farms or industry overnight. Those uses stay essential. The target is narrower and more honest: shopping bags, disposable cutlery, multilayer wrappers where alternatives already exist, packaging bloated well past what a product needs.

Manufacturers would get time and incentive to shift toward biodegradable materials. Small producers of paper, cloth, jute and bamboo goods would get room to grow. Government departments would lead by buying what they ask citizens to buy.

Framed this way, the law becomes an economic opening rather than a restriction.



Kashmir currently imports millions of plastic packets annually and then spends hundreds of crores every handful of years expanding the infrastructure needed to process what those imports leave behind.

Redirecting even a fraction of that spending into local biodegradable manufacturing would put young people to work, open space for small entrepreneurs, and give the valley a genuine foothold in green production instead of a permanent role as plastic's downstream customer.

The economics of prevention hold up outside Kashmir, too.

Vaccination costs less than treating disease. Road safety measures cost less than emer-

gency response after a crash. Clean drinking water prevents illness more cheaply than hospitals cure it.

Pollution follows the same math: stopping it at the source almost always costs less than removing it after the fact.

Skeptics will say plastic is too woven into daily life to eliminate, and they are partly right. Perfection is not the goal here. Cutting unnecessary plastic generation in half over a decade would still ease enormous pressure on landfills, lakes and the municipal staff currently drowning in both.

None of it works without ordinary people playing their part.

Shopkeepers can push reusable bags. Schools can teach consumption habits early. Religious institutions can frame cleanliness as moral practice rather than civic nagging. Tourists can pack their trash back out. Consumers can decline plastic packaging whenever a choice exists.

The stakes reach past Kashmir's own borders. Its rivers feed millions downstream, its lakes anchor tourism and fisheries, and its mountain ecosystem ranks among the most delicate on the planet.

A wrapper tossed into a stream today reaches the Jhelum, then Wular Lake, then territory well past the valley.

Pollution ignores administrative lines, which is exactly why prevention belongs at the center of policy instead of the margins.

Achan shows real political will, but what comes next should show some spine.

History rarely remembers governments for how efficiently they buried their waste. It remembers them for whether they had the nerve to stop producing so much of it.

Jammu and Kashmir can choose that path now, while its mountains, lakes and rivers still exist to be saved.

A clean Kashmir gets built when fewer plastic items enter the valley, industry produces greener alternatives, consumers choose differently, and policy finally treats prevention as inseparable from management.

Achan is a start, but the PESE Act would be the point.

The author is an Assistant Professor at the Design Innovation Centre, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), J&K. He can be reached at ashrafzainabi86@gmail.com.

The Long Afterlife of Partition in Jammu

A once-flourishing community emerged from the upheaval of 1947 smaller in number but determined to preserve its heritage through solidarity and shared civic life.



Aabroo Hussain

On a narrow lane in Peer Mitha, drums beat softly as mourners gather outside a heritage house older than the country surrounding it.

Ashiq Hussain stands in the doorway, watching men bear black banners toward the Karbala Complex, where the neighbourhood's Imambaras hold decades of grief and devotion inside walls worn smooth by generations of hands.

Hussain has lived here his whole life. His father did too, and his grandfather before him. "We have spent generations here in Peer Mitha," he says. "We would not live anywhere else. The comfort here is belonging."

That sentence captures something larger than one family's attachment to one street. It describes how a small, often overlooked community has built a life for itself inside Jammu, a city known widely as the City of Temples.

The Shia Muslims of Jammu are not simply a religious minority in a Hindu-majority region. They are a sectarian minority within a religious minority, Muslims among Muslims, small among small.

To understand them is to understand how identity in South Asia forms in layers, with region, sect, faith, and memory pressing against one another all at once.

Before 1947, Jammu held a

flourishing Shia elite: landowners, scholars, and merchants who helped build the city's intellectual and cultural life. Partition changed that almost overnight.

Violence and displacement reduced the population sharply, leaving behind a community of only a few thousand people, holding on to faith and memory amid enormous upheaval.

The numbers tell part of the story. Muslims made up roughly 31.6 percent of Jammu city's population in the 1941 Census. By 2011, that figure had fallen to about 7.95 percent.

Within that shrunken population, Shias form only a small fraction, concentrated in a handful of pockets such as Peer Mitha and New Plot.

The years after Partition tested the community further.

Muharram processions, essential to Shia religious life, faced repeated interruptions during periods of unrest. Restoring them took years of patient work and, community members say, real cooperation from Hindu neighbours.

That cooperation built something durable: a social fabric based on shared space.

The Imambaras and mosques of Peer Mitha and the Karbala Complex were never built in isolation. Residents describe Hindus, Sunnis, and Sikhs all contributing, in different ways, to their construction and upkeep over the decades.

Political theorists have long tried to describe communities like this one. Will Kymlicka argued that beyond civil equality, minorities need group-specific protections to sustain their culture over time.

For Jammu's Shias, that need operates on two levels simultaneously: as Muslims within a Hindu-majority city, and as Shias within a broader Muslim population.

Sociologist Louis Wirth once defined minorities as groups singled out for different treatment because



LIVING AS A MINORITY WITHIN A MINORITY IN THE CITY OF TEMPLES MEANS HOLDING TWO TRUTHS TOGETHER WITHOUT CONTRADICTION: that a mourning procession can pass beneath temple spires, and that temple bells can ring beside an Imambara, neither one canceling the other.

of physical or cultural traits, but Jammu complicates his framework.

The community remains small in number, but it is not socially marginal in the way that definition implies. Many Shia families here are educationally and economically well

established. Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu, an organization founded before Partition, still coordinates religious and welfare activities that hold the community together.

Syed Afaq Kazmi, the Anjuman's vice president, says the wider

society has generally extended support and goodwill. Formal minority recognition, he argues, could still strengthen political representation and give the community a stronger voice in decisions about religious institutions, education, and heritage preservation.

That argument resonates political scientist Arend Lijphart's theory of consociational democracy, which holds that plural societies stay stable only when minority voices receive structured representation in political life.

Placed beside the region, Jammu's story stands out.

In Parachinar, Pakistan, Shia communities have endured repeated targeted attacks over the years. Parts of Afghanistan have seen similar violence, including strikes on mosques and schools.

Those cases show how quickly sectarian minorities can become vulnerable once state protection weakens or extremist ideas gain traction.

India's constitutional framework

offers a different foundation, secular and democratic, though rising hate crimes and polarized public discourse make it worth paying close attention to small communities even where peace currently holds.

Local, everyday relationships between neighbours, the Jammu experience suggests, can help balance out larger political anxieties.

Zuhaib Khan, a young historian from the Nusrati Shia tradition, puts it plainly: "Jammu and Kashmir is one state. People must live in peace."

For his community, building ties with neighbours has never been optional. It has been how they survived.

Instead of confrontation, sectarian identity here has often been worked out through cooperation, attendance at one another's gatherings, and informal ways of settling disagreements before they grow.

Winter often changes Jammu's character. All year the city carries a small, steady Muslim population, but each winter brings a surge as Kashmiris and Ladakhis, including government employees, students, and merchants, relocate south for three or four months.

Many are Shia, and their arrival transforms the city into a center for Muharram observance.

Local families take on the responsibility of hosting incoming mourners, inviting maulanas from all over India to lead nightly majalis, where marsiyas and nohas rise in several languages at once.

Living as a minority within a minority in the City of Temples means holding two truths together without contradiction: that a mourning procession can pass beneath temple spires, and that temple bells can ring beside an Imambara, neither one canceling the other.

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

She Left Like a Queen

A granddaughter's intimate meditation on love, loss and the promise that death is not the final farewell.



A few years back, when Nani was very unwell and I was there with her in her room, she raised from her bed like a jolt, as if she had woken up from a trance, looked at me and spoke like a dervish, 'You will be blessed with a very good soulmate in life. Mark my words. If I am my father's child!' And back she went to rest. I merely kept looking.



Khushboo Javed

For a woman who sees a lot of dreams, sometimes the snippets of the tomorrow, oddly none of my dreams predicted Aziza Nani's death, not even that day.

Maybe because when recently I was reading a spiritual novel and the author presented the death of a loved one to the protagonist through the Qur'an, I said that the author had totally misinterpreted God's way of conducting His business. God does not give anyone such a vivid prediction for a tragedy.

Away from home that morning when unexpectedly I received the phone call of her death, I thought I was steady. But I was wrong.

I had merely switched to functional anxiety, and thus it continues to be.

I had to repeat my wazu thrice. I did not cry but when I entered the gate of my maternal home, a mountain started to descend upon my heart. There were too many people present in the yard yet the silence was unnerving. I did not look at a single face until I reached the room where my beloved Aziza was lying under a white blanket surrounded by her daughters.

That face of hers was cold and mine was finally trickling with tears.

I sat by her side dazed and confused, without the idea that I was going to miss her more than I knew at that moment. Because she was

almost 90, had started to have grave health issues, was growing weak, showed signs of dementia, needed help with movement, I'd thought continuing such a life would be a torment for her. I feared for her a life of suffering in old age. And I always prayed to Allah to do what was best in her interests.

It is hard to look at the graveyard and see that she is lying there. I always say a salaam.

Among the men who came in to inform us to prepare her body for ghul was my father. That was when I could not contain myself. I needed to be held by someone who cared deeply and could be strong for me while I cried my gasping heart out.

At the time of her ghul, I kissed her forehead for one last time and took her gold earrings that she always had the intention to give for sadaqah after her demise. Beyond that, I was not strong enough to stay. I am just not as strong as I tend to be.

And then she was lifted on the shoulders and through a small window I was watching it all with a broken spirit.

Sometimes she feared death, and sometimes all she wanted was death.

'Nani ke ghar,' these words get apprehended at my throat these days when someone asks where I am heading and it is her place I am going to.

Anytime during the day or the night, she knocks unannounced at the door of my heart and I feel a pang and disbelief that she is no more.

Twice she appeared in my dream and in the last one I hugged her and cried because I knew she was gone.

The one who would narrate stories to me, meticulous old poetry and how she lost most of her family at a young age. She was not a wise woman but she cared deeply for her children and her grandchildren.

Aziza was a simple woman. In life, I have a blessing of having



few regrets, or none, maybe. I was as available to my Nani during her life as was possible for me. Which in a way was not much given my battle with my health issues for over 10 years now but I always made sure to pay her a visit whenever I could, call her, send her my favourite fruits and always ask if there was anything I could do for her or get her.

Thereby, in my heart, I am content.

"Was there anything I could keep from her belongings as a remembrance?" I looked around the room but quickly did away with the thought. I am not that strong. I have two emotional bodyguards now in the form of two beautiful kittens but I am a long way to go.

My health has taken away so much from me that each day is a struggle to hold myself together in one piece and walk without breaking.

But no, I do have something of hers. Something I have kept for years. Something small, broken,

worn and torn. A hair-tie.

Many years back, I found it when I was making her hair. Perhaps she was too old to pay attention but my heart was not at peace. I pulled my own out of my hair - and it was a favourite one I remember - and tied it around her hair. I kept hers. A souvenir.

Out of four grandparents, I am left with only one. This instills a fear inside my heart and it has made me more protective of my grandfather, on my father's side, with whom I have spent much more time than my grandmother. They are the only two grandparents I was fortunate to have known.

Aziza left like a queen, it seems to me. That morning, instead of her granddaughter, she had called her son to help her wash her face. After that he helped her get back in bed. The rest of the family was in the kitchen having breakfast and Nani was alone in her room. My cousin went to ask if she should bring her breakfast. But alone in that room, after she had washed her face,

before anyone could be with her, she had breathed her last.

A few years back, when Nani was very unwell and I was there with her in her room, she raised from her bed like a jolt, as if she had woken up from a trance, looked at me and spoke like a dervish, 'You will be blessed with a very good soulmate in life. Mark my words. If I am my father's child!' And back she went to rest. I merely kept looking.

Sometimes because of the suffering my life has brought upon me, I feel more connected with the dead than with the living.

My paternal grandmother died before my father could marry but time to time she appears in his dreams and asks about me. It is intimidating to my father but I just see it as some relief to the bigger problems Allah sends my way.

I like to think that both my grandmothers will meet and speak to each other of their beloveds and about me.

In life, I have faithfully loved and deeply cared for the people who fill it with meaning. I make their lives count the way they make mine.

For one day, there will be an aching separation but let these bonds be honoured now. I have learnt to foolishly love with my whole being and not to leave a doubt on my end for what my cherished one means to me. I have held the care of those ones who cannot stay without knowing how I am doing like sacred knowledge.

With the same intensity, I held my most dear Aziza Begum between the threads in my heart. Now in death, in my heart, I have a small wish for my beloved Aziza as a way to pay her a humble tribute. But until I can gain means:

Oh Aziza, you are the first one close to my heart who I lost to death. Do welcome me when it is my turn.

— The author can be reached at khushboojaved3@gmail.com.

NEET-UG Counselling Begins Aug 4; Classes From Sep 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The first round of counselling for admission to MBBS and other undergraduate medical courses under the All India Quota (AIQ) will begin on August 4 and the academic session for the 2026-27 batch will commence on September 8, according to the Medical Counselling Committee.

According to the counselling schedule released by the committee, the first round of AIQ counselling for deemed and central universities will be held from August 4 to August 17. The last date for joining will be August 22.

The second round of AIQ counselling will take place from August 24 to September 2, followed by the third round from September 10 to September 18.

The stray vacancy round is

scheduled from September 28 to October 3. The last date for joining after the stray vacancy round is October 10.

For state quota seats, the first round of counselling will be conducted from August 13 to August 22, with candidates required to join by August 28. The second round will be held from August 31 to September 8 and the third round from September 16 to September 26. The stray vacancy round for state quota seats will be conducted from October 3 to October 5.

The schedule also provides timelines for verification of joined candidates by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) and state counselling authorities after each round to facilitate seat processing and subsequent allotments.

According to the schedule

shared by the MCC, the academic session for undergraduate medical courses will begin on September 8, even as counselling for the subsequent rounds continues for vacant seats.

The MCC has directed all participating institutions, state counselling authorities and designated agencies to strictly adhere to the schedule. It has also asked institutions to treat all Saturdays, Sundays and gazetted holidays as working days to ensure timely completion of the counselling process.

The MCC, which comes under the Union health ministry, has introduced a series of improvements in the NEET-UG 2026 counselling process, including doing away with mandatory physical reporting for candidates opting for seat upgrade and allowing online resignation from allotted seats, in an effort to make the

admission process "more transparent and student-friendly".

Among the major changes, candidates who have been allotted a seat and have opted for upgrade in subsequent rounds will no longer have to physically report to the allotted college merely to complete admission formalities.

Their admission shall remain valid in the counselling system while participating in subsequent rounds, subject to the applicable counselling rules.

The MCC has also introduced an online resignation facility.

Candidates may now submit resignation from their allotted seat through the MCC counselling portal, wherever permissible under the counselling rules and within the prescribed timelines, without the need for physical submission at the allotted institution, the letter stated.

DYSS Budgam Conducts District Swimming Competition for Boys

Observer News Service

Budgam: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Budgam successfully organised the District Swimming Competition for Boys under all age groups at Foundation World School Budgam on Saturday. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of student athletes representing various educational institutions across the district.

The championship was organised under the directions of Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, Ms. Anuradha Gupta (JKAS) and under the supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Budgam, Mr. Jai Pal Singh.

The competition provided a vibrant platform for young swimmers to demonstrate their talent, endurance, and competitive spirit. Participants



displayed remarkable skill, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout the event, reflecting the growing interest in aquatic sports among the youth of the district.

The officials appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students and reiterated the department's commitment to promoting sports at the grassroots level by providing opportunities for young athletes to excel.

At the conclusion of the championship, medals were distributed among the position holders of various age groups in recognition of their outstanding performances. The event concluded on a successful note with appreciation extended to the management of Foundation World School Budgam, technical officials, coaches, and all those who contributed to the smooth conduct of the competition.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Cloudburst, Flooding

were rushed to the affected locality and launched evacuation and relief operations.

"Efforts are underway to drain the accumulated water, shift vulnerable families to safer locations wherever required and assess the extent of the damage," an official said.

Officials said several residential houses and a school were affected by the flooding. No casualties were reported.

Cloudburst Hits Kistwar

A cloudburst struck Chatroo market in Kishtwar district around 2.30 am, triggering flash floods that swept through the area.

The flash floods washed away at least two parked vehicles, while mud, boulders and debris entered shops and commercial establishments, damaging property and disrupting business activities.

Officials said two residential houses and two shops were damaged in the incident, though there were no reports of any loss of life or injuries.

The Kishtwar district administration, police and other departments launched rescue, restoration and damage assessment operations soon after the incident. All affected persons were shifted to safer locations.

As a precautionary measure, the Chatroo-Kishtwar stretch of National Highway-244 was temporarily closed to vehicular traffic. The road was later restored after debris clearance operations.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma appealed to residents to avoid drains, overflowing streams and other vulnerable locations and to follow official advisories until the weather improves.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he had spoken to the Deputy Commissioner shortly after receiving reports of the cloudburst. He said compensation would be provided to affected shopkeepers and business owners in accordance with government norms.

Singh also said early warning systems installed in Kishtwar and Machail after last year's devastating Chasoti cloudburst have strengthened disaster preparedness in the district.

Schools Closed

In view of the prevailing weather conditions, authorities ordered the closure of all government and private schools in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts.

The Chief Education Officers of the three districts directed schools to conduct online classes to minimise academic disruption.

The orders cited heavy rainfall, slippery road conditions and the possibility of shooting stones as risks to the safety of students and staff.

MeT Issues Fresh Warning

According to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, Kathua recorded the highest rainfall during the past 24 hours at 46 mm, followed by Shalimar (42 mm), Shopian (41 mm), another Shopian observatory (40 mm), Awantipora (31 mm), Ramban (30.5 mm) and Poonch (27.5 mm).

The weather office forecast generally cloudy conditions with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers over the next several days, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places, particularly in parts of the Jammu division.

It warned that intense short-duration rainfall could trigger flash floods, cloudbursts, landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable locations over the next five days.

The MeT also cautioned commuters about the possibility of mudslides and shooting stones along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and advised people to avoid streams, nallahs and flood-prone areas during periods of intense rainfall.

Bakerwal Families Rescued in Minamarg

Meanwhile, a cloudburst near Mina-2 in Minamarg on Friday evening triggered flash floods and landslides, affecting four temporary shelters of Bakerwal families.

Police personnel from Police Post Minamarg evacuated around 20 members of the affected families to safer locations, including the police post and a Sheep Husbandry Department building.

A Wagon R car was washed away in the incident, but all occupants escaped unharmed.

Traffic on the Drass-Srinagar National Highway was temporarily suspended as road clearance teams worked to remove debris and restore connectivity.

Police urged tourists, commuters and local residents to avoid crossing overflowing water

channels and other flood-prone areas until conditions normalise.

7-Yr-Old Dies

Primary Health Centre (PHC), Qalamabad, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was identified as Rehan Ahmad, son of Reyaz Ahmad Dar, a resident of Khudi village in Mawer. He was a nursery student.

The incident triggered grief across the area, with locals expressing shock over the tragedy.

Authorities have initiated an inquiry into the incident, while further investigation is underway, officials said.

Kulgam Terror

pedestrians at several locations.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level security review meeting with the police chief and senior officials, directing security forces to intensify precise and high-impact operations to neutralise the terrorists behind the attack.

Relief Announced for Families

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the attack and announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the families of the victims.

The assistance will be in addition to the Rs 6 lakh immediate relief announced by the district administration.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also announced Rs 20 lakh as ex gratia for each bereaved family. He directed a senior state government officer to travel to Jammu and Kashmir to coordinate with local authorities and assist the families in bringing back the bodies and completing the last rites.

Families Left Devastated

For the families in Chhattisgarh, the attack ended hopes built around migration for work.

Deepak Ratre, a resident of Bundeli village in Sakti district, had travelled to Kashmir seven to eight months ago with his wife to work at the brick kiln. According to his family, he was the sole breadwinner after his father's death and supported his elderly mother, physically disabled younger brother, wife and four-month-old son.

Bhupendra Bhaina, a resident of Chhuiya village in Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district, had reached Kashmir about three months ago with his wife for work, leaving behind their four-year-old son in the care of his grandmother and younger sister while his parents worked as labourers in Himachal Pradesh.

Local authorities in Chhattisgarh said they were coordinating with the Jammu and Kashmir administration to facilitate the return of the bodies.

Political Parties Demand Probe

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah called for an impartial investigation into the killings and questioned the timing of the attack.

"There should be a fair probe into who the killers are. I do not know why such incidents happen whenever we seek statehood," Abdullah told reporters.

People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti termed the incident a "security lapse" and said the attack had occurred despite the heavy security deployment across Kashmir for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

"This cycle must stop. Despite such a huge security presence, these incidents continue to happen. There appears to have been a lapse somewhere," she said, demanding a thorough investigation.

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq condemned the killings, describing them as inhumane and against the teachings of Islam. Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather also denounced the attack, calling it "the murder of entire humanity."

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi described the killings as "extremely tragic" and called for strict action against those responsible.

Second Attack on Migrant Workers

The Kulgam attack is the latest in a series of attacks targeting non-local workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

In February 2024, two labourers from Punjab, Amritpal Singh and Rohit Masih, were shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar's Shaheed Gunj area.

Police have registered a case in the Kulgam attack, and the investigation is underway as security agencies continue operations to identify

and apprehend those responsible.

LG Orders SOP

mandatory for migrant labourers.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting, Sinha instructed employers to ensure that all workers from other states and Union Territories are covered by insurance and that their details are registered with the local police and district authorities.

"We must intensify precise, high-impact anti-terror operations to neutralise the terrorists," the Lieutenant Governor said during the meeting.

He also directed the authorities to ensure dignified last rites for the victims of the Kulgam terror attack and extend all possible assistance to their bereaved families.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Principal Secretary (Home) Chandraker Bharti, Special DG Coordination S.J.M. Gillani, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, Commissioner/Secretary GAD M. Raju, besides Inspector Generals of Police, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officials.

The participants reviewed the security arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and discussed measures to further strengthen the security grid across Jammu and Kashmir.

The directions came in the wake of Friday's terror attack at a brick kiln in Kelam village of Kulgam district, in which two migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh were killed.

Soon after the attack, Sinha spoke to DGP Nalin Prabhat and other senior security officials, directing security forces to step up operations to track down and eliminate the terrorists responsible.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor condemned the attack as a "cowardly act" and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

"I spoke with the DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat, and top security officials following the brutal terrorist attack in Kulgam. I have directed our security forces to step up their operations and eliminate the terrorists. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The J&K administration and the entire nation stand with them," he said.

LG Hands Jobs

martyred Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who lost his life in the July 22 terror attack in Anantnag.

Paying tribute to the slain policeman, Sinha said the administration salutes his supreme sacrifice and assured the family of all possible support.

Family members of the martyr were present on the occasion. The Lieutenant Governor had visited the family at Lalpora in Beerwah, Budgam, last week to offer his condolences.

In a separate event, Sinha handed over a compassionate appointment letter to Inshah Nazir, wife of martyred J&K Police Inspector Masroor Ali Wani.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Inspector Wani's sacrifice and assured his family of continued support and assistance from the administration.

The appointments were made on compassionate grounds in recognition of the sacrifices made by the two police personnel in the line of duty.

No Society Prospers

Union Territory nevertheless had one of the highest life expectancies in the country.

Abdullah said development was rarely the result of a single government or budget, but rather the outcome of institutions that rewarded ordinary effort.

"The answer lies less in any single programme than in institutions. They shape the incentives that guide people's decisions," he said.

Highlighting the government's Mission Yuva initiative, Abdullah said the programme seeks to identify aspiring entrepreneurs and connect them with finance, markets and mentorship.

He said the defining productive asset of the 21st century was no longer land but enterprise backed by knowledge, technology, energy and connectivity.

"Broadening access to enterprise is the modern equivalent of broadening access to land," he said.

The chief minister cautioned that digital connectivity alone would not reduce regional disparities, saying technology had so far concentrated opportunities instead of dispersing

them.

He said Jammu and Kashmir should leverage its strengths in horticulture, handicrafts, tourism and hydropower through improved logistics, branding and digital commerce to generate greater value.

Inviting industry leaders to invest in the Union Territory, Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir could not compete with Bengaluru on scale but could position itself to benefit from emerging economic opportunities.

"We cannot outbid Bengaluru. What a region in our position can do is pass close enough to something already moving to take a share of that motion," he said.

Agriculture Holds Biggest Potential

During an interaction after the session, Abdullah said governments should prioritise long-term institutional reforms over headline-grabbing announcements to ensure inclusive growth.

Asked about sectors with the greatest untapped potential in Jammu and Kashmir, he said agriculture and allied activities offered the biggest opportunities.

"Actually, the largest part of our economy is not tourism. It's not handicrafts, and it's not technology. It's actually agriculture. Jammu and Kashmir is an agrarian society," he said.

He pointed out that only seven per cent of the Union Territory's milk production was processed, identifying dairy processing, post-harvest management, diversification beyond apples and the cultivation of crops such as blueberries as areas with significant growth potential.

Responding to a question on football, Abdullah said the sport enjoyed immense popularity in Jammu and Kashmir and expressed hope that initiatives to revive football in the region would be strengthened.

FDA Flags 'New

by M/s INAAM Tea Agency, Thane, Maharashtra.

The sample was collected by the Food Safety Officer, Tral, on June 27 during routine enforcement activities and sent to the National Food Laboratory in Ghaziabad for analysis.

The laboratory found the tea sample to contain the prohibited synthetic food colours Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow, rendering it unsafe under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules framed thereunder.

Following the laboratory report, the Designated Officer (Assistant Commissioner), Pulwama, issued a prohibition order under the Food Safety and Standards Act, banning the sale and distribution of the affected batch within the district. Further regulatory proceedings have also been initiated.

The FDA has advised consumers who possess the affected batch not to consume it and urged the public to report any sale or distribution of the product to the concerned Designated Officer or the Food and Drugs Administration.

The department also appealed to the public to remain vigilant and report the sale of the prohibited batch or any suspected unsafe, adulterated or misbranded food products through its toll-free helpline 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

Crime Branch

delegated financial authority, leading to the misappropriation of around Rs 3.11 crore of the bank's funds.

The probe further revealed that the accused entered into a criminal conspiracy to facilitate the fraudulent transactions, causing substantial financial loss to the bank, officials said.

The two accused chargesheeted in the case are Ghulam Mohd Beigh, a retired branch manager and resident of Kenyal Tarthpora, Handwara, and Abdul Hamid Gojrii, a cashier-cum-clerk and resident of Gund Karim Khan, Rafiabad.

Crime Branch officials said the allegations were substantiated during the investigation, following which the chargesheet was presented before the competent court for judicial proceedings.

Insurance Fraud Case

In a separate case, the Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu filed a chargesheet against Parul Sharma, a former employee of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, for allegedly fraudulently surrendering an insurance policy using forged documents and diverting more than Rs 10.75 lakh into a fake bank account.

The chargesheet was filed before the court of the 3rd Additional Munsiff Judge, Jammu, in

connection with a case registered in 2013.

According to the Crime Branch, the case stemmed from a complaint by an ICICI Prudential branch in-charge alleging that Sharma fraudulently surrendered a customer's insurance policy using forged documents and diverted Rs 10,75,742.95 into a fake State Bank of India account. Similar attempts were allegedly made in respect of two other policies.

The investigation found that the accused had obtained duplicate policy documents, forged surrender papers and opened a fake SBI account in the genuine policyholder's name using forged documents. The surrendered policy amount was subsequently transferred to the fraudulent account through NEFT.

Officials said witness statements, documentary evidence and forensic examination established the accused's role in the fraud, causing wrongful loss to the insurance company and the policyholder while securing wrongful gain for himself.

The Six-Hour Hunt

recovered several items connected to the killing during the search that followed. The legal case continues, and courts will determine guilt.

Senior police officials said solving the case within six hours showed careful planning, teamwork and quick investigation, the type of success any police force wants to be known for.

But in Srinagar, the story quickly grew beyond the police investigation and sparked a deeper discussion in homes, marketplaces and on social media, where many people wondered whether something fundamental had changed in the valley.

That feeling draws on a memory much older than the crime itself.

"Kashmir was once known as Peer Vaer, the land of saints, where people left their doors unlocked and any traveller could expect a warm meal from a stranger," says Zakir Molvi, a Srinagar cleric who often speaks about moral values in his Friday sermons.

"Many still remember a time when children moved freely between neighbourhoods regardless of faith, when elders felt responsible for correcting any young person, and when a murder was so uncommon that people remembered it for decades."

A gruesome dismemberment case in Budgam a few years ago first shook that belief. The Khanyar killing has shaken it once again.

The data tells a more complicated story than the mood on the street.

National Crime Records Bureau figures show murder cases in Jammu and Kashmir falling from 136 in 2021 to 99 in 2022 and 84 in 2023, a decline of more than 38 per cent over two years.

By 2023, the region's murder count stood at 0.6 per 100,000 people, the second-lowest of any state or union territory in the country.

The official figures suggest the valley is safer today than it once was.

The distance between those numbers and the public mood is itself worth studying.

"This latest crime case is part of a bigger change that numbers alone cannot explain," says Arooj Wani, a criminal lawyer from Srinagar. "Unemployment, drug addiction and lives increasingly centred around phone screens have weakened the close community ties people once shared."

Families who once kept their doors open now lock them, Wani said. "Neighbours who knew everyone on the street barely know each other anymore. You won't find these changes in crime statistics, but they define how people experience a case like this and why it leaves such a deep mark."

Officers investigating the canal case are now focused on what remains unresolved: determining whether anyone besides the two accused was involved in the murder and completing the investigation before the case goes to trial.

For Kashmir, however, the larger questions remain.

The case has forced many residents to confront an unsettling question: what does it mean when official crime figures suggest the valley is becoming safer, but people increasingly feel otherwise?

"Statistics can measure crime," says Shahid Mir, a sociologist in Srinagar, "but they cannot fully capture the trust, sense of belonging and everyday security that once defined life here."

The canal revealed the truth, but the valley is still trying to make sense of it.

NH-44 Closure Prompts Special Train Services

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Northern Railway on Saturday operated three special trains between Kashmir and Jammu after the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway stranded passengers and triggered a rush at railway stations.

The special services helped around 2,200 passengers affected by the highway closure, officials said.

According to the Railways, two special trains were operated between Budgam and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Katra in both directions, while another one-way special train ran between Banihal and Katra.



Commercial Manager Uchit Singh said the trains were pressed

into service immediately after authorities were informed about the closure of NH-44.

"As soon as we received information about NH-44 being closed, the Jammu Division decided to operate special trains so that stranded passengers could get relief. Around 2,200 passengers availed these trains today," he said.

The Budgam-Katra special train departed Budgam at 1 pm, halting at Srinagar, Banihal and Sangaldan before reaching Katra at around 4.20 pm. On the return journey, it left Katra at 5.05 pm and was scheduled to reach Budgam at 8.30 pm.

An additional one-way special train departed Banihal at 4.30 pm and reached Katra at

6.30 pm.

Railway officials said the services were introduced following a request from the commercial control wing after the closure of the highway led to a significant increase in passenger traffic at Srinagar and Katra stations.

The Railways said the special trains eased congestion at stations and provided an alternative mode of transport for passengers affected by the disruption in road connectivity.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, has remained closed for restoration work after heavy rainfall damaged road stretches in Udhampur and Ramban districts.

Kulgam Terror Attack Murder of Humanity: LoP Sharma

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Saturday termed the killing of two migrant labourers in Kulgam as 'murder of humanity,' saying no words were enough to condemn the gruesome terror attack.

He also accused Pakistan-backed terrorists of targeting innocent civilians. He urged security forces to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters after meeting the bereaved family, Sharma, as per KNO, said, "The incident that took place in Kulgam's Killam area is extremely painful and heartbreaking. These labourers had come here to feed their families and raise their children. They had no enmity with anyone. These Pakistan-backed cowards have committed not just the murder of innocent people but the murder of humanity itself," he said.

Referring to the victims' families, Sharma said the sight of helpless children deeply moved him.

"A one-and-a-half-year-old child saw his father being killed before his eyes. What kind of jihad is this? It is extremely unfortunate. No amount of condemnation is enough for such a barbaric act. My heart cried when I saw those helpless children and grieving family members," he said. Sharma said he had spoken to the family members of the victims as well as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, who, he said, assured all possible assistance to the bereaved families. (KNO)

Action Against Illegal Mining

Police Seize 3 Vehicles in Shopian; 2 FIRs Registered

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained crackdown on illegal mining, J&K Police in Shopian seized three tractors involved in the unauthorized extraction and transportation of minerals from Heerpora and Berthipora areas of the district.

During routine patrolling, a police party from Police Station Heerpora intercepted and seized two tractors involved in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals without valid royalty documents. In this regard, FIR No. 72/2026 under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station Heerpora and investigation has been set into motion. In a similar action, Police party from Police Post Berthipora intercepted and seized one tractor engaged in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals without manda-



tory permission. In this regard FIR No.80/2026 under relevant provisions of law has been registered in Police Station Keller and further investigation has been initiated.

Police reiterates its firm commitment to protecting the district's natural resources and ensuring strict legal action against those involved in illegal mining. The general public is urged to cooperate by reporting any such unlawful activities. The identity of informants shall be kept strictly confidential. The identity of informants shall be kept strictly confidential.

Achan Landfill

SMC Failing Scientific Waste Management, NGT Told

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Environmental activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that that the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has failed to ensure proper scientific management of waste at Achan landfill site.

According to the details Bhat has raised concerns before the NGT over the continued environmental and public health issues arising from the Achan landfill. "The Srinagar Municipal Corporation has failed to ensure proper scientific management of waste despite its submissions before the Tribunal," the applicant has stated.

In a rejoinder filed in Original Application No. 543 of 2024, the applicant alleged that the SMC has not placed sufficient documentary material on record to substantiate its compliance claims.

He also questioned the non-implementation of directions issued by the Tribunal in 2015 and 2017, stating that the measures ordered by the NGT remain pending even after several years.

The filing alleges that the dumping of solid, biomedical and plastic waste at the Achan site continues in an unsanitary manner, with leachate reportedly affecting surrounding water bodies, canals and Anchar Lake. It further claims that the problem of foul smell from the landfill persists despite the SMC stating that anti-odour sprays and bio-

enzymes are being utilised to control the issue.

Citing a recent report attached to the rejoinder, the applicant said the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, has repeatedly informed the SMC about the persistent foul odour emanating from the landfill.

According to the filing, the hospital has expressed concerns that the smell could adversely affect critically ill patients, their attendants and hospital staff. The applicant has argued that the continued complaints indicate that the measures claimed by the civic body have not effectively addressed the issue.

The applicant further submitted that the SMC has limited access to the Achan landfill site, making it difficult to independently verify the progress claimed by the civic body. It alleged that the corporation has mainly relied on statements without placing sufficient documentary evidence or supporting records before the Tribunal.

The rejoinder also alleged that the SMC has missed multiple deadlines committed before the Tribunal. As per the filing, the leachate treatment plant was not made operational within the stipulated period, while waste cells remained uncapped and nearly 500 metric tonnes of waste continued to be dumped at the site every day. It further claimed that the proposed expansion of the Material Recovery Facility from

100 to 250 tonnes per day has not been demonstrated.

The applicant stated that biomining work remains at an initial stage, with the deadline for its completion reportedly extended to September 2027.

It also alleged that there has been no visible progress in increasing the green buffer plantation beyond 3,200 trees and that ragpickers continue to work without proper safety arrangements despite earlier assurances.

The applicant contended that the delay in establishing a waste-to-energy plant cannot be treated as a ground for non-compliance. It maintained that under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, local bodies remain responsible for waste collection, segregation, processing and scientific disposal, regardless of the status of the proposed project.

The rejoinder further alleged that the SMC has not provided details of the steps taken to comply with the NGT's earlier orders dated January 13, 2015 and December 12, 2017, concerning improvement of municipal solid waste management and establishment of a waste-to-energy facility.

The applicant has urged the NGT to direct the District Magistrate to ensure compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules and sought appropriate action against the SMC over the alleged continued violations and environmental damage linked to the Achan landfill. (KNO)

MLA Tanvir Condemns

'Cowardly' Kulgam Terror Attack

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) chief spokesperson and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zaidib, Tanvir Sadiq, on Saturday condemned the killing of two migrant labourers in the Kulgam terror attack, terming the targeting of innocent civilians a "cowardly act" and asserting that no religion permits the killing of innocent people. Speaking to reporters here, Sadiq, as reported by KNO, said the attack had caused immense grief and deserved the strongest condemnation.

"The more we condemn this attack, the less it is. Targeting innocent people is not only cowardly but also against humanity. Those responsible for this barbaric act must be arrested as soon as possible and brought to justice," he said.

He said the victims were poor, hardworking labourers who had come to Jammu and Kashmir only to earn a livelihood for their families. "These poor people had come here to work honestly and support their families. No religion teaches or justifies the killing of innocent civilians. Such acts have no place in our society," he said. Referring to the assistance announced for the victims' families, Sadiq said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had sanctioned an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased. (KNO)

Non-Gazetted Employees of New GMCs Threaten Strike

SRINAGAR: Non-Gazetted employees of the newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir have accused the government of failing to finalise their Recruitment Rules (RRs) despite repeated assurances over the past several years, leaving hundreds of staff members without any promotional avenues, career stagnation, and denial of legitimate service benefits.

In a formal notice addressed to the Principal of Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, accessed by KNO, the employees said they would join an indefinite strike in coordination with employees of all newly established GMCs across the Union Territory. The employees said they had repeatedly brought the issue before concerned authorities, but no concrete action had been taken to resolve the matter.

"We have been serving these institutions with dedication since their inception, but even after seven years, the Recruitment Rules have not been finalised. Without these rules, there is no scope for promotions or career progression, leaving employees demoralised and uncertain about their future," the employees said.

Beerwah-Budgam Road Turns into Commuters Nightmare

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Beerwah-Budgam road has deteriorated to such an extent that travelling on it has become a nightmare for thousands of daily commuters.

Speaking to KNO, locals said the road is riddled with large potholes, mak-

ing it difficult for vehicles to move.

They said commuters, including pedestrians, motorists and students, are facing immense hardships due to its dilapidated condition.

Syed Farhat, a local resident, said, "The potholes are so deep that vehicles frequently suffer damage.

Students often fail to reach their educational institutions on time, while daily commuters are forced to travel through dangerous conditions."

He added that the situation becomes even worse during dry weather when thick clouds of dust engulf the road. "The dust is so in-

tense that people can barely recognise one another, while prolonged exposure is causing health problems among commuters," Farhat said.

Another local, Muzafar Ahmad, said the condition of the road is particularly distressing for patients, pregnant women and elderly citizens.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 66 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 01.08.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
1	Upgradation of existing infrastructure at DTC Sopore Baramulla	51.456	1600/-	102912/-	90 days	19.08.2026	AA	UT capex Budget 2026-27	SE (R&B)Bla 74 of 2026-27 dated: 29.7.2026

Project Authority: Director Health

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA. Accorded by Director Health Services Kashmir vide his order No: 21/DHSK of 2026 dated: 30.06.2026

1, The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	01.08.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.08.2026 to 18.08.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	01.08.2026
4	Bid submission End date	18.08.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	19.08.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No: 4831-40

Dated: 01.08.2026.

DIPK-4011-26

DT: 01/08/2026

sd/-

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Sopore

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR
EXTENSION NOTICE 2
Due to poor response, the date of submission of bids in respect of below mentioned e-NIT is hereby extended with the details enumerated below: -

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

Last Date of Bid Submission extended up to	08-08-2026; 4.30pm
Bid Opening Date	10-08-2026; 2.30pm

No.: STD-II/3732-34/Ts
Dated: 01-08-2026
DIPK-NB-1275-26
DT: 01/08/2026

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



PM SHRI SCHOOL
JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA AISHMUQAM
DISTT. ANANTNAG



EXTENSION OF LAST DATE TO SUBMIT ONLINE APPLICATION FORM FOR CLASS VI JNVST-2027
Last date to submit online application form for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test (JNVST)-2027 for Admission to class VI for the session (2027-28) is extended up to 07.08.2026. The candidates may apply free of cost by visiting the NVS website <https://navodaya.gov.in/> or <https://cbseitms.rcil.gov.in/nvs/index/Registration>. Prospectus may be seen at <https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/en/Admission-JNVST/Admission-Notifications/>

Sd/-
(S. N. Gupta)
Principal

DIPK-3993-26
DT: 01/08/2026



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For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BGI-O-JK-004/18-12-2025

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