

KO Classifieds

• PUBLIC NOTICES • NAME CHANGE • SALE/ PURCHASE • BIRTHDAY WISHES • OBITUARIES

PLACE YOUR
AD TODAY!

You can
do it all
here

NH-44 Closed After Heavy Rain

Rajouri shifts DC
office, issues alert
KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) was suspended on Monday evening after incessant rainfall rendered a stretch of the road in Udhampur district unsafe, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded and prompting authorities in Rajouri to issue a flood advisory for residents living in vulnerable areas.

Officials said traffic on the strategic highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was halted around 5 pm after continuous rain turned a stretch near Dawal Bridge in Samoli area of Udhampur muddy and slippery.

A traffic police official said vehicular movement on both carriageways was suspended as a precautionary measure.

"The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has deployed personnel and machinery to the affected site, and restoration work is underway to make the highway motorable at the earliest," the official said.

The closure left hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides of the highway. Traffic police advised commuters to avoid travelling on NH-44 until the road is declared safe for vehicular movement.

Meanwhile, | [More on P6](#)

J&K's New Climate Reality Deadly Cloudbursts Strike Again

Floodwaters inundate villages, disrupt
highways and damage infrastructure

Shopian worst hit as SDRF rescues
80 people from flood-hit village

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two persons were killed and hundreds of people, including tourists, were evacuated after multiple cloudbursts and intense rainfall battered several parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday, triggering flash floods, damaging homes, roads, bridges and agricultural land, and forcing the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

A 52-year-old woman was washed away after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in the Himli area of Lolab in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, while a man drowned in a water body in Singhpora area of Baramulla amid the inclement weather, officials said.

The deceased were identified as Naseema Begum,



wife of Mohammad Ayub of Warnow in Kupwara, and Murtaza Bashir, son of Bashir Ahmad Lone of Boniyar in Baramulla.

Officials said Naseema Begum was swept away while attempting to cross a culvert over a swollen stream following the cloudburst. Her body



was later recovered downstream near Shahabad.

The flash floods also damaged a mosque and a footbridge at Bimla Wali Moori in

Lolab, while several link roads suffered damage.

Shopian emerged as the worst-hit district in Kashmir after cloudbursts | [More on P6](#)

J&K Records Over 35 Cloudbursts This Year, 31 Killed

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded more than 35 cloudburst incidents so far this year, leaving around 31 people dead and causing widespread damage to homes, roads, bridges, agricultural land and other public infrastructure, highlighting the growing vulnerability of the Himalayan region to extreme

weather events. Official data shows that at least 22 cloudbursts occurred between June 1 and mid-July. Persistent heavy rainfall during the second half of July and early August triggered several more incidents, pushing the total number of reported cloudbursts beyond 35. The fatalities have largely resulted from cloudbursts, flash floods and rain-triggered landslides, with the Jammu division accounting for the | [More on P6](#)

Census In J&K Snow Areas From Sept 1

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday notified that the second phase of the ongoing Census -- population enumeration -- for Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand shall take place from September 1 to 30.

In a gazette notification on Monday, Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan said that conduct of Census of the population shall be undertaken in these regions from September 1 to 30 this year, with a revisional round from October 1 to 5.

"For the conduct of the above Census, there shall be an option for self-enumeration from August 17 to 31 just before the start of house-to-house population | [Full story on kashmirobserver.net](#)

Himalayas Face Climate Threat, Need Urgent Green Solutions: LG

Urges use of AI and remote sensing to
monitor glaciers, forests and springs

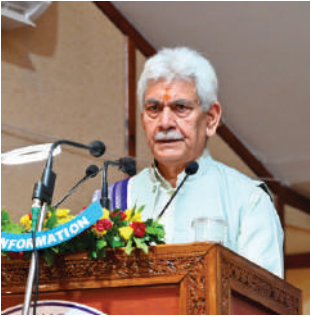
Inaugurates Civil and Mechanical Engineering
Block, Larmoo Campus and Law School at IUST

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for placing nature-based solutions at the centre of development planning, warning that climate change is accelerating across the Himalayan region and stressing that "nature itself is infrastructure."

Addressing a conference on "Strengthening Climate Resilience and Livelihoods in the Himalayan Region through Nature-based Solutions" at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Sinha said the Himalayas witnessed a natural disaster almost every day between January and August last year, highlighting the growing impact of climate change on the ecologically fragile region.

He said Jammu and Kashmir



has experienced flash floods and cloudbursts that have damaged public infrastructure, disrupting roads, water supply schemes and power feeders.

"There is no dichotomy between development and conservation and nature itself is infrastructure," the Lieutenant Governor said, explaining that watersheds, wetlands and forests perform critical functions

such as flood control, water purification, irrigation and slope stabilisation.

Warning against environmental degradation, Sinha said, "When we destroy these natural systems, we are playing with the future. But when we conserve and restore these natural systems, we are investing in a bright future."

Calling for a shift in development planning, he urged scientists and policymakers to place nature-based solutions at the centre of infrastructure and climate resilience strategies. He also outlined a six-point roadmap, advocating the use of artificial intelligence, remote sensing and geospatial mapping to monitor glacier retreat, spring flow, soil health and forest

[Full story on kashmirobserver.net](#)

J&K's First Film Fest Gets 1,100 Entries From 50 Nations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Monday reviewed preparations for the inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), with Director Information Shreya Singhal directing officials to ensure fool-proof arrangements and seamless coordination for the four-day event scheduled in September.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Media Complex here, Singhal assessed the preparedness for various components of the festival, including venue management, delegate facilitation, hospitality, transportation, media coordination, technical support, logistics and cultural programmes.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the



Information Department from both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, including Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Film Production Officer, District Information Officers and other officials, both in person and through video conferencing.

Singhal instructed officers to complete all preparations well within the stipulated timelines to ensure the successful conduct of the event.

"Ensure fool-proof arrangements and seamless

coordination among all stakeholders for the successful conduct of the prestigious event," she said.

Describing the inaugural edition of the festival as a significant milestone in Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and cinematic journey, the Director said it would provide a global platform to showcase the Union Territory's rich cultural heritage, scenic beauty, artistic excellence and growing potential as a preferred | [More on P6](#)

River Took Center Stage at Kashmir's Biggest Climate Conference

A flood documentary opened a Kashmir conference at IUST, and it left one clear message: nature broke the balance first, and nature might be the only thing that can fix it.

Sameer Hussain

Srinagar: Before the conference on nature-based solutions began on Monday afternoon, the lights slightly softened inside a hall at the Islamic University of Science and Technology as a film on the Jhelum started to play.

It showed the river the way few people ever get to see it: through decades of floods, silt, and shifting banks that have shaped and battered this valley again and again.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, the university's vice



chancellor and the film's director, sat watching his own work

with the rest of the audience, and by the time it ended, the

mood in the room had already changed.

That documentary, titled Geo-Historical Journey of the Jhelum in Kashmir, became the opening statement for a much bigger event: a four-day international conference on nature-based solutions for climate resilience in the Himalayas.

Delegates, scientists, and government officials had gathered for formal speeches and ribbon-cutting, but the film gave the conference a story to argue about.

Once the film ended, Romshoo put its central

argument into words.

Floods keep coming back to Kashmir, he said, because people keep taking away the land's natural defenses: wetlands drained for construction, forests cleared for farmland, and floodplains filled in for housing.

Concrete walls and engineered drains can hold back water for a while, he argued, but they cannot replace what a living wetland or a healthy forest does on its own, season after season.

His words carried further than a policy note ever could, because his | [More on P6](#)

J&K Registers Record 1,558 Small Companies In 5 Yrs

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir registered 5,908 small companies during the last five financial years, including 1,558 in 2025-26, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the Ministry data, J&K registered 923 small companies in 2021-22, 886 in 2022-23, 1,301 in 2023-24, 1,240 in 2024-25, and 1,558 in 2025-26. The figures are as of 27 July 2026. The UT also recorded 585 Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) during the five-year period. The year-wise figures were 64 in 2021-22, 63 in 2022-23, 101 in 2023-24, 141

in 2024-25, and 216 in 2025-26. In the startup ecosystem, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1,231 startups during 2021-2025, according to data provided by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The number of startups rose from 131 in 2021 to 170 in 2022, 246 in 2023, 273 in 2024, and 411 in 2025.

The Ministry said the thresholds for classification of small companies have been revised over the years. The paid-up capital threshold was increased from Rs 50 lakh in 2014 to Rs 2 crore in 2021, Rs 4 crore in 2022, and Rs 10 crore from

[Full story on kashmirobserver.net](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Tuesday | 04-08-2026

2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 75/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/4148-58

Dated: 03-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Sheeting to cover SWM platform at Gallander Pampore.	27.85	1100/-	2% of Adv cost	70 days	Hon'ble NGT 606/2018 (MC- Pampore)	AAY, BEE	Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No: 739/DULBK/PLG of 2026 Dated: 17.07.2026.

Position of funds: Committed.

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 details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of datesgiven below :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-08-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	04-08-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	13-08-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14-08-2026 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)
(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG)
(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

3. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG)
(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

(In case the successful bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

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

Sd/- Sd/-
Draftsman Technical Officer
DIPK-4070/26 DATED: 03-08-2026
Executive Engineer
R&B Divi-

HQ District Police, Ramban

dpo.ramban12@jkpolice.gov.in

NO:-CB/Look out Notice/2026/ 43391-430

Dated: - 02 - 08-2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As intimated by Dy. SP Hqr's Ramban vide letter No. DHQ/2026/9274 Dated 02.08.2026, that accused Irshad Ahmed Rather S/O Lal Din R/O Mangla, Tehsil Rajgarh, District Ramban is involved in case FIR No. 198/2026 U/S 137(2) BNS of Police Station Ramban (UT of J&K) and is absconding after commission of crime. Despite strenuous efforts whereabouts of the accused are not ascertained so far. The photograph along with description roll of absconding accused person is as under:-

Description Role	Photograph
Name:- Irshad Ahmed Rather D/O:- Lal Din R/O:- Mangla, Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban (J&K) Age:- 31 Years. Aadhar No:- 5434 7142 0695 Height: 5' 7 " Complexion: Fair Face: Oval Hair:- Black Curly Colour:- Whitesh Dress: White green lining Shirt and Black Jean. Foot Wear:- Sports Shoes Black Colour with yellow Sole.	

It is therefore requested that a sharp look out, may please be maintain and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of the above said accused be struck out, immediate information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned E-mail/Phone numbers.

E-mail:- ID dpo.ramban12@jkpolice.gov.in,
PCR Ramban:- 9906926079, 9906925595.
Dy. SP Hqr's Ramban:- 9858619994
SHO P/S Ramban:- 9419111526.

(Arun Gupta)-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Ramban.

DIPK-4048/26
DATED: 03-08-2026

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that in my J&K Bank account bearing No. 0048040100023013 my name has been incorrectly recorded as Gulshan Akhter. However, my correct name, as per my Aadhaar Card is Gulshan. I request that the necessary correction be made. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, they may convey the same to J&K Bank, Business Unit Kremshore, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

Gulshan D/o: Lam Nabi Mir
R/o: Kohnokhan Napora Srinagar

NOTICE

I want to transfer the Electric Connection bearing Consumer No. 0202020010501, Installation No. 7954 which is registered in the name of Zulfikar Ahmad Malik S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o: Dhobi Mohalla Ghat B. Batamaloo Srinagar in the Electric Department. In this regard, if anybody having any objection He/She may convey to Assistant Executive Engineer Electric Sub Division Hazuri Bagh Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muzamil Mansoor W/o: Mansoor Ahmad Paul
R/o: Near Ziyarat Sharief Batamaloo Sgr

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my son bearing No 8640 6857 8284 the name is entered as Muhammad Siftain while his actual name is Muhammad Sibtain Bhat. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Tariq Ahmad Bhat
F/O Muhammad Sibtain Bhat
R/o Gogoo Humhama fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my son bearing No 8640 6857 8284 the name is entered as Muhammad Siftain while his actual name is Muhammad Sibtain Bhat. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Tariq Ahmad Bhat
F/O Muhammad Sibtain Bhat
R/o Gogoo Humhama mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Ganie, R/o Mulgam, father of Muzamil Mushtaq Ganie (a student of Class 9th at Government Girls High School, Kralweth, Zone Kunzer), hereby inform the general public that the caste of my ward was inadvertently not entered in the school admission records at the time of admission.

Now I have applied before the school authorities for registration/correction of the caste entry in the official school records.

Therefore, if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the caste of my ward in the school records, he/ she may submit the same, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the Headmaster, Government Girls High School, Kralweth, Zone Kunzer, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no one has any objection, and the school authorities may proceed with the registration/correction of the caste in the official school records.

Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie
Father of Muzamil Mushtaq Ganie
R/o Mulgam fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter, Toiba Bint Farooq who was born on 28-02-22022 at SDH Tangmar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objections shall be entertained.

Farooq Ahmad Rather
S/o Late Ali Mohd Rather
R/o Gonipora T/o Kawarhama fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ISERA HASSAAN D/O GH HASSAN NAJAR R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of RESHIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 310000/- the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1.GH HASSAN NAJAR Father 60 carpenter
- 2..ZAINA BEGUM Mother 55 years H/W
- 3...MUDASIR AHMAD NAJAR Brother 35 years carpenter
- 4...ISERA HASSAN self applicant 19 years studen

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.iireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-37-26-27 Closing Date/Time 25.08.2026 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	(i) Telecom facilities in c/w Improvement of Traffic Accounts Office at Jalandhar City.		
	(ii) Telecom work c/w Soft upgradation of Nanaksar Railway station on LDH-FZR section of Firozpur Division.		
	(iii) Provision of digital sign language information system for persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) at Ludhiana & Amritsar stations over Firozpur Division.		
	(iv) Tracing of existing cables, making of cable route plan and provision of cable route marker at stations over Firozpur division.		
Tender Closing Date Time	(i) 25/08/2026 15:00 (ii) 25/08/2026 15:00 (iii) 25/08/2026 15:00 (iv) 25/08/2026 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	03.08.2026 11:32
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 2699037.58 (ii) 2696582.87 (iii) 3550491.79 (iv) 19980193.94	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	(i) 11/08/2026 (ii) 11/08/2026 (iii) 11/08/2026 (iv) 11/08/2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 54000.00 (ii) 53900.00 (iii) 71000.00 (iv) 399600.00	Period of Completion	(i) 4 Months (ii) 4 Months (iii) 6 Months (iv) 9 Months
NOTE	Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.		
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-37-26-27 Date:- 03.08.2026 Closing Date/Time : 25.08.2026 15:00 2680/2026			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

اطلاع عام

برخاص وعام کو مزید اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میرے بک اکاؤنٹ ڈیڑہ نمبر 0078040100775923 کوئی ایکسچینج کے نام پر HAJA BANO D/O GHULAM MOHIDIN DAF نے ایک ادھار میں میرا HAJA BANO W/O JAVID AHMAD MIR نام پر ایک اکاؤنٹ کھول دیا ہے۔ اب اس کی کارروائی کرانی مطلب ہے کہ اس کے بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر ادھر براؤنچ نمبر 7954 کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
HAJA BANO
W/O JAVID AHMAD MIR
R/O HANDJAN BUDGAM
CELL: 6006257608

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my name has been incorrectly recorded as Suriya Ramzan in my Aadhaar Card (No. 5596-4019-5062). My correct and actual name is Suraya Ramzan.

Now I have applied for the correction of the same. Objections, if any, may be submitted to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Suraya Ramzan
D/o Mohammad Ramzan Naiku fko
R/o Naik Mohalla, Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my son's name / Parantage and Date of Birth (DOB) in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :-2140 6585 1109 has been wrongly mentioned as Suhail Rasheed Ahanger. S/O. Abdul Rasheed Ahanger B .17.07.2009 instead of Sahil Rashid Ahanger S/O. Abdul Rashid Ahanger D O B .01.01.2012. Now I am applying for its Correction as per Birth Certificate record bearing Reg No:- B-202501052260000521 . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven(7) days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Abdul Rashid Ahanger
F/O. Sahil Rashid Ahanger
R/O :- Shanu .Tehsil :- Langate
Distt : Kupwar. Post Office Langate
Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir fko



اثر نیات پبلشان

مضمون درخواست ختمیہ فیاض احمد اور ولد عبدالرحمان ڈارسا کنکٹ پبلشان تحفظ پٹی برامھصول

DOB Certificate

اشہار براموہاگی برخاص وعام

مندرجہ ذیل انصوری میں ایک درخواست برامھصول اندارج کرنے میں پیدائش پٹی میں ختمیہ فیاض احمد اور اشخاص میں پیدائش مندوب ذیل ہے

نام تاریخ پیدائش سکوت

فیاض احمد اور 15-02-1975 گھات پبلشان

لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو رکنیت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں کوئی مدد یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ چار دن کے اندر دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرے بعد کوئی مدد یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدور

نائب تحصیلدار fko

Paras Health Performs Endoscopic Procedure for Complex Pancreatic Condition

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Paras Health Srinagar has successfully performed a highly advanced Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS)-guided drainage of a massive 19x12 cm walled-off pancreatic necrosis (WON) using the state-of-the-art HOT-AXIOS stent, marking another milestone in the hospital's growing expertise in advanced therapeutic gastroenterology.

The patient had developed the large necrotic pancreatic collection following an episode of severe pancreatitis. Traditionally, such cases are managed through surgery or image-guided percutaneous drainage at many healthcare centres.

and biliary disorders.

Dr. Ashraf also announced another major milestone achieved by the department, stating that the unit has now performed more than 600 Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) procedures, one of the highest volumes in the region.

"Crossing the 600 EUS mark reflects the trust patients have placed in us and the expertise our team has built over the years. We are also the largest procurer of Boston Scientific EUS hardware in the Jammu and Kashmir region, which underscores both the volume and complexity of advanced endoscopic procedures being carried out at our centre," he said.



However, the Paras Health Gastroenterology team successfully treated the condition through a completely endoscopic, minimally invasive approach under minimal sedation, avoiding the need for open surgery.

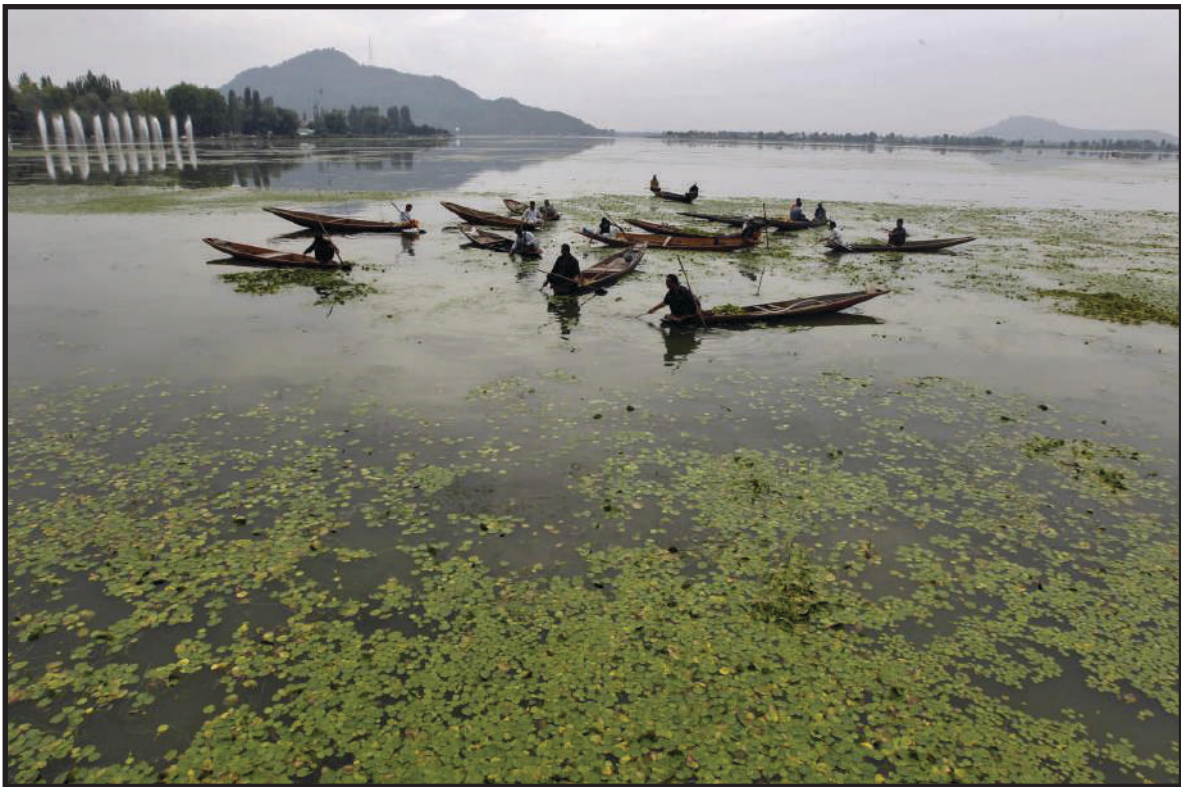
Dr. Aadil Ashraf, Associate Director, Gastroenterology, Paras Health Srinagar, said the procedure highlights the growing availability of world-class endoscopic interventions in Kashmir.

"The patient had developed a large walled-off pancreatic necrosis measuring 19x12 cm following pancreatitis. Using Endoscopic Ultrasound guidance, we successfully drained the collection with a HOT-AXIOS stent through a completely endoscopic approach under minimal sedation. Such collections are still managed surgically or through percutaneous drainage at many centres, but advanced therapeutic endoscopy offers a safer, minimally invasive alternative with faster recovery and less discomfort for patients," Dr. Ashraf said.

He said the Gastroenterology unit at Paras Health has been performing advanced EUS-guided therapeutic procedures on a regular basis, reducing the need for invasive surgeries in many complex pancreatic

“Crossing the 600 EUS mark reflects the trust patients have placed in us and the expertise our team has built over the years.”

The achievement further strengthens Paras Health Srinagar's position as a regional referral centre for advanced gastroenterology, offering cutting-edge, minimally invasive treatments for complex gastrointestinal and pancreatic diseases while reducing hospital stay, postoperative complications and recovery time. Appreciating the accomplishment, Dr. Murtuza Habib, Associate Vice President and Facility Director, Paras Health Srinagar, congratulated the team of specialists for achieving the milestone. He reaffirmed the hospital's commitment to delivering quality, accessible, and advanced healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the wider region through the adoption of cutting-edge medical technologies and expertise.



Dal Lake Chokes Under Weeds, Plastic Waste as Conservation Efforts Come Under Scrutiny

Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar's Dal Lake is increasingly showing signs of ecological distress, with large stretches of the historic water body now engulfed by dense weeds and littered with plastic waste, raising serious concerns over its long-term survival despite sustained conservation efforts.

A visit to several parts of the lake reveals floating plastic bottles, cold drink cans, liquor bottles, snack wrappers, discarded packaging and other solid waste scattered across the water, giving the impression of a dumping site rather than one of the Valley's most treasured natural landmarks. The deteriorating condition of the lake reflects persistent shortcomings in waste management and routine maintenance.

The lake's water, once known for its clarity, has turned green and orange in many areas due to the unchecked spread of aquatic weeds and

algal growth. Thick vegetation now covers extensive portions of the lake, restricting water movement, affecting navigation and diminishing its ecological and aesthetic value.

Despite the deployment of expensive mechanical weed harvesters and repeated dewatering drives over the years, large sections of the lake continue to remain heavily infested. Locals question the effectiveness of the ongoing conservation measures, saying the problem has persisted despite substantial expenditure on restoration programmes.

Environmentalists warn that the unchecked accumulation of weeds, coupled with plastic pollution and indiscriminate dumping of waste, is accelerating the degradation of the lake's fragile ecosystem. They stress that unless immediate and sustained corrective measures are taken, the ecological health of the water body could suffer irreversible damage.

Questions are also being raised over the functioning of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), with many concerned citizens alleging that maintenance efforts have failed to keep pace with the growing environmental challenges confronting the lake.

One of the Environmentalists while talking to the news agency Kashmir News Trust called for scientific weed management, stricter enforcement against littering, improved solid waste collection, continuous monitoring of water quality and greater public participation in conservation initiatives to restore the health of the centuries-old lake.

For generations, Dal Lake has been the cultural, ecological and tourism lifeline of Kashmir. Today, however, mounting pollution, unchecked weed growth and inadequate maintenance are threatening the future of one of the region's most recognized natural assets. [KNT]

Dal Dwellers Allege Housing Scam, Demand Probe Into Rehabilitation

Agencies

Srinagar: Several families relocated from Dal Lake and its peripheral areas to the Rakh-e-Arth Colony in Bemina have alleged irregularities in the rehabilitation process, accusing National Conference legislator Shameema Firdous and Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) founder Manzoor Wagnoo of depriving genuine beneficiaries of their rightful housing and land.

The protesting families claimed that despite living separately in their respective houses along Dal Lake before relocation, they were allotted a single housing unit to be

shared by two different families at Rakh-e-Arth Colony.

The aggrieved families alleged that land and housing earmarked for Dal dwellers had been grabbed, leaving several beneficiaries without proper rehabilitation despite the government's commitment to provide them with independent accommodation.

One of the protesters, Mubarak Ahmad Rath, a resident of Ghat No. 1, Foreshore Road, alleged that the rehabilitation exercise had been manipulated at the expense of poor families.

"We were living separately at Dal Lake, but after shifting us to Rakh-e-Arth, two different families were

forced to share a single house. We want to know where the houses and land meant for us have gone," he said.

Rath demanded a high-level and impartial investigation into the entire rehabilitation process, alleging that poor Dal dwellers had been cheated.

"This is a scam and it must be investigated. The land meant for Dal dwellers has been grabbed, while genuine beneficiaries have been left in the lurch," he alleged.

The protesters urged the Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau to constitute an independent inquiry to examine the allotment process, identify alleged irregularities and ensure justice for affected families. [KNT]

NIT FOSS Club Hosts Hands-On Workshop on Frappe Framework

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) Club at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a hands-on technical workshop on the Frappe Framework and ERPNext, introducing students to open-source tools used for developing enterprise and business applications.

It was attended by Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Mohd Abid Bazaz, along with faculty members Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, Dr. Pan-kaj Kumar and Scientific Officer NIT Srinagar, Er. Mustafa Zargar, who interacted with participants and encouraged students to engage with emerging open-source technologies.

The technical session was led by Akshit Bhardwaj, Team Lead, who conducted live coding demonstrations and explained the fundamentals of the Frappe Framework and ERPNext. Participants were



introduced to the process of developing business applications, writing client-side scripts and deploying basic software modules using the framework.

Members of the FOSS Club provided hands-on assistance throughout the workshop, helping participants install the framework, configure the development environment, and build their first applications during the interactive session.

The workshop, sponsored by Myasa NextGen Technology, drew participation from a large number of students, who attended the session

with their laptops to gain practical exposure to application development using the Python-based Frappe Framework.

The organisers said the workshop was aimed at equipping students with practical skills in open-source software development and exposing them to technologies widely used in enterprise application development.

The event also provided students with an opportunity to interact with developers, clarify technical concepts and understand the role of open-source platforms in the software industry.

HQ District Police, Ramban

dpo.ramban12@ikpolice.gov.in

NO:-CB/Look out Notice/2026/ 43352-90

Dated:- 02-08-2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As intimated by the Dy. SP Hqr's Ramban vide communication No. DHQ/2026/9273 Dated 02.08.2026, that on 29-07-2026, FIR No. 198/2026 U/S 137(2) BNS has been registered at Police Station Ramban on the written complaint of Sh. Naseeb Singh, S/O Puran Singh, R/O Behri Naghal, Tehsil & District Ramban UT of J&K, alleging that his minor daughter Ms. Arti Devi, has been kidnapped by unknown person (s).

The photograph and Description of kidnapped girl are as under:-

Description Role	
Name:-	Arti Devi
D/O:-	Naseeb Singh
R/O:-	Behri Naghal, Tehsil & District Ramban (J&K)
Age:-	16 Years. (Approx)
Aadhar No:	5983 5525 6165
Height:	5' 2"
Complexion:	Fair
Face:	Oval
Build:	Normal
Dress:	Blue Printed Suit & Black Plastic Shoes.
Date & time last Scene: 29.07.2026 at 1424 hours (as per CCTV Footage)	
Place last scene: NHW Karol Near Temple	

It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may kindly be maintained in your respective jurisdictions. If traced or any clue leading to the above said kidnapped girl is struck out, immediate information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned E-mail/Phone numbers.

E-mail: ID dpo.ramban12@ikpolice.gov.in,
PCR Ramban:- 9906926079, 9906925595.
Dy. SP Hqr's Ramban:- 9858619994
SHO P/S Ramban:- 9419111526.

DIPK-4050/26
DATED: 03-08-2026

(Arun Gupta)-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Ramban.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 20 Safar 1448	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4: 09
	ZUHR	12:37
	ASR	5: 30
	Magrib	7: 33
	ISHA	9: 04

This Day In History

- 1914 - US declares neutrality on the outbreak of WWI
- 1916 - Denmark cedes Danish West Indies, including the Virgin Islands, to the US for \$25 million
- 1918 - Adolf Hitler receives the Iron Cross first class for bravery on the recommendation of his Jewish superior, Lieutenant Hugo Gutmann
- 1919 - The Communist Bela Kun comes to power in Hungary
- 1943 - Soviet units reach suburbs of Orel
- 1943 - USAAF bombs Germans in Troina
- 1946 - An earthquake of magnitude 8.0 hits northern Dominican Republic. 100 are killed and 20,000 are left homeless.
- 1947 - The Supreme Court of Japan is established.
- 1956 - Indonesia says it will not pay debts to the Netherlands
- 1960 - Rocket propelled USAF research aircraft sets record at 2,150 MPH
- 1962 - Nelson Mandela captured by South African police

From KO Archives

Vaishno Devi Board Snaps Ties With J&K Bank

Observer News Service

JAMMU- The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has snapped its 20-year-old ties with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank in what appears to be a fallout of the bickering between Governor S.K. Sinha and the state government.

The board - which controls the popular Hindu shrine of Vaishno Devi in Jammu and of which Sinha is the chairman - has withdrawn all its money from the bank and transferred it to the ICICI Bank, sources said.

Sinha, whose bickering with Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed over a host of issues is only too well known, directed the board to withdraw all accounts from the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, the sources said.

The state government is a major shareholder in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

The shrine board had a Rs.1 billion deposit with the bank, the source said. It had been rendering several services to the shrine board free of cost.

The shrine board had had its deposits with the bank since 1986, when the former was set up. The Vaishno Devi shrine attracts more than 5.5 million pilgrims.

The governor and chief minister have earlier sparred over the duration of the pilgrimage to the Hindu cave shrine of Amarnath in Kashmir. While the governor wanted it to last for two months, the chief minister insisted on one month.

Sinha, who also heads the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, finally had his way.

The chief minister was worried over the impact of a longer pilgrimage on the security of the state, as a large number of troops and police forces are committed to guard the pilgrimage route.

He had also pleaded that the fragile ecology of the routes to the Himalayan shrine, located at a height of 13,500 feet, could not withstand the rush of pilgrims.

More than 200,000 pilgrims have visited the shrine so far this year, (IANS)

(Kashmir Observer, 04 August, 2005)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRSLDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No 2026-27-01A. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date 27.08.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc.

Tender No. : 2026-27-01A	
Name of work : Painting of Electric Locomotives with polyurethane paints and provision of retro reflective sticker for the period of Two years.	
App. Cost : Rs. 97,77,804.41/-	
Cost of tender form : Rs. 0	
Date & time of submission of tender : Upto 27.08.2026, 15:00 Hrs.	
Earnest Money : Rs. 1,95,600/-	
Completion period : 24 Months	
Opening of tender : 27.08.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.	
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in	
No.: 230-Elect/TRSLDH/NC/PuPaint/2026-27/01A Dated: 03.08.2026 2676/2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

A Festival
Beyond Films

A film festival usually brings movies to a city. Jammu and Kashmir's first International Film Festival has the chance to do something much bigger.

It can bring the world of cinema to a place that has spent decades producing stories without a strong platform to share them.

Thousands of people in Jammu and Kashmir have long worked as writers, actors, cinematographers, editors and directors. Their creativity rarely found regular opportunities to connect with producers, festival programmers, distributors and international collaborators.

Good films often remained within local circles because the region had very few spaces where talent could meet the wider film industry.

The first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir changes that picture.

Scheduled from September 7 to 10 under the theme "Rang-e-Cinema," the festival has already attracted more than 1,100 film entries from over 50 countries.

Such participation becomes a meeting place where interactions can grow into partnerships and local stories can begin new journeys.

Cinema thrives through people meeting people. Directors discover producers, young filmmakers find mentors, editors exchange ideas with cinematographers, and festival programmers discover fresh voices.

Those connections often decide where a film travels next and who gets the chance to tell another story.

Local filmmakers stand to gain the most from this exchange. Their work will reach audiences that include industry professionals, international guests and creative collaborators who can introduce promising projects to film festivals, production houses and streaming platforms.

A single screening or discussion can open doors that remain closed when artists work within limited networks.

The festival also sends a strong message to aspiring filmmakers. Success in cinema grows through learning, collaboration and exposure. Watching acclaimed filmmakers discuss their craft, sharing ideas during workshops and interacting with professionals from different countries can inspire young storytellers to dream bigger and work with greater confidence.

Jammu and Kashmir already possesses everything that cinema seeks. Its landscapes, culture, languages and traditions have inspired storytellers for generations. Its greatest strength, however, lies in its people and the stories they continue to tell.

This festival gives those stories a larger audience and connects them with a global creative community.

Kashmir Turns to Nature

At the Islamic University of Science and Technology, scientists, judges and officials are gambling that restoring forests and rivers can do what engineering alone cannot.



Dabirah Hassan

Kashmir is running out of time to protect the glaciers, forests and rivers that keep its economy alive, and the region's response to that fact says something about how seriously it takes the crisis.

This week, a university in Awantipora opened a four-day international conference built around a proposition that sounds almost too simple: the best defense against a changing climate is the natural world itself, restored rather than replaced.

The idea merits more attention than it usually gets.

Governments tend to reach for concrete when floods threaten, for embankments when rivers swell, and for pumps when glaciers melt too fast.

Engineering has its place, but the Himalayas are proving, year after year, that concrete cannot substitute for a functioning watershed, and steel cannot replace a forest that once absorbed floodwater before it reached a village.

The region's top administrator opened the conference with a blunt assessment: climate change is moving at an alarming pace, and the Himalayas are absorbing the consequences faster than most places on earth.

That claim is not rhetorical.

Glacial melt, erratic monsoons and vanishing snow cover have already altered water security in Kashmir, threatening agriculture, hydropower and drinking supplies for millions of people downstream.

The conference's call to move nature-based approaches beyond environmental science departments and into law, economics, public health and urban planning amounts to an acknowledgment that climate adaptation has failed whenever it stays confined to specialists.

Once a natural asset disappears, it almost never comes back.

Wetlands drained for construction, forests cleared for timber, and riverbanks paved over for development are largely permanent losses. Preservation has to happen before the damage, not after.

Kashmir has already lost enormous stretches of wetland since the 1970s, and the floods that followed in recent years were not accidents of weather alone.

Nature is only reclaiming what belonged to it, and people are left facing the consequences.

That is a demanding way to frame a policy conference, but it is accurate.

Floodplains built on, aquifers drained, and hill-sides deforested for construction were choices made by planners and governments who assumed nature would simply absorb the cost.



Over the next three days, researchers, policymakers and practitioners will debate ecosystem conservation, sustainable livelihoods and climate adaptation strategies specific to the Himalayan region.

The Himalayas are now presenting the bill.

What makes this nature conference more than a symbolic gesture is the volume of material tied to it.

A documentary tracing the geological and historical story of the Jhelum river was screened alongside the launch, connecting flood risk directly to the river's altered path over centuries.

The conference also marked the launch of a new law school at the university, complete with a legal aid cell meant to give ordinary residents access to legal support.

That detail is more significant than it might first appear.

Nature-based solutions eventually run into property law, water rights and construction codes. Without a legal framework capable of enforcing conservation measures, restoration efforts risk becoming aspirational rather than durable.

Over the next three days, researchers, policymakers and practitioners will debate ecosystem conservation, sustainable livelihoods and climate adaptation strategies specific to the Himalayan region.

The ambition is regional collaboration, an idea that sounds modest until you consider how rarely

it happens.

Kashmir cannot restore a glacier or a wetland on its own. The watersheds and mountain systems in question span borders and jurisdictions that rarely cooperate on anything, let alone conservation.

The uncomfortable truth beneath this gathering is that Kashmir has already tested the alternative to nature-based solutions, and found it wanting.

Decades of infrastructure-first responses to flooding and drought have not prevented disaster. They have often deepened it.

A conference alone will not reverse that trajectory, but treating restored forests, rivers and wetlands as infrastructure, rather than scenery, is the first serious acknowledgment that the old approach failed.

Kashmir's progress and prosperity may depend on how quickly that acknowledgment turns into action.

The author is the Multimedia Lead at Kashmir Observer. She can be reached at dabeerahassan121@gmail.com.



Wajahat Qazi

The Politics of Madness

The history of madness is also the history of power. Drawing on Michel Foucault, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Kashmir, this essay explores how societies define sanity, enforce conformity, and decide who belongs outside the boundaries of reason.

What is madness? An accurate answer is, we don't know. A somewhat accurate one is that madness is subjective.

But the great philosopher of philosophers, Michael Foucault, as relevant and sharp as ever, delineated the genesis, etymology, and typology of madness that goes to the heart of the matter.

In his magnum opus, Madness and Civilization, the French thinker postulated that madness was not an objective mental truth, but rather a social and cultural construct shaped by changing power structures, morality, and the demands of rational society.

Developing and elaborating on the evolution and typology of madness, Foucault periodized the nature and form of madness.

Of great interest to me personally, Foucault held madness to be an intimate and indelible aspect of human nature. This appears to have elements and features of romanticism in madness.

Now, regarding the typology and periodization of madness, the great French philosopher posited that during the Middle Ages, it was the physically disabled, the deformed like lepers and so on, who were the subjects of exclusion and marginalization by society and power structures.

But in the West's Renaissance, given that leprosy became invisibilized, the spaces meant for lepers were reserved for the mad, or these persons were cast off in The Ship of Fools and then set adrift.

Madness, Foucault observed, was seen with a degree of familiar irony. At times, it was seen as an alternative form of wisdom or an intimate aspect of human nature.

But in the 17th century, prior to the Age of Extremes, the poor, vagrants, criminals, and the insane were locked up and institutionalized in hospitals. This condition was called by Foucault The Great Confinement.

The premise for this was the Age of Reason, where prevailing socio-moral norms equated idleness and unreason with social failure.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, a so-called shift in sensibility freed the mad from chains and institutionalization. This was, among other things, a correlate or concomitant of advances in the field of psychiatry.

But the incisive Foucault held that this development had moral connotations. That is, while physical restraint was no longer normative, it was replaced by guilt trips, mass surveillance, and an enforced, coercive demand for conformism and conformity.

In this schema, a given power structure of society employs the label of mental illness to invisibilize, occlude, and marginalize attitudes and behaviours that went against the predominant social order and normative grids of society.

The wand or stick of reason was used to enforce conformity and denigrate non-conformist, disruptive behaviour.

So madness, a subjective condition, was more or less a social or even a political construct. This much is known and given.

But are there cross-cultural connotations? Are there insights that carry over time and space? Yes, indeed.

In the non-West, for example, we are at a stage where madness is more or less still seen as belonging to the institution, and the mad remain in chains. However, given the leapfrogging of culture, and both the advancement and regression within it, the non-West may be becoming coeval with the West.

Does this mean that with advancement to civilization, the mad and madness are normalized and both seen as innate aspects of human nature to be accepted?

Yes, to some extent. But in the main, the mad are still held to be marginal to civiliza-

tion, and madness remains an aberration to be feared and marginalized. I shall illustrate this with an example a little later.

Before that, I shall make a wee digression. This pertains to the nature of human beings, humanness, and civilization.

In essence and by default, are human beings innocent? Are civilization, urbanism, and society corrupting influences on humans?

While there are no clear-cut answers to these pertinent questions, it seems that the state of nature, a condition or state where the organization of life is organic, lends itself to the innocence formulation.

But then does innocence mean ignorance? By extension, if this holds, when humans become civilized and self-aware, is this the beginning of evil, corruption, and strife?

These are philosophical questions, but extremely important ones. I would aver an answer that may not be corroborated by evidence. Evil, corruption, and strife, in my view, given the state of nature, are forms and manifestations of madness, broadly defined.

Here another Frenchman, Jacques Rousseau, assumes significance. The great Frenchman postulated that in a state of nature, humans were naturally good, peaceable, and compassionate, and lived in harmony with nature.

It was actually the graduation to society, civilization, and property rights that made them competitive, envious, and unequal, basically corrupting them.

Collating madness with, and drawing parallels from, Rousseau's insightful observations, it appears that civilization and madness correlate. We are, if there is at all a world civilization, all mad then.

But madness can have redeeming and world historical implications and consequences. Almost all world historical figures, great

scientists, accomplished artists, writers, philosophers, and so on have been mad. That is, persons either totally marginalized because of their madness or operating in the interstices of intersectionality.

But madness, being madness in the Foucauldian formulation as a politically motivated social construct instrumentalized by given power structures, can be weaponized. In fact, it is.

A non-conformist person, a rebel against given societal or political norms, can be denigrated as mad and thereby marginalized and invisibilized. Once labelled as deviant and mad, the person is also discredited and his or her ideas, and at times even his or her very existence, are criminalized.

This can be done by the coercive apparatus of a given state, or by the socio-political and cultural elite of a given society, to maintain their view and idea of order. The non-conformist, in this context, is seen and labelled as a deviant.

Examples galore exist in the real world. In some parts of the world, under certain conditions, a person sought to be marginalized and occluded is gaslit so badly and so continuously that when he or she reacts or responds, he or she is told that he or she is paranoid or mad.

This usually happens in places where the robust application of the rule of law militates against physical harm and crime. Here, the Joan of Arc is not burnt at the stake but rendered mad and paranoid, and thus invisibilized.

In other parts of the world, like Kashmir, the mad were usually seen as possessors of alternative wisdom and insights. The Kaeshur Mot, the Kashmiri madman, stands testimony to this.

A wanderer who would either be semi-dressed, in rags, or at times naked, and who spoke gibberish, was once a respected figure of wisdom in Kashmir. But no longer.

We are getting to the civilized phase where

madness is seen as deviance, aberration, non-conformist crime, and so on.

One incident that came to my notice involved the sister of a Kashmiri man who lived in, and was a successful physician in, the West. The woman had gained some psychological insight.

The brother, a somewhat good-natured but emotionally volatile Kashmiri, would speak loudly and at times erupt in anger. The woman, his sister, had a property dispute with him.

She set up traps for him, provoked him consistently, and then sought to present her own brother as psychotic and paranoid. After succeeding in her agenda, she went back to the West. The man is now a nervous wreck, seen as a madman by society.

This example is illustrative and emblematic. First, we in the Third World are getting there by virtue of climbing the ladder of civilization. That is, madness is no longer viewed with nimble irony, nor is it seen as an innate part of human nature, nor are the mad, or some of them, seen as persons of alternative wisdom.

We are beginning to see madness as a disease that can be weaponized against an adversary, perceived or real.

The irony is that in the postmodern West, madness enjoys a measure of acceptance. Is not Elon Musk, for example, often portrayed as the mad genius? In the non-West, however, there is hardly any acceptance of the same.

So is civilization madness? Or is there method to madness in it?

I would aver an answer here and say yes and no. It is a yes because in the competitive rat race, overlaid by hypercapitalism, hyper-individualism, and social Darwinism, whose best exponent was the gifted but devious Ayn Rand, madness is ubiquitous.

But when I say that the answer is no, what do I mean? That the world will be a civilization worthy of its name, and humans will be at an advanced stage of consciousness, when there is no such thing as mad or madness.

Are we at that stage? No. Can we aspire to it? For sure, and for as long as hope springs eternal in the human heart.

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

Kashmir Tourism Turns a New Page

A gathering of tourism stakeholders honours veterans, embraces digital reforms and calls for an ecotourism policy built with local communities at its core.



Syed Sammar Mehdi

The light through the windows of Hotel Paisley Palace had already turned gold by the time the applause started, and it did not stop for a while.

Four elderly men rose one by one in the banquet hall in Shalimar: Haji Khazir Mohammad Dar, Haji Ghulam Rasool Gooru, Haji Ghulam Rasool Siah and G. M. Dug, all respected figures in Kashmir's tourism industry for decades.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were placed in their hands, a gesture that felt, to many in the room, long overdue for men who had spent careers mentoring the guides now running the valley's trekking routes and lakefront hotels.

It was July 29, and the Ecotourism Association of Kashmir had gathered its members for the eighth time since its founding, a ritual that has become one of the few occasions when the region's scattered tourism business, houseboat owners, adventure operators, transport companies, hoteliers, and licensed guides, sits under one roof.

Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, the legislator who represents Gulmarg, took the seat of chief guest. Beside



him sat Waseem Raja, the joint director of tourism for Kashmir, and further down the row, conservation architect M. Saleem Beg, whose restorations of the valley's heritage buildings have made him something of a low-key celebrity among preservationists. Prof. Shah Nawaz Shah, from the University of Kashmir, rounded out a guest list that blended government, academia, and the working operators who actually run the boats and jeeps.

Once the honours were finished, the room shifted toward business, and the mood sharpened.

Officials from the Association stepped forward with representatives of Sojourn, a platform run by Technocrats Communication Private Limited, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will digitize how the group functions.

The plan is straightforward on paper: modernize internal systems, improve services for members, and open new income channels through better digital connections.

For a network still leaning on

A HOUSEBOAT OWNER ON DAL LAKE AND AN ADVENTURE GUIDE LEADING TREKKERS THROUGH PAHALGAM

rarely cross paths in daily business, but both depend on the same story Kashmir tells the outside world, and for one afternoon, their interests lined up under a single agenda.

paper ledgers and personal referrals, the deal marks a real departure, the type of infrastructure upgrade that tourism boards elsewhere in South Asia adopted years ago.

Association president Sameer Baktoo took the floor next, and his remarks read like a mission statement.

He described his organization's reach, spanning travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers, houseboat owners, transport operators, adventure sports professionals, and tourist guides, and said its core purpose was reviving and growing tourism throughout Jammu and Kashmir while making sure the profits reach

the people doing the daily work of hosting visitors rather than flowing past them to outside investors.

Baktoo pushed his argument further, insisting that ecotourism and responsible travel should stay the guiding principles behind any expansion, with the environment, local communities, and sustainable destination planning weighted equally against pure growth.

Underneath the diplomatic phrasing sat a pointed message: development that ignores the land beneath it eventually destroys the very thing tourists come to see.

Baktoo asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to draft a formal Ecotourism Policy, and he was specific about who should write it: a consultative process pulling in tourism associations, local communities, environmental experts, and industry representatives together.

Only that kind of policy, he argued, could balance economic development against the ecological and cultural heritage, alpine meadows, Mughal gardens, centuries-old craft traditions, that draws millions

of visitors to the valley annually.

The rest of the session moved at a working pace rather than a ceremonial one.

Members reviewed the Association's year, argued over marketing strategy, debated organizational reforms, and pressed for closer collaboration among stakeholders who compete for the same customers but share the same reputation on review sites and travel forums.

A houseboat owner on Dal Lake and an adventure guide leading trekkers through Pahalgam rarely cross paths in daily business, but both depend on the same story Kashmir tells the outside world, and for one afternoon, their interests lined up under a single agenda.

When the meeting closed, the tone in the hall had settled into something steadier than celebration, closer to resolve.

Members pledged to strengthen the tourism sector, promote responsible practices, and push Jammu and Kashmir toward recognition as a genuine global ecotourism destination.

The MoU with Sojourn will take months to prove itself, and the policy Baktoo requested has not been written down. Still, something had shifted in the room by the end, a recognition that honouring the men who built this business by instinct and handshake does not mean running it the same way forever.

An industry once defined by improvisation walked out with something rarer that afternoon: a plan, and a signature to back it up.

— The author is a trainee journalist at Kashmir Observer.

The Making of Makhdoom Sahib

From Tujjar Shareef to Kohi Maran, the life of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom blended scholarship, devotion and reform, leaving a legacy that continues to draw generations of pilgrims.



Makhdoom Sahib left no children and no property beyond mosques and disciples. He left instead a template for how devotion could organize a society without asking that society for permission first, and Kashmir has been praying inside that template ever since.



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Sopore in the fifteenth century was a bourg of orchards and small mosques, not yet a name known beyond its own rivers.

Tujjar Shareef, a village in its Zanagir belt, produced merchants and farmers, men whose ambitions rarely travelled past the next harvest. Baba Usman Raina belonged to that world.

He was wealthy by local measure and respected by neighbours, and when his wife Bibi Maryam bore him a son in 900 AH, he marked the birth by sacrificing thirty sheep and giving the meat to the poor.

It was an ordinary gesture of gratitude, but nobody at Tujjar Shareef could have guessed that the infant would become Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, the man Kashmiris would later call simply Makhdoom Sahib, and whose grave on Kohi Maran still draws pilgrims six centuries later.

The signs came early, and they came strange.

When illness kept Bibi Maryam from nursing him, a neighbouring woman stepped in. The infant refused her milk outright. An inquiry followed, and it turned out the woman had left her own daughter unattended and had not asked her husband's permission to nurse another child.

The boy, barely weeks old, had somehow sensed a moral failure invisible to the adults around him.

This detail matters less as biography than as foreshadowing: the entire trajectory of Sheikh Hamza's life would be governed by an instinct for right conduct that outpaced

ordinary explanation.

Childhood brought further evidence, as he showed no interest in the games of other boys. But once, he joined other children in throwing stones at a mosque, a common childhood prank.

That night he dreamed a rebuke, and the rebuke worked. He never repeated the offense.

Formal education followed at a local maktab, where he absorbed the Quran and its grammar, then moved through the Persian classics, Karima, Namihag, Gulistan, Bostan, the standard curriculum of a serious young mind in that era.

His grandfather, Malik Zeeta Raina, recognized something worth cultivating and brought him to Srinagar, to the Darushifa convent school run by Hazrat Sheikh Baba Ismail Kubravi, where religious instruction and spiritual training were taught side by side.

From there he entered the monastery of Shams Chak, where he studied Hadith, jurisprudence, logic, and philosophy, memorizing the entire Quran along the way.

His comprehension was sharp enough that teachers took notice, but his real education was happening somewhere else, in the discipline of fasting he imposed on himself and the nights he spent awake in prayer.

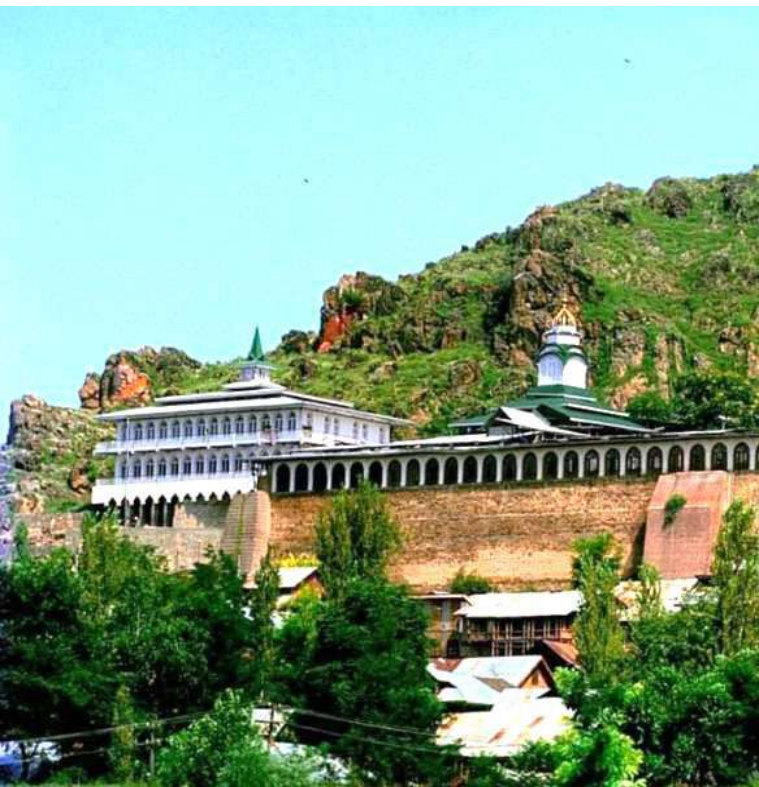
He sought out saints for hidden knowledge and reported visions of Khazir, the figure Islamic tradition associates with concealed wisdom. He preferred riversides and springs for these encounters, water over walls, open ground over enclosed halls.

Once, invited to a feast, he accepted food and a gift of money from his host. That same night a dream instructed him to avoid such gatherings going forward. He obeyed.

The defining crisis of his youth came through argument rather than vision.

The valley's rulers followed the Shia sect, and a scholar named Mulla Shamshi Chack pressed him to abandon Sunni practice for theirs.

Sheikh Hamza found himself persuaded and unsettled at once, torn between a compelling teacher and an unresolved conscience.



He retreated to Zakir Masjid on Kohi Maran and fasted without break for three days, refusing food and speech, waiting for an answer he could not reason his way to.

On the third night, it came.

He dreamed a vast gathering filling the mosque compound, led by the Prophet himself alongside all four caliphs. The Prophet told him plainly that all four companions had been correct, and directed him toward Ahli Sunnat Wal Jammat.

He woke with his path decided and never wavered again. From then on, he bathed in cold water through winter so he could rise for tahajjud, the deep-night prayer few men attempt twice, let alone daily.

Kohi Maran itself became inseparable from his practice. He loved the hillock's trees, its grass, the breeze that moved through it, and the punishing intensity of his worship eventually gave him headaches severe enough that Syed Ahmad Kirmani advised him to walk in open country for relief.

Word of his condition, spiritual rather than physical, reached Madina. There, Syed Jamaludin Bukhari of Delhi, a Sufi of Suharwardi lineage, dreamed of the Prophet speaking with a young man and learned this was Baba Usman's son, spiritually descended from the Prophet's own line.

Directed to travel to Kashmir, Bukhari arrived in 932 AH and met Sheikh Hamza at the monastery of Malik Ahmad Yatoo, training him for six months before returning to Delhi.

That brief tutelage completed something the valley's own teachers could not finish alone.

What followed was expansion on a scale few Kashmiri saints achieved. His residence at Makhdoom Mandaw became a center pulling seekers from distant corners of the region. He travelled to Kamraj and Maraj, raising mosques and carrying instruction into places that had seen little of it.

Mosques rose at Nadihal, Tujjar Shareef, and Wuhangam of Beeru under his direction, physical

structures anchoring a spiritual project that otherwise lived in memory and word of mouth.

The stories multiplied because people needed them to explain a man who exceeded ordinary categories.

Baba Dawood Khaki, his disciple, recorded many of these episodes in Virdul Murideen. Moulana Feroze, lost in a desert, found himself rescued by a Sheikh Hamza who never left Srinagar.

When rumour spread that his brother Baba Ali Raina had died while studying in Arabia, Sheikh Hamza told the grieving community the rumour was false, and Baba Ali returned home unharmed, exactly as promised.

Haji Moosa, leading twenty pilgrims on foot, exhausted his funds ten days into the journey and found his teacher appearing before him with a bag of gold coins that sustained the group the rest of the way.

Illness, too, bent before him: paralysis, leprosy, hepatitis, ailments with no cure available in that century, reportedly lifted through his prayer and presence.

The saint died at Makhdoom Mandaw on the twenty-fourth of Saffar, 984 AH, eighty-four years old and bedridden for only a week beforehand, a life that ended almost as abruptly as its worship had been sustained.

Khwaja Muhammad Tahir performed the ghusl and led the funeral prayers. The procession moved from Eidgah to Kohi Maran, and Ali Shah Chack, the ruling authority of the period, walked among the mourners, proof that even a monarchy answering to a different sect recognized what this unmarried, family-less man had built.

Makhdoom Sahib left no children and no property beyond mosques and disciples. He left instead a template for how devotion could organize a society without asking that society for permission first, and Kashmir has been praying inside that template ever since.

— The author is a columnist based in Qazigund, and can be reached at rayeeskumar31@gmail.com.

Prashant Kishor Ends BJP's 30-Year Hold on Bankipur

Agencies

Patna: Jan Suraa Party founder Prashant Kishor on Monday made a winning electoral debut by defeating the BJP in the prestigious Bankipur Assembly bypoll, ending the party's three-decade dominance in the constituency.

Kishor secured 64,151 votes to defeat BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar by 19,324 votes. Kumar polled 44,827 votes, while the RJD's Rekha Gupta finished a distant third with 14,273 votes.

The bypoll was necessitated after BJP national president Nitin Nabin vacated the seat following his election to the Rajya Sabha. The BJP had held the constituency continuously since 1995.

Calling the victory a "wake-up call" for the BJP, Kishor urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to appoint a new chief minister in Bihar. He described the bypoll as a referendum on the BJP-led government and thanked voters and supporters for backing his fledgling party.

The 49-year-old strategist-turned-politician had opted not to contest the Assembly elections

earlier this year, in which his party failed to win a seat.

Kishor's rise has been powered by a strong domestic record. He claimed the bypoll after an intensive campaign centred on governance, employment and development.

Bumblin'g? Wait no.

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary accepted the verdict and congratulated Kishor, saying he respected the people's mandate.

State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal said the party accepted the defeat with humility and would learn lessons from the setback.

The bypoll recorded a voter turnout of 34.30 per cent, down from 41.45 per cent in the Assembly election held nine months ago.

Polling was held on July 30, with both the BJP and Jan Suraa accusing each other of electoral irregularities during the campaign. Political observers described the result as a significant boost for Kishor ahead of future electoral battles in Bihar. (inputs from PTI)

Oxford Presentation School Retains Best Delegation Title at IIMUN Conference

Observer News Service

Anantnag: Oxford Presentation School has retained the Best Delegation title in South Kashmir, winning the honour for the second consecutive year at the India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) Conference.

The school also served as the South Kashmir host institution, becoming one of only three schools in the Valley selected to host the conference, alongside Presentation Convent School, Srinagar, and Welkin Educational Trust, Sopore.

The three-day event brought together over 1,000 student delegates from nearly 20 schools across South, Central and North Kashmir, making it one of the region's largest Model United Nations conferences.

The conference began with an opening ceremony attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, content creator and musician Yashraj Mukhate, and DSP Zarqa, who encouraged students to embrace leadership, innovation and responsible citizenship.

During the conference, delegates participated in committee sessions on global issues,



engaging in debates, negotiations and drafting resolutions while sharpening their skills in diplomacy, public speaking, critical thinking and teamwork.

At the closing ceremony, several Oxford Presentation School students received individual honours across various committees. The school was also declared the Best Delegation in South Kashmir for the second consecutive year.

The school management congratulated the student delegates, faculty mentors, organising committee, volunteers and participating institutions for making the conference a success. It reaffirmed its commitment to providing platforms that foster leadership, confidence and global awareness among young learners.

Oxford Presentation School also thanked all participating

institutions, including Ayesha Ali Academy, Delhi Public School Anantnag, Public School Bijbehara, GD Goenka Anantnag, Whiz Kids, Lucent, Brookfield, Radiant, Birla Open Minds, Ace International, Saint Xains International School, CATS, EFF EMM School, Iqbal Memorial Anantnag, Foundation World and Cambridge Public High School, for their contribution to the event's success.

Govt Hikes Windfall Gains Tax on Petrol, diesel



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government has hiked windfall gains tax on exports of petrol, diesel and ATF for the fortnight beginning Monday. The rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on export of diesel will be Rs 25.5 a litre, up from Rs 15.5 a litre. SAED on export of ATF will be Rs 22/litre, as against Rs 14.5/litre earlier.

Duty on petrol exports has been raised to Rs 3.5 per litre, from Rs 2.5 per litre levied on July 16. The finance ministry in a notification said the duty hikes will be effective from August 3.

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, the government imposed an export duty on diesel and ATF on March 27 and revised the rate every fortnight.

Beginning May 16, the levy was imposed on petrol exports.

The ministry also said that there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption.

The windfall tax was levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel amid the war in West Asia. It was also aimed at preventing exporters from taking undue advantage due to price differences as global crude oil prices had risen since the war began.

The windfall tax was intended to ensure domestic availability of petroleum products by disincentivising exports amid the West Asia crises.

Death Toll from Suicide Attack in Northwest Pakistan Rises to 17

Press Trust Of India

Peshawar: The death toll in a suicide attack on a police station during a peace rally in northwest Pakistan rose to 17 on Monday after three more people succumbed to injuries, police said.

The suicide blast took place when the Swat Peace Rally was in progress right across the police station in Kabal town in Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday.

The bomber detonated his explosives when policemen tried

to stop and search him at the entrance to the police station. Fourteen people, including five security men, were killed and over a dozen were injured in the suicide attack on Sunday, officials said.

On Monday, three injured people succumbed to their injuries at a hospital, taking the death toll to 17, including seven police personnel and 10 civilians, police said.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police said that 12 injured people are currently under treatment at Saidu Sharif Teaching Hospital, including eight police personnel and four civilians.

Malakand Deputy Inspector General Syed Fida Hussain said the suicide bomber, believed to be a member of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), attempted to enter the police station but was stopped by a police officer before reaching inside.

"The attacker then detonated explosives at the police station's main gate," he said, adding that

the police lines and other sensitive government installations were located nearby.

Police have registered a terrorism case with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) over the suicide attack. A joint Investigation Team has been constituted to conduct a comprehensive probe into the incident.

According to the FIR lodged at CTD Police Station Swat, a protest organised by the Pasoon organisation was underway at Kabal Chowk, having started at around 4:00 pm, when the

attack took place.

The FIR stated that at approximately 6:04 pm, a powerful suicide blast struck the main gate of Kabal Police Station, leaving several police personnel and civilians dead and injured.

It said initial suspicion points to the involvement of banned TTP commander Muzaffar and his associates in carrying out the attack.

Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed said that the timely action of the police personnel prevented a much larger tragedy.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi reached Swat on Monday and met with the victims' families. He also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidu Sharif. He directed the relevant authorities to launch a full-scale operation against terrorists and ensure that peace and stability were restored.

The Swat Peace Rally was organised by Swat Aman Jirga (local tribal council) with participants raising slogans and carrying placards to demand peace in the area.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K's New Climate

in the upper reaches triggered flash floods in Zawoor, Badrham and Kijarsinda villages.

Floodwaters entered several houses in Badrham within minutes, forcing residents to flee to safer places. Household belongings were damaged and large tracts of agricultural land were inundated.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) launched rescue operations and evacuated around 80 people, including schoolchildren and staff members, from the affected villages.

"Relief and rescue teams were immediately pressed into service after the flash floods. Evacuation has been completed successfully and assessment of the damage is underway," an SDRF official said.

District officials said no fatalities were reported from Shopian, though several houses, roads and public infrastructure suffered damage.

Cloodbursts also struck Batkoot in Pahalgam, Herpora in Shopian and Dardpora in Bandipora district, damaging roads and bridges at several locations.

In Anantnag district, a cloudburst at Batkoot triggered flash floods that damaged a kacha house belonging to a poor family. Heavy rainfall also caused the rear concrete wall of the Nunwan base camp to collapse, allowing water to enter the camp and damage several accommodation tents. Officials said the situation was later brought under control.

Authorities evacuated around 200 people, including tourists, from vulnerable areas in Pahalgam as water levels in local streams rose rapidly.

The rain also disrupted connectivity in the tourist resort, with the Aishmuqam-Pahalgam road blocked near Langnai Bridge due to flooding, while another bridge at Batkoot sustained damage under the force of the rushing water.

In Bandipora district, a cloudburst in the Arin-Dardpora area damaged roads at several locations, disrupting vehicular movement.

Strong winds in Bakura village of Ganderbal district blew away the rooftop of a residential house and damaged an electricity pole. No injuries were reported.

Flash Floods Hit Ladakh

Flash floods also caused widespread damage in the Union Territory of Ladakh, particularly in Hardass, Tumail and Badgam villages of Kargil district.

Heavy rain on Sunday evening inundated habitations and damaged roads, village infrastructure and agricultural fields, disrupting connectivity to several villages.

The Army said troops of the Forever in Operations Division launched immediate rescue and relief operations after a cloudburst struck Gund in Hardass, evacuating stranded villagers and providing first aid, drinking water, food and other essential supplies despite adverse weather conditions.

In coordination with the civil administration, Army personnel also helped clear debris and restore roads, water supply and electricity to facilitate relief operations.

Earlier, a cloudburst near Mina-2 in Minamarg triggered flash floods and landslides

that affected four temporary shelters housing around 20 Bakerwal families. Police personnel from the Minamarg post rescued all the families and shifted them to safer locations.

A car was washed away in the floodwaters, but all its occupants escaped unhurt.

Traffic on the Drass-Srinagar highway was temporarily suspended due to landslides and debris, with restoration work launched soon after.

Drass Deputy Commissioner Imteez Kacho visited Matayen and Pandrass villages to assess the damage, review relief measures and interact with local residents.

Police have advised commuters, tourists and residents to avoid crossing overflowing streams, water channels and other flood-prone areas until weather conditions improve.

Meanwhile, four boys were rescued safely from the middle of Dal Lake after their boat became stranded due to sudden gusty winds.

Officials said an SDRF Quick Response Team rushed to the spot and evacuated all four boys without any injuries.

J&K Records Over 35

highest death toll. Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Doda and Kishtwar have emerged among the worst-affected districts, while repeated cloudbursts and flash floods have also hit parts of Kashmir, particularly Shopian and Kupwara, in recent weeks.

The latest spell of extreme weather on Monday claimed two more lives after multiple cloudbursts struck Kupwara, Shopian, Bandipora and Anantnag districts. Heavy rainfall also disrupted normal life across the Union Territory, damaging roads, houses and public infrastructure and forcing the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Officials said recurring cloudbursts this year have damaged dozens of residential houses, shops, schools, bridges, irrigation canals and agricultural fields. In several villages, sudden flash floods inundated residential areas, forcing authorities to evacuate residents and launch rescue operations.

The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has repeatedly been affected by landslides, mudslides and shooting stones triggered by heavy rainfall, disrupting the movement of passengers and the supply of essential commodities on several occasions.

Disaster management officials said the mountainous districts of the Chenab Valley, especially Kishtwar and Doda, along with the upper reaches of Shopian, Kupwara and other hilly areas of Kashmir, remain among the most vulnerable because of their steep terrain and proximity to seasonal streams.

Meteorologists describe a cloudburst as an extremely intense and highly localised rainfall event in which more than 100 millimetres of rain falls within an hour over an area of roughly 20 to 30 square kilometres. Such events often trigger flash floods, debris flows and landslides, leaving little time for evacuation.

According to weather experts, the increasing frequency of cloudbursts in Jammu and Kashmir is linked to the interaction of moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds with

western disturbances over the Himalayas.

They said the region's steep mountain slopes force moisture-rich air to rise rapidly through a process known as orographic lifting, leading to the formation of towering cumulonimbus clouds. These clouds can become trapped within narrow valleys, where they continue accumulating moisture before suddenly collapsing and releasing massive volumes of rain over a small area within minutes.

Experts also attribute the phenomenon to intense atmospheric instability. Strong upward air currents keep raindrops suspended inside clouds, allowing large amounts of water to accumulate. When these updrafts weaken under the increasing weight of the water, the cloud system collapses, resulting in an intense cloudburst.

Recent assessments by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Geological Survey of India have pointed to an increasing trend in mountain hazards and recommended strengthening early warning systems through X-band Doppler weather radars, a denser network of automated weather stations and real-time community alert mechanisms.

The agencies have also called for hazard mapping of vulnerable slopes and flood channels, stricter regulation of construction in floodplains and dry riverbeds, controlled urban expansion in ecologically fragile mountain areas, and large-scale afforestation and wetland conservation to reduce the impact of flash floods and landslides. (inputs from KNO)

5-Day Rain

areas to remain alert and avoid unnecessary travel during periods of intense rainfall.

NH-44 Closed

heavy rainfall continued to lash several parts of Jammu division, with Rajouri witnessing widespread showers that prompted the district administration to issue an advisory for residents living in flood-prone areas.

A temporary house was extensively damaged in a mudslide triggered by heavy rain in Shahpur village of Kotranka. Officials said the occupants escaped unhurt.

The recent flash floods have also forced the Rajouri administration to shift the office of the Deputy Commissioner after the existing office building was declared unsafe.

According to a public notice issued by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, the office will now function from the new district administrative complex located behind Government Higher Secondary School, adjacent to the Government Nursing College in Rajouri town, until further orders.

The building had suffered additional structural damage during the flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall between July 19 and 23. Following the damage, the deputy commissioner had ordered a comprehensive structural safety assessment, with engineers and personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) inspecting the building.

"The location office of the Deputy

Commissioner, Rajouri has been changed as the old building was declared unsafe due to the damage caused by the recent flash floods," the notice said.

The administration identified several vulnerable locations, including the vicinity of the CEO office, Naban Mohalla along the riverbank, Tariq Bridge area, MLA Housing Colony, low-lying areas of Nowshera town, Bela area of Nowshera, Peeri, Kotranka, Darhal and downstream villages of Rajouri and Nowshera.

Residents of these areas were advised to voluntarily shift elderly persons, children, pregnant women, persons with disabilities and essential belongings to safer locations without waiting for water levels to rise.

The advisory also urged people to remain prepared for evacuation at short notice and cooperate with the police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil Defence, Revenue Department and other emergency agencies.

Authorities cautioned people against venturing near rivers, nallahs, bridges and flood channels, while vehicle owners were asked to move their vehicles away from low-lying areas and avoid unnecessary travel.

The district administration said any incidents of flooding, landslides, embankment breaches or stranded persons should be reported immediately to the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), which is functioning round the clock.

Officials said the administration was closely monitoring the situation and appealed to the public to remain calm, avoid rumours and rely only on official advisories.

Heavy rainfall was also reported from Ramban, Reasi and Poonch districts, though no major damage or flood threat was reported from these areas.

J&K's First Film

destination for film production and creative collaborations.

She directed all committees and departments associated with the festival to maintain close coordination and ensure effective synergy in the execution of assigned responsibilities.

"Meticulous planning, prompt execution and continuous monitoring of preparations are essential for organising the event in a smooth, professional and befitting manner," Singhal said.

She also stressed the need for a robust media and publicity strategy to maximise the festival's visibility at the national and international levels.

Reiterating the department's commitment to hosting the event to the highest professional standards, Singhal said the festival should emerge as a landmark celebration of cinema reflecting the cultural vibrancy, creative aspirations and evolving global profile of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, officials informed the Director that preparations in their respective sectors were progressing according to schedule.

The first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir will be held from September 7 to 10 under the theme "Rang-e-Cinema" and aims to bring together filmmakers, industry

professionals and cinema enthusiasts in one of India's most distinctive cultural landscapes.

According to officials, the festival has generated considerable international interest, receiving more than 1,100 film entries from over 50 countries across categories such as International Competition, Short Film and Bharat Panorama J&K Select.

Officials said the festival has also witnessed enthusiastic participation from filmmakers within Jammu and Kashmir, providing an important platform for emerging directors, artists and other creative professionals from the region to showcase their talent before national and international audiences.

River Took Center

own film had just shown the audience what a river remembers.

"Nature is not furious," he told the gathering. "It is trying to reclaim what belonged to it. And it is we who face the consequences of that."

The line resonated because it challenged the way officials have described floods in the valley for years.

Kashmir deluge, in professor's telling, is less an act of fury and more a bill coming due.

Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, picked up that thread when he spoke as chief guest.

Climate change is moving fast, he said, and the Himalayan region sits directly in its path.

He pushed universities to stop boxing nature-based solutions into environmental science departments alone and instead teach the subject across every field, from engineering to law.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, sharpened the point further.

Natural problems, he said, need natural answers, because once a wetland or a forest disappears, bringing it back becomes almost impossible.

"Protection has to happen before the loss, not after," he said.

He then turned to his own announcement, unveiling a Legal Aid Cell inside the university's newly launched Law School, which Sinha had e-inaugurated earlier that day, to give free legal help to people who need it.

The day held smaller stories too.

A special magazine edition tracked the university's hundred-day campaign against drug abuse. A new policy brief laid out steps for a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Javed Hussain Mir welcomed the guests, and Registrar Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah closed the formal session with thanks. Three faculty members, Dr. Tariq Abdullah, Dr. Jasia Bashir, and Dr. Irfan Maqbool, will guide the technical sessions running through Thursday.

Those sessions will fill the next three days with talk of ecosystem restoration, sustainable farming, and disaster planning built around the land itself rather than against it.

But the tone for all of it was already set before the first keynote began, in a captive room, with a film about a river that has been trying to tell this valley something for a very long time.

CM Omar to Preside over Main Independence Day Function at Bakshi Stadium

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will preside over and take the salute at the main Independence Day function to be held at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

According to a communiqué issued to divisional commissioners by the General Administration Department, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer, the Chief Minister will lead the proceedings in the summer capital.

As per details, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choud-



hary will take the salute at the main Independence Day function in Jammu, while Sakina Masood Itoo will preside over the event in Anantnag.

Cabinet ministers Javid Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma will respectively take the salute at Independence Day functions in Poonch, Baramulla, and Kathua.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, who holds cabinet status, will take the salute at the main Independence Day function in Kupwara, his home district. This will be the first time since his appointment

that the Advisor to the Chief Minister will preside over an Independence Day function.

According to the communiqué, deputy commissioners will take the salute in 13 other districts, apart from those where ministers will preside over the functions.

Sub-divisional magistrates will take the salute at respective sub-divisional headquarters, while tehsildars or the senior-most civil officers will preside at tehsil, block, and municipal headquarters, as decided by the concerned deputy commissioner.

J&K Reports ₹193.49 Cr Financial Fraud in FY26; Only ₹6.92 Cr Recovered

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 103 financial fraud cases involving Rs 193.49 crore during the financial year 2025-26, with Rs 6.92 crore recovered, the Ministry of Finance informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to State/UT-wise data provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), J&K reported 467 fraud cases involving Rs 47.55 crore in FY 2023-24, of which Rs 3.23 crore was recovered. The number of reported cases declined to 298 in FY 2024-25, while the amount involved rose to Rs 81.27 crore. Of this, Rs 2.65 crore was recovered, the data, accessed by KNO, showed. In FY 2025-26, the number of reported fraud cases stood at 103, but the amount involved surged to Rs 193.49 crore, with Rs 6.92 crore recovered.

The Ministry said banks are required to immediately report

fraud incidents to concerned law enforcement agencies, including State/UT Police, SFIO, and CBI, depending on the amount involved. It added that there are no defined timelines for recovery due to the complexity of fraud cases and the involvement of multiple agencies, institutions, tribunals, and courts.

The Centre also said that financial fraud complaints reported through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal or helpline 1930 feed into the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System, which enables coordination between police agencies, banks, and financial intermediaries for tracing money trails and placing lien holdings on defrauded funds.

Ladakh recorded eight fraud cases involving a negligible amount in FY 2025-26, while 18 cases involving Rs 0.07 crore were reported in FY 2023-24 and 13 cases involving Rs 0.03 crore in FY 2024-25.

Amarnath Yatra Tally Crosses 4.64 Lakh

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Amarnath Yatra tally crossed 4.64 lakh on Monday as 7,507 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, while a fresh batch of 1,056 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

Figures available with KNO, show that 7,507 pilgrims, including 5,623 men, 1,344 women, 106 children, 36 sadhus, 14 sadhvis, five transgender devotees and 379 security personnel, performed darshan on Monday, taking the cumulative number of pilgrims since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 4,64,697.

The figures further show that the 26th batch of pilgrims departed from Bhagwati Nagar at 2:49 a.m. The batch comprised 832 men, 205 women, two children, 15 sadhus and two sadhvis. No convoy was dispatched via the Pahalgam route.

"The pilgrims travelled in a convoy of 46 vehicles, comprising 24 buses, seven medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 15 light motor vehicles (LMVs), under a tight security escort," an official said.

The official said that with the departure of the latest batch, the total number of pilgrims who have left the Jammu base camp for the ongoing pilgrimage has reached 1,40,748.

J&K Pacer Auqib Nabi Earns Maiden India Test Call-Up

► Replaces injured Jasprit Bumrah for two-Test Sri Lanka series

► LG, CM and Union Minister congratulate J&K pacer on historic selection

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Auqib Nabi was on Monday named in India's Test squad for the upcoming two-match series against Sri Lanka, replacing injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and earning his maiden call-up to the senior national team.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Nabi's inclusion after Bumrah was ruled out of the series as he continues to recover from a left knee injury sustained during the ODI series against England.

"The Men's Selection Committee has named Auqib Nabi as Bumrah's replacement. The Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler earns his maiden call-up to the senior national team," the BCCI said in a statement.

The 29-year-old pacer from a remote village in Baramulla district has been rewarded for his outstanding performances in domestic cricket. Nabi claimed 104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons, including 60 wickets during the 2025-26 campaign, playing a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph. He also contributed with the bat during the historic season.

Nabi was also part of the India A squad that toured Sri Lanka recently, where he claimed six wickets in two first-class matches, strengthening his case for a place in the senior national side.

He becomes the third cricketer



from Jammu and Kashmir to receive a senior India call-up after Parvez Rasool and Umran Malik, both of whom represented the country in the limited-overs format.

Bumrah, who was originally named in the squad, has been ruled out after swelling in his left knee was found to be more serious than initially assessed. The BCCI's Sports Science team at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru decided against rushing the premier fast bowler back to international cricket in view of India's packed international calendar.

The BCCI also said batter B Sai Sudharsan's participation in the Sri Lanka series remains subject to fitness clearance as he continues to recover from a foot injury sustained during the recent India A tour of Sri Lanka.

Soon after the announcement, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated Nabi on his maiden Test call-up.

"Congratulations to cricketer Auqib Nabi on his selection to the Indian squad for the upcoming

Test series against Sri Lanka. It is a proud and joyous moment for Jammu and Kashmir. I extend my best wishes to him and hope he achieves great success while representing the nation," Sinha said in a post on X.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described Nabi's selection as a matter of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir and an inspiration for countless young sportspersons across the region.

"Heartiest congratulations to cricketer Auqib Nabi on earning a place in the Indian squad for the forthcoming Test series against Sri Lanka," Abdullah said, wishing the young pacer success on the international stage and expressing hope that he would make the most of the opportunity and bring laurels to the country.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also congratulated Nabi, describing the selection as a proud moment for the Union Territory.

"Your dedication, perseverance and passion have brought you this proud moment. Wishing you great success as you don the national colours," Singh said, expressing confidence that Nabi's achievement would inspire aspiring cricketers across Jammu and Kashmir.

Nabi's selection has been widely welcomed across the Union Territory, with political leaders, sportspersons and cricket enthusiasts hailing his rise from domestic cricket to the national Test squad.

The two-match Test series between India and Sri Lanka begins on August 15 in Galle

1,935 Companies with Women Directors Registered in J&K in 3 years: Centre

SRINAGAR: A total of 1,935 companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013, having women directors, were recorded in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three financial years, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the data placed before the House, accessed by KNO, J&K had 643 such companies with 819 women directors in 2023-24. The number stood at 561 companies with 676 women directors in 2024-25, while 731 companies with 856 women directors were recorded during 2025-26.

The Ministry clarified that the Companies Act does not specifically use the term "leaders of companies." However, under Section 149, certain listed and public companies are required to appoint at least one woman director. The Centre said no specific initiative has been undertaken by the Ministry exclusively for women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas. However, measures aimed at promoting ease of doing business, including simplified incorporation and compliance procedures, are applicable to all entrepreneurs, including women. —(KNO)

Ladakh Gets Two Tourism Projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory of Ladakh has been sanctioned two tourism projects under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, with a combined sanctioned cost of Rs 35.08 crore, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

According to the details placed before the Lok Sabha, accessed by KNO, a project for the development of the Juliyeh Biodiversity Park was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 23.17 crore, while Exploring LOC & Hundarman Village Experience in Kargil was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 11.91 crore.

The Ministry said Swadesh Darshan 2.0 has been revamped with the objective of developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations through a destination and tourist-centric approach. The scheme focuses on tourism experiences, amenities, sustainable practices, and better management of tourism assets. The Centre said the scheme encourages UT administrations to consult local communities and stakeholders, promote renewable energy and eco-friendly materials, develop accessible infrastructure and services, and support local entrepreneurship. It added that the initiative is aimed at boosting tourism growth, local economies, infrastructure creation, and employment generation—(KNO)

Huts at Shikargah Tral to be Operational Soon

PULWAMA: Tourism Department has announced that newly constructed tourist huts at the picturesque Shikargah area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district will soon be made operational through outsourcing after necessary repairs.

An official of the tourism department told KNO that the huts were constructed by the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) and were only recently handed over to the Tourism Department.

"The huts have been transferred to the Tourism Department. We have already deputed an official for the watch and ward of the assets to ensure they remain protected," he said.

The official said the department has initiated the process of outsourcing and we hope everything will be normal very soon.

The assurance has been welcomed by residents, who had earlier urged the government to prevent the newly created infrastructure from falling into disrepair.

Situated at an altitude of nearly 2,130 metres, around 40 kilometres from Srinagar and just three kilometres from Tral town, Shikargah is known for its dense forests, sprawling meadows and breathtaking landscapes. The destination also houses the Hangul Conservation Breeding Centre, which has played a significant role in the conservation of the endangered Kashmir stag. —(KNO)

J&K Reports 6 Fatal, 87 Non-Fatal Factory Injuries in 2022-23

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported six fatal and 87 non-fatal injuries in registered factories during 2022 and 2023, while data for 2024 was not reported by the Union Territory, according to details furnished by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the Lok Sabha.

According to the State/UT-wise data, accessed by KNO, J&K recorded three fatal injuries in factories in 2022 and another three in 2023. The corresponding number of non-fatal injuries stood at 20 in 2022 and increased to 67 in 2023. For 2024, the data has been marked as "#", which, according to the Ministry, means the information was not reported by the concerned State/UT.

The Ministry said the major causes of industrial accidents include persons falling from height, fire, explosion, machinery moved by mechanical power, electrocution, and workers being struck by falling bodies. The Directorate General Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) collects data on accidental deaths and injuries from States and UTs in respect of factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, now subsumed under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020. —(KNO)

'J&K Govt School Teaching Staff Plummet by Over 4,800'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, 'the teaching staff in government-run-schools have dropped by over 4800 in the past three years.'

According to the official figures available with KNO, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a reduction of 4811 teaching staff since the academic year 2023-24 to 2025-26.

The figures reveal that in the academic year 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir had a total of 96,370 teachers in government-run-schools that reduced to 94,202 in the academic year 2024-25.

Furthermore, the figures tabled by the Government of India (GoI) in the Lok Sabha states that in the academic year 2025-26 Jammu and Kashmir had only 91,569 teachers in government schools.

The GoI however clarified that

the recruitment of teachers is a continuous process undertaken by the respective State Governments, UT Administrations in accordance with their recruitment rules and procedures.

"Vacancies arise from time to time due to factors such as retirement, resignation, creation of new posts consequent to enhanced student enrolment and establishment of new schools. The timeline for filling up such vacancies is also determined by the respective State Governments and UT Administrations," GoI informed the house.

It also said that the GoI on its part periodically advises states and UTs to fill up vacant posts of teachers through transparent and merit-based recruitment processes, including through autonomous teacher recruitment boards or similar organisations.

As already reported by KNO, the government-run-schools in Jammu and Kashmir average less than five teachers per school and on the contrary private schools average more than 13 teachers per institute respectively—thus raising a question on quality of education being imparted to students.

The official figures in this had revealed that in the academic year 2025-16, Jammu and Kashmir sees government schools average with just 4.8 teachers per school.

However, on the contrary, private schools in J&K on an average have recorded 13.7 teachers per school.

It also reveals that despite having a dominance of 18,787 schools, the government is functioning the School Education Department with just 91,569 teachers and on the contrary, Jammu and Kashmir's 5,397 private schools exert

a huge human resource of 74,226 teachers.

Furthermore, the MoE figures had revealed that despite having only 5,397 private schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the private sector is educating nearly fifty percent of the total student enrolment with 12.89 lakh out of 26.53 lakh total enrolled students.

As per the fresh figures revealed by the MoE, private schools in Jammu and Kashmir average 239 students per institution.

The government-run-schools on the contrary, despite having 18,852 infrastructures, the de-

partment is managing only 51.4 percent students with 13.63 lakh students—averaging a mere 72 students per school.

Earlier this news agency reported that in Jammu and Kashmir, 1,544 schools are being run by single teachers each wherein more than 33,537 students are enrolled.

The Union Territory was also functioning with 188 such schools that were having zero student enrolments. Interestingly, 87 teachers are still deployed to these empty institutions, drawing salaries while teaching no one.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- exen-mechospgr@jk.gov.in-----

GIST OF E-TENDER

e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/41/e-tendering, Dated: 01-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis in two cover system from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual Rate Contract and operation of the Booster Pump (Cylinder filling Station) at JLNM Rainawari, Srinagar	6.20	500	365	18/DHSK OF 2026 Dated:-30.06.2026	M&HDS/TS/31 OF 07/2026	5% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01.08.2026(18.00hrs)and can be downloaded from 01.08.2026 (18.00hrs)
- Uploading:- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 01.08.2026 (18.00hrs) to 14.08.2026 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 14.08.2026 at 15.00(hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/2702-06
Dated:01.08.2026

**DIPK-4049-26
DT: 03/08/2026**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL& HOSPITAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR (ERSTWHILE MECHANICAL HOSPITAL & CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospgr@jk.gov.in,

Sub:- 1.Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Hot and Cold Air Conditioning System for Newly Established Faculty Rooms at Government Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar.
2. Water proofing of Otis 20 Passenger (G+1) Lift pit area in old Block at Govt.Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar

Ref: - 1. This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/36/e-tendering, Dated: -21.07.2026.
2.This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/38/e-tendering, Dated:- 23.07.2026.

EXTENSION 01

In view of No/Poor response, the critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	08.08.2026 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	08.08.2026 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/2717-20
Date: - 03.08.2026

**DIPK-4032-26
DT: 03/08/2026**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

Auqib Nabi's Test Dream Began With Best Friend's Timely Intervention

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: When a teenage Auqib Nabi received an opportunity to attend a BCCI pace bowling camp where Australian great Glenn McGrath was to impart the finer nuances of fast bowling, he was in the middle of preparing for his Class 12 board examinations with bio-science as his chosen stream.

His father, Ghulam Nabi Dar, a school teacher who believed education came first, was firmly against the idea of his son putting studies on hold for cricket.

Dar eventually gave in, a decision that changed the course of Nabi's life. Nearly 13 years later, the right-arm pacer has created history by becoming the first cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to be named in India's Test squad, earning a call-up for the tour of Sri Lanka after a remarkable run in domestic cricket.

"His father was dead against him attending the camp organized by BCCI despite McGrath being the coach. He told me that

he should instead focus on studies and prepare for his medical entrance test. I had to convince him that Auqib can't miss this opportunity to train under McGrath," Zubair Dar, Nabi's first club captain, recollected the incident still etched in his memory.

A close friend of Nabi, Zubair gives a lot of credit to his father for understanding where his son's passion was.

"Once I was able to convince his dad, he said that he won't allow Auqib to travel by train from Srinagar to Chennai by train. He arranged for Rs 10,000, quite a sum for a government school teacher and told Auqib to take a flight. A few months back when Auqib got a record deal in IPL, his father recollected that how I had convinced him back then," Zubair said, a touch emotional as memories kept flooding in.

For Zubair, the best part about Auqib is that success and fame hasn't changed him one bit.

"He is a man who believes in minding his own business, talks



very less and hasn't changed one bit in all these years. Even before leaving for IPL camp, he suddenly dropped in at my residence. This is a result of his hardwork for all these years," Zubair said.

Hailing from Sheeri village, which is eight kilometres from

main Baramulla town, it was Auqib's simplicity that caught Zubair's attention.

"He was around 14 when he played for an opposition team against our club Baramulla Cricket Club (BCC). He bowled well and nearly won the match

for his team with a 50-run knock. I asked him after the match if he would like to join our club. He asked: 'Brother do I need to pay money to play?' I was bowled over by his innocence," Zubair laughed.

In fact, talking about Auqib,

Zubair is a treasure trove of stories.

"In Kashmir, at that time, there was only one turf wicket and that was in Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir stadium. We had a district match there and as we entered the stadium, Auqib said, 'brother I couldn't sleep the whole night thinking that I will play at Sher-e-Kashmir ground'," he remembered.

The start however couldn't have been more embarrassing. The first ball he bowled, he skidded on the popping crease and slid to the middle of the 22 yards. We all came running and saw he was wearing sneakers. He didn't know he had to wear bowling spikes. So our senior bowler at other end would complete his over and hand him his spikes."

That Auqib was simpleton to the point of being naive was understood that once he attended two separate camps organised by two warring JKCA factions in a single day.

"He first bowled at Shere-e-Kashmir in one of the faction's

camps. Then he went to University ground and bowled at the other faction's camp. When I came to know, I was terrified and asked him how could he do it. He said an official of one of the factions said, he could play Ranji Trophy. But that was Auqib and his innocence for you."

Zubair thanked former skipper Parvez Rasool and star India all-rounder Irfan Pathan for helping him a lot during formative years at first class level.

"Irfan sir had played a massive role in Auqib's rise and Parvez bhai when he was the captain at the beginning of his career gave him a lot of exposure," Zubair said.

However the kind of person Auqib is could be gauged by how he speaks about his peers.

"When he didn't make the squad for Afghanistan series, a lot of people around him asked why and he replied, 'Those who got chance to play are equally good. I will also get my chance'. That tells you about his attitude which always remains positive," Zubair concluded.

European Soccer Body UEFA Warns FIFA Of Legal Action Over Infantino's Failed WC Sell-Off Plan

AP

NYON: European soccer body UEFA has threatened FIFA with legal action over Gianni Infantino's failed plan to sell a stake in future World Cup profits to private investors, and said any potential evidence should not be destroyed.

Infantino's secretive proposal to raise \$4.2 billion from investors including the New York investment firm of Joshua Kushner was dropped early Saturday, days after the revelation in media reports provoked a global furor.

UEFA led the backlash and on Thursday its 55 member federations met to agree boycotting all FIFA events and competitions while the proposal was active.

Now lawyers for UEFA have informed FIFA that the European body is "actively considering legal action, arbitration, and/or regulatory complaints ... arising out of and in connection with the FFE (FIFA Forward



Enterprise) plan proposed by FIFA and all related matters."

The letter dated Friday from the legal firm Dechert in New York was seen Monday by The Associated Press.

The letter named 18 FIFA executives who it said should retain data, documents and electronic messages as potential evidence. They include Infantino, Zurich-based chief finance officer Thomas Peyer and Arsène Wenger, the coaching great who is FIFA's head of global soccer development.

"UEFA puts you on formal notice that any destruction, deletion, alteration, concealment, or loss of relevant materials following receipt of this notice — or following any earlier date on which you were, or reasonably should have been, aware that proceedings were anticipated — may constitute spoliation of evidence," the letter said.

Europe seeks rival candidate to lead FIFA The Swedish soccer federation confirmed Monday that UEFA is actively looking "to come up with an alternative candidate" as FIFA president. The next election is scheduled in March.

On Saturday, UEFA signaled it wants to end Infantino's decade-long presidency, saying he had lost the confidence of world soccer and that "no option should be off the table."

Hours earlier, Infantino had withdrawn the divisive proposal that offered FIFA's 211 member federations one-off payments of \$20 million each with a mid-September deadline to accept.

Years Of Struggle And Hard Work: Weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav On Commonwealth Games Success

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: Commonwealth Games silver medalist weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav on Monday recalled that overcoming menstrual cramps was the biggest challenge for her at the event, with her firm commitment to achieving the goal acting as her motivation.

Yadav said her next target is the Asian Games for which she had about a month to prepare.

She recalled the struggles of the years and kept reminding herself of the dream of her father, who pursued bodybuilding as a hobby, to bring glory to the country.

The 23-year-old from Rajnandgaon district in



Chhattisgarh won the silver medal in the women's 53 kg weightlifting in the just-concluded event in Glasgow.

On Monday, Yadav and her parents met Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at his official residence, where she was felicitated for bringing laurels to the country and her home state.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Yadav said her biggest challenge during the Common-

wealth Games was that it was the first day of her period (menstruation).

"I had trained under such conditions before, but had never competed on the first day of my periods. I kept telling myself to stay focused, and my family and coaches also kept assuring me that everything would be fine," she said.

Yadav said she performed with a calm mind, and after successfully completing her first lift, her confidence grew.

"I told myself that the pain was nothing compared to my goal, and that motivated me to clear all my lifts," she added.

Yadav noted that her success was the culmination of years of struggle shared by her family, coaches and the

people of Rajnandgaon.

"There is a lot of struggle behind every success. My parents struggled alongside me. I still remember my father pushing me on his bicycle to the gym every day. He had once told me that he could never make it to the national or international stage, but wanted me to achieve that dream and bring glory to the country," she said.

Earlier, the Chief Minister announced a reward of Rs 30 lakh for Yadav and granted her an out-of-turn promotion to the rank of deputy superintendent of police (DSP).

Reacting to the honour, the weightlifter said it would help her immensely to prepare for future competitions.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month

Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
5	3.0L
10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus

Corpus: ₹4.1L, Invested: ₹3.1L, Money grows to 1.4x (5 Years)

Corpus: ₹11.6L, Invested: ₹6.0L, Money grows to 2.9x (10 Years)

Corpus: ₹25.9L, Invested: ₹9.0L, Money grows to 4.3x (15 Years)

Corpus: ₹51.8L, Invested: ₹12.0L, Money grows to 6.5x (20 Years)

Corpus: ₹97.5L, Invested: ₹15.0L, Money grows to 10.5x (25 Years)

Corpus: ₹1.9Cr, Money grows to 10.5x (30 Years)

More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.

MI Securities - AMFI Registered Mutual Fund Distributor | ARN: 47504 | Contact: 9419006271