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J&K Marks Seven Years Since Article 370 Abrogation



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A was marked by protests, rallies and heightened security across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, as political parties reiterated sharply opposing positions on the Centre's 2019 decision.

The ruling National Conference (NC) and the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) held protests across Srinagar, Jammu and several district headquarters, reiterating their demand for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special constitutional status and statehood. The BJP, meanwhile, organised rallies across the Union Territory, describing the August 5, 2019 decision as a

historic milestone that integrated Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country.

In Srinagar, scores of NC leaders, legislators and workers, led by Education Minister Sakina Itoo, assembled at the party headquarters, Nawa-i-Subah, and attempted to take out a protest march. Carrying placards in support of Article 370 and the restoration of special status, the protesters were stopped by police from marching beyond the party office premises. Similar demonstrations were reported from several districts across the Union Territory.

"We demand that our special status and rights, which were snatched from us, be restored. Our party has been protesting peacefully for the restoration of our rights since | [More on P6](#)

Articles 370, 35A Became History, Marking A New Chapter: PM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in 2019 marked a "decisive new chapter" in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, asserting that the two Union Territories have witnessed wide-ranging transformation over the past seven years.

Marking the seventh anniversary of the Centre's decision to revoke the special constitutional status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said infrastructure had expanded and opportunities in education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports had grown significantly.

"Seven years ago, on this day, Articles 370 and 35(A) became history, marking a decisive new chapter in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh,"



the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

He said the full application of the Constitution of India had empowered sections of society that had been denied their constitutional rights for decades.

"Be it women or marginalised communities, those who were denied their basic constitutional rights for decades have been empowered thanks to the full application of the Constitution of India," Modi said.

Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the two Union Territories, the Prime Minister | [More on P6](#)

Aug 5 Marked Constitutional Correction, Ended Discrimination: LG

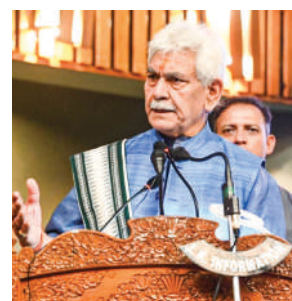
'Principle of 'One Nation, One Flag, One Constitution' fully implemented'

Hands over appointment letters to 37 terror victims' kin

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Terming August 5, 2019 a "constitutional correction" and a "new beginning" for Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A ended a discriminatory system in the region and laid the foundation for equal rights, development and peace.

Speaking at a function where he handed over appointment letters to 37 next of kin (NoKs) of civilians killed by terrorists, Sinha said the transformation witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir over the past seven years was rooted in the constitutional changes brought about on August 5, 2019.



"The transformation we witness today in Jammu Kashmir is due to the historic changes of August 5, 2019. That day marked a constitutional correction and a new beginning for the Union Territory. Discriminatory barriers were removed, equal rights were extended to those who were suffering due to discriminatory laws," he said. The Lieutenant Governor

said the full implementation of the Constitution had ensured "one nation, one flag, one Constitution" while upholding dignity, justice and equal opportunity for all citizens.

He said the administration had significantly weakened the terror ecosystem after the abrogation of Article 370 by strengthening law and order and creating opportunities for people to rebuild their lives.

"After August 5, 2019, we have dismantled the terror ecosystem to a large extent, strengthened law and order, restored equal rights and created opportunities that allow families to rebuild their lives with confidence," he said.

Sinha said marginalised communities, tribal groups, displaced | [More on P6](#)

Justice To Terror Victims' Families Is National Resolve: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said providing justice to families of civilians killed in terrorist violence reflects the nation's resolve to acknowledge their suffering and restore their dignity, as he handed over appointment letters to 37 next of kin (NoKs) of terror victims. Speaking at a function here, Sinha said the | [More on P6](#)

Cloudburst Hits Kulgam; MeT Forecasts More Rain

Agencies

Srinagar: Fresh spells of rain lashed several parts of Kashmir on Wednesday, while a cloudburst struck south Kashmir's Kulgam district, prompting authorities to issue alerts as the Meteorological Department forecast continued wet weather over the next week.

A cloudburst was reported from the Nagam area of D H Pora in Kulgam district, triggering a sudden surge in the water level of Namlan Nallah and other nearby streams. Officials said the situation was being closely monitored and there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage.

Residents living near streams, nallahs and other low-lying areas have been advised to remain vigilant amid the possibility of flash floods and waterlogging.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, light to moderate rainfall was recorded across parts of Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

'What is the Right Time?'

NC Asks Centre To Restore Statehood To J&K

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Conference (NC) on Wednesday sought to know from the Centre "the right time" to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying the promise made after the completion of delimitation and Assembly elections remained unfulfilled.

The remarks made by NC Rajya Sabha MP Shammi Oberoi came on the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

Talking to reporters after holding a protest march in which Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also joined in the Parliament House complex,



Oberoi said August 5 marked the day the erstwhile state was reorganised into a Union Territory and urged the Centre to honour its commitment.

"We have come here to demand the restoration of our special status and statehood.

You had said delimitation would take place, followed by elections, and then statehood would be granted. What happened to your promise? Please fulfil your promise," he said.

NC Rajya Sabha MP Chaudhary Ramzan | [More on P6](#)

Rahul Leads INDIA Bloc Protest in Parliament

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday led a joint protest by INDIA bloc parties in the

Parliament House complex, demanding the immediate restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Leaders and MPs of the INDIA alliance assembled with placards | [More on P6](#)

Our Wounds Have Not Healed: CM Omar

NC stages protests across J&K, questions delay in restoring statehood

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Centre's promise to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir remained unfulfilled seven years after the abrogation of Article 370, asserting that the National Conference (NC) would continue its constitutional and political struggle for the restoration of the region's rights.

Addressing reporters in Surankote, Poonch, Omar said the people had hoped the restoration of statehood would help address at least some of the grievances arising from the August 5, 2019 decision.

"Our wounds have not yet healed. We had hoped that some of the pain would be addressed and that the promise of restoring statehood would



be fulfilled. But today marks seven years since August 5, 2019, and that promise remains unfulfilled," he said.

The Chief Minister said the Centre had yet to honour its commitment and reiterated his government's stand on seeking justice through constitutional and democratic means.

"As we said while passing the resolution in the Assembly, we remain firm | [More on P6](#)

National Flag 'Insult' In Jammu

Complaint Filed Against Mehbooba Mufti

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A police complaint was filed in Jammu on Wednesday seeking legal action against PDP president Mehbooba Mufti for allegedly dishonouring the national flag during a protest in Srinagar a day earlier, an official said.

In the complaint filed at Pacca Danga police station, senior cardiologist and social activist Neeraj Sharma has urged the police to initiate proceedings under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, including the registration of an FIR, the official said.

Mehbooba, a former chief minister, was reportedly seen holding an inverted national flag during a sit-in outside the PDP office in Srinagar on Tuesday night to protest against the Centre's removal of Jammu and | [More on P6](#)

Relief, Rehabilitation Top Focus In Rain-Hit Areas: CM Says Landless Cloudburst Victims to Get 5-Marla Plots

Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday announced that families rendered landless by the recent cloudburst and flash floods in Poonch and Rajouri would be provided five-marla plots for resettlement, while indicating that the government is also considering a special relief package after assessing the full extent of the damage.

During a visit to the worst-hit areas of Poonch district, Abdullah said the government's immediate priority had shifted from rescue and recovery to relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

"Now the time has come for



rehabilitation and reconstruction. We have to rehabilitate those whose houses have been completely destroyed and assist those whose homes have suffered extensive damage," he said while interacting with affected families in Surankote.

The Chief Minister said a decision on a special package

would be taken after reviewing the damage in both Poonch and Rajouri districts.

"I will visit Rajouri tomorrow and thereafter review the overall situation in Srinagar. If a special relief package is required, we will certainly make the necessary arrangements," he said. | [More on P6](#)

HC Stays CAT Contempt Proceedings Against IUST VC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday stayed further contempt proceedings initiated by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) against the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, while directing the Tribunal to proceed with and decide the main Original Application (OA) on merits.

A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice

Mohd Yousuf Wani issued notice in the petition filed by the IUST Vice Chancellor challenging the contempt proceedings.

The court ordered that further proceedings in the contempt petition shall remain stayed until the next hearing. However, it observed that the Tribunal should consider and dispose of the main Original Application finally.

The matter has been listed for hearing on September 7.

The Court's order comes days after the Central Administrative Tribunal directed the personal appearance of | [More on P6](#)



₹1.6 Crore Digital Arrest Scam

Pulwama Firm Owner Chargesheeted

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against a Pulwama-based businessman and a Deputy Manager of Axis Bank in connection with a 1.6 crore "digital arrest" scam in which a senior citizen from Delhi was allegedly duped by fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials.

The accused have been identified as Umer Iqbal, proprietor of M/s Himalayan Enterprises in Pulwama, and Umer Ahmad Dar, Deputy Manager at Axis Bank.

According to the CBI, the

victim was coerced into transferring 1.6 crore after receiving video calls from fraudsters impersonating police and judicial authorities, who falsely claimed she was under investigation and placed under a so-called "digital arrest."

The case was transferred to the CBI by the Supreme Court from the Delhi Police and was registered by the agency in January 2026.

During the investigation, the CBI arrested the proprietor of the Pulwama-based firm after finding that the firm's current account had been used to receive the | [More on P6](#)



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2

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,

Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir

MESSAGE FOR FARMERS

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch Nos of pesticide product in their fields, which has been declared as Misbranded by the Quality Control Laboratory Lalmandi Srinagar
The detail of Misbranded Pesticide product is as under:-

S.No	Name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of expiry	Manufactured/Marketed by
1	Chlorophos	Chlorpyrifos 20% EC	C0426SB	15.04.2026	14.04.2028	Monsut Chemicals Industries Pvt Ltd

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch Nos: **C0426SB** proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Deputy Director Law Enforcement
Kashmir

DIPK-4144/26
dated: 05-08-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,

Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir

MESSAGE FOR FARMERS

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

declared as Misbranded by the Quality Control Laboratory Lalmandi Srinagar.

The detail of Misbranded Pesticide product is as under:-

S.No	Name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of Expiry	Manufactured/Marketed by
1	Prozeb	Hexaconazole 4% & Zineb 68% WP	GB0526ZH/01	20.05.2026	19.05.2028	M/S Agrocest Chemicals Pvt Ltd
2	Sybuconazole	Tebuconazole 38.39 % SC	PCS/F15-26/01	26.06.2026	25.06.2028	M/S Prism Crop Sciences Pvt Ltd

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch Nos: **GB0526ZH/01** and **PCS/F15-26/01** proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Deputy Director Law Enforcement
Kashmir

DIPK-4143/26
dated: 05-08-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,

Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir

MESSAGE FOR FARMERS

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch Nos of pesticide product in their fields, which has been declared as Misbranded by the Regional Pesticide Laboratory Chandigarh.
The detail of Misbranded Pesticide product is as under:-

S. No	Name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of Expiry	Manufactured/Marketed by
1	Padgham	Thiamethoxam 12.6%+ Lambdacyhalothrin 9.5% ZC	DCPM191	20.12.2025	19.12.2027	Dharmaj Cropguard Ltd.

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch No: **DCPM191** proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Deputy Director Law Enforcement
Kashmir

DIPK-4145/26
dated: 05-08-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name has been wrongly spelled in the appointment order as Noor Mohmad Masoodi instead of Noor Mohd Masoodi. This has necessitated a rectification in my official records. By this notice, the general public is informed to file their objections, if any, in the office of the Zonal Education Office Kunzer District Baramulla within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after seven days.
Bilal Ahmad Masoodi
S/O Noor Mohd Masoodi
R/O Reram Kunzer
Cell No. 9906487727

fko

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI**
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of **TAHIR AHMAD LONE S/O NAZIR AHMAD LONE R/O THINDIMA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla** having verified the date of Birth as 11/08/2008 event has been shown to be occurred at this Home for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/ her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI

fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject Application of Sakib Rashid & Fozia Rashid S/D/o Abdul Rashid Hajam R/o Dolipora Tehsil Kreeri for issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favor of Self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwai halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant In currently residing In village Dolipora and belongs to the Hajam Community having annual Income of Rs 274000 (Two Lack Seventy Four Thousand Rupees) The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No	Name of the family Member	Relation	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Ab Rashid Hajiam	Father	53	Labour	274000
2	Saleema Begum	Mother	46	H/W	
03	Sakib Rashid	Applicant	11	Student	
4	Fozia Rashid	Applicant	21	--	
5	Gh Mohd Hajam	Uncle	56	--	

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

fko

Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shamima Begum, W/o Nazir Ahmad Lone, R/o Marchipora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, hereby declare that my Date of Birth has been incorrectly recorded as 01-01-1984 in my Aadhaar record. My correct Date of Birth is 28-07-1971 as per my Age Certificate. I intend to correct my Date of Birth in the concerned records from 01-01-1984 to 28-07-1971. If any person has any objection to this correction, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the stipulated period. Otherwise, the correction shall be treated as genuine and valid.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aatif Sheeraz Shah S/o of Army No JC 812713Y Rank Sub Sheeraz Ahmad Shah permanent resident of Kahrote, p/o Kulgam Distt Kulgam J&K, UT (Pin Code 192231), presently posted at No 5Det WCIB c/o 56 Apo, do hereby affirm and state on oath as follows:-

That I have change my name from Aatif Sheeraz Shah to Aatif Sheeraz due to inclusion/deletion of full name in my father service document.
That I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidencet for my name.
That both the names Aatif Sheeraz Shah to Aatif Sheeraz pertains to one and the same person.
That I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all Occasions what so ever be Known as Aatif Sheeraz.
That what is stated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, nothing material has been concealed there from.



fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khalid nazir S/o Nazir ah wani R/o Tantrapora Palhallan, have misplaced the number plate of my car bearing Registration No. JK05N-8500 while travelling from Palhallan To hyderabadh . I am applying for a duplicate number plate from the concerned authorities. Any person having objection may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

fko

Scooty Owner : Khalid nazir
Vehicle Number Plate: JK05N-8500

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Yasir Ahmad Ganie s/o Abdul Ahad Ganie R/o Sariwarpora Tehsil Pattan. The date of birth as per school record is 16/03/2013 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death...

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar Death BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to death of Khatija Begum w/o Abdul Rehman Gojree R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of death 06/05/2025 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he/ she may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

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

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

Public Notice

The registrar Births and Deaths BDO Pattan has submitted case file pertaining to birth of Aazim Hilal Bhat S/o Hilal Ahmad Bhat R/o Tilgam Tehsil Pattan Distt Baramulla having verified the date of birth as 05-09-2013 and the event has been shown to be occurred at Home . In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained

fko

Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and parentage have been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 971546308500 as Mohammad Abbsas Naik S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Naik, whereas my correct name and parentage, as per my Domicile Certificate, are Mohd Abas Naik S/o Mohd Youqub Naik.
Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre, Jammu/Srinagar, within seven days. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
Mohd Abas Naik
S/o Mohd Youqub Naik
R/O 072 Ray Rai, Tehsil & District Shopian.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the father's name recorded in the Aadhar Card and previous Birth Certificates of Daanya, D/o Tanveer Ahmad, Admission No. 0020, Class 9th (Tulip), D.O.B. 02-03-2012, and Abdullah, S/o Tanveer Ahmad, Admission No. 0954, Class 7th (Pansy), D.O.B. 09-01-2014, studying at G.D. Goenka Public School, was inadvertently recorded as "Tanveer Ahmad Bhat" instead of correct name "Tanveer Ahmad".
The necessary correction has been made in the updated Birth Certificates. If anybody has any objection regarding the said correction, he/she may file the same within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that nobody has any objection and the records shall be treated accordingly.

ird

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Subeena Kousar, W/o Nasir Ahmad Lone, R/o Hanjiwera, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. [Aadhaar Redacted] as Sabeena Kousar instead of my correct name Subeena Kousar.
I have applied for the correction of the same. If any person has any objection, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre / Government Ranbir Press, Jammu, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

bmrg

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my Daughter bearing No 604644105949 the name is entered as Aizaan Altaf while her actual name is Azaan Gulzar Beigh. 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.
Gulzar Ahmad Beigh
F/O Azaan Gulzar Beigh
R/o Kadipora Budgam

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my Daughter bearing No 806042857389 the name is entered as Mayara while her actual name is Mahira. 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.
Gulshan Bano
M/O Mahira
R/o Braman Rohama Baramulla

fko

**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-01 20240006628 issued in favour of ARSALAN AMIN BABA Parentage MOHAMAD AMIN BABA
Whereas an application has been received by one ARSALAN AMIN BABA Parentage MOHAMAD AMIN BABA wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as ARSLAN AMIN BABA Which needs to be changed as ARSALAN AMIN BABA.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Regional Transport officer
Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Rasool Dar, hereby inform the general public that the particulars of my ward Anousha Rasool have been wrongly recorded in her school records/certificates.

The incorrect and correct particulars are as follows:

Incorrect	Correct
Father's Name: Ghulam Rasool Dar	Father's Name: Gh. Rasool Dar
Mother's Name: Rukhsana	Mother's Name: Rukhsana Bano
Student's Name: Anusha Rasool	Anousha Rasool

The above corrections are being made as per the relevant records, and an application has been submitted to the concerned authorities for rectification of the school records.

If any person has any objection to the above corrections, he/she may submit the same in writing before the concerned authority within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-

Ghulam Rasool Dar

bmrg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name and parentage of my daughter has been wrongly written in her school records as Azmat Rasheed d/o Abdul Rasheed Bhat while her correct name and parentage IS Azmat Rashid D/O Abdul Rashid Bhat. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Govt Girls Middle School Wanigam Payeen within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul Rashid Bhat
F/o Azmat Rashid

fko

اطلاع عام

میری بیوی کی معلومات غلط ہوئی ہے اب اس کی ڈیٹ کی تصحیح کی ضرورت ہے۔ اگر کسی کوئی اعتراض ہو تو سات دنوں کے اندر اپنا اعتراض گورنمنٹ ہل سکول خوش پورہ HMT سرینگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ مبادا کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

TASEERAT D/O GHULAM HUSSAIN SHEIKH
R/O KHUSHIPORA HMT SRINGAR

MBC

نايب تھسليدار

SS

JKAACL Pays Tribute to Eminent Punjabi Writers at Seminar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a One-Day Punjabi Seminar at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, Srinagar, to pay tribute to six eminent deceased Punjabi writers of Jammu & Kashmir whose remarkable literary contributions have significantly enriched Punjabi language and literature.

The programme commenced with a two-minute silence to mourn the sad demise of S. Niranjan Singh, Principal, Gamraj, Tral, a respected educationist. The participants paid heartfelt tributes and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The dignitaries present on the dais included Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; Lal Chand, Additional Secretary, JKAACL; Ajit Singh Mastana; Dr. Sukhvinder Singh; Dalbir Singh Sodhi; and Popinder Singh Paras, Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi.

The seminar commemorated the literary legacy of Kanwal Kashmiri, Saran Singh, Ichhupal, Harmohinder Singh Harji, Mohinder Singh Rikhi and R. S. Bali. Scholarly papers on their lives, works and literary contributions were

presented by Rattan Singh Kanwal, Mangat Singh Jugnu, R. S. Rajan, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh, Dr. Satwant Singh and Joginder Singh Shan. The speakers highlighted the invaluable contribution of these distinguished writers to Punjabi literature and their lasting relevance in the literary and cultural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

In her welcome address, Harvinder Kour emphasised the need to preserve, promote and strengthen Punjabi language and literature. She called upon Punjabi literary organisations, Khalsa Schools and cultural institutions to work collectively towards the growth and development of Punjabi language and its rich literary heritage.

Ajit Singh Mastana delivered the keynote address and highlighted the literary legacy and contribution of the writers being commemorated.

Dalbir Singh Sodhi delivered a special lecture on the seminar theme, while Dr. Sukhvinder Singh spoke in detail about the literary contribution of R. S. Bali and appreciated the Academy's efforts in organising meaningful programmes aimed at preserving and promoting Punjabi literary heritage.

Apni Party Presses Centre for Statehood, Enhanced Domicile Protection

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apni Party Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir on Wednesday said that the party wants the "Centre to initiate a meaningful dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, to address their issues and grievances." He also urged the Government of India (GoI) to "restore the rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He said that the youth feel "insecure and helpless", and therefore a meaningful dialogue is essential to bridge the trust deficit.

Mir made these remarks while addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in Srinagar.

He said, "Today, on the seventh anniversary of the events of August 5, 2019, Apni Party passed a resolution at every district headquarters demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and other constitutional rights. On this day in 2019, the Centre took away our rights and dignity. Apni Party will continue to strive for the restoration of all the rights that existed prior to August 5, 2019, including Articles 370 and 35A."

He further said, "We demand that the Centre immediately restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, as promised by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Home Minister on the floor of the House."



BJP members and supporters participate in a Tiranga motorcycle rally in Srinagar on August 5, 2026, marking the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

SKUAST-K Launches Advanced Training to Strengthen J&K's Soil Conservation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), through its Directorate of Extension, on Wednesday launched a month-long advanced training programme on "Soil/Silt Testing and Sediment Monitoring in Soil Conservation" to enhance the technical capacity of officials from the Jammu & Kashmir Department of Soil and Water Conservation in scientific soil analysis, watershed management and climate-resilient land resource management.

The programme has brought together 10 departmental officials for intensive training, combining classroom lectures, laboratory demonstrations, field-based practicals and hands-on sessions. The training is being delivered by experts from the Division of Soil Science and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, SKUAST-K.

Inaugurating the programme, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, said healthy soils form the foundation of sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, food security and the promotion of natural and organic farming. She emphasised that scientific soil and silt testing, coupled with sediment monitoring, is critical for soil health management, watershed

conservation and judicious nutrient management. Stressing the importance of continuous capacity building, she said such programmes equip field functionaries with modern sci-

draulic conductivity, contour farming, water harvesting, and the use of modern instruments for soil and sediment monitoring. A strong emphasis has been placed on laboratory



entific knowledge and practical skills to strengthen soil and water conservation, enhance climate resilience and promote sustainable agricultural practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

The comprehensive curriculum covers soil sampling and laboratory analysis, soil physical and chemical properties, soil moisture measurement, organic carbon estimation, soil erosion assessment, runoff measurement, sediment sampling and monitoring techniques, watershed management, infiltration studies, hy-

drolic conductivity, contour farming, water harvesting, and the use of modern instruments for soil and sediment monitoring. A strong emphasis has been placed on laboratory

exercises and field demonstrations to ensure participants acquire hands-on expertise in contemporary soil conservation methodologies. The programme is being coordinated by Prof. S. K. Raina, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat and Prof. Lyaqat Choudhary. By bringing together expertise from multiple disciplines, the initiative is expected to significantly strengthen the technical capabilities of field officials and contribute to more effective soil and water conservation practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

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QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
22 Safar
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 10
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5: 30
Magrib	7: 32
ISHA	9: 03

This Day In History

- 939- Battle at Simancas - Spain beats Moors
- 1726 - Treaty of Alliance between the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI and the Russian Empire signed at Vienna
- 1824 - Battle at Junan - Simon Bolívar's army defeats the Spanish
- 1825 - Bolivia gains independence from Peru (National Day)
- 1861 - The British annex Lagos, Nigeria
- 1870 - Battle at Spicheren: Prussia beats France
- 1896- France annexes Madagascar
- 1914- WWI: Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia
- 1914 - WWI: Serbia declares war against Germany

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he has lost his University Certificate and has applied for issuance of Duplicate Certificate:-

Name: Akar Ashraf Wani, Parentage: Mohd Ashraf Wani, Residence: Zakura, Baramulla, Registration No: 17827-AC-93, Certificate lost: B.Com 2nd Year, Roll No: 17432, Session Year 2004.

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
Assistant Controller of Examination (P&UG/Prof.)

NOTICE

I hereby state that, due to an inadvertent error, my particulars in my service book have been recorded as **Miss Urvashi Koul, D/o Late Shri Shibhen Kishan** instead of the correct particulars, **Urvashi Koul, D/o Late Shri Shibhen Lal Koul**. I wish to have the above particulars corrected accordingly.

If any person has any objection to this correction, they may contact the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the expiry of the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Contact Number - 9149473343

OFFICE OF THE AFTAB AHMAD
ADVOCATE J&K HIGH COURT SRINAGAR
BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE SRINAGAR

Caveat No. ____/2026

In the Case of:-Ghulam Mohammad DarS/o Gh Qadir DarR/o Mominabad Batamaloo Srinagar, (Caveator)

VERSUS
Public at Large

(Non-Caveators)
IN THE MATTER OF: CAVEAT Under Section 148-A of CPC.
May it please your Honour,
The Caveator most respectfully submit as under: -
That the Caveator/ Applicant is permanent resident of UT of J&K and has every right to invoke the Jurisdiction of this Hon'ble court for the redressal of his legal rights.
That the Caveator has applied for building permission before Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the year 2025. And the caveator has every apprehension that the non-Caveators may file appeal or any other proceedings before this Hon'ble court against the order dated: - SMC/2025/3558 dated: - 23-09-2025 issued on 27-07-2026 the copy of order dated 27-07-2026 is enclosed as Annexure I
That the Caveator may be given opportunity of being heard before passing any order or direction and no order / direction be passed in- exparte which will prejudice to the rights of the Caveator.
That the Caveator is not sure as to whom file any proceedings before this Hon'ble court as such the Caveator has already published in newspaper. Copy of the same is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE-II.
That this caveat petition is supported by an affidavit.
In the premises, it is, therefore, prayed this Hon'ble court may be pleased, that before passing any ex-Parte order or direction the Caveator or his counsel may be given opportunity of being heard and no order/direction may be passed in exparte, the same would be in the ends of justice.
Place: Srinagar.
Dated: 31.07. 2026

Caveator/Petitioner through counsel.
Aftab Ahmad Advocate
J&K High Court
Cell No. 7780952895

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE BUDGAM (KMR)

Provisional Selection List -Round 2nd

Subject:- Round 2nd Provisional Selection list for Admission session 2026-27/28.

The Round 2nd selection list of candidates provisionally selected for admission in different trades at ITI Budgam has been issued by Directorate of Skill Development. The selection is subject to the verification of following documents in original.

(1) Marks Certificate.
(2) Discharge Certificate from the institute last attended.
(3) Date of Birth Certificate.
(4) Domicile Certificate.

The detailed provisional Selection list is available at the Institute. The candidates figuring under select category are informed to complete their admission formalities at the training section of ITI Budgam by or before 14.08.2026, as after expiry of last date operation of said provisional selection list shall cease to operate.
For any query please contact: 7006683392, 7006049446

DIPK-4160/26
Dated: 05-08-2026

No: ITI/Bdg/2026/330-40

Principal
Govt. Industrial Training Institute, Budgam
(Skill Development Department)

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In double cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) Basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in E-Chal-Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Supply, fixing, testing and commissioning of wall mount Split AC's in Automation Section at Examination Block, Main Campus, University of Kashmir	4.32 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.8,640/-	08/08/2026 to 17/08/2026 (4:30 PM)	18/08/2026 (2:30 PM)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: F(E.Tend)/(S/F/T/C AC Auto. Sec.)(UCD)/KU/13/26
DIPK-NB-1311/26
DATED: 05/08/2026

Executive Engineer

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
Indeed, we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return.

FATEHA KHAWANI
OF
HALIMA BANO
W/O GUL MOHAMMAD GANAI
RESIDENT OF SAKINAR REHILONE TARBAL EIGAH

Ijtemai Fateha Khawani will be held as per the details below:

VENUE	TIME	DAY & DATE
WANIYAR GRAVEYARD	10:00 AM	THURSDAY 06.08.2026

May Allah (SWT) accept the fateha and grant maghfirah to the departed soul and give sabr to all of us.

- FROM ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date **27.08.2026 at 15:00 Hrs** only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & Time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
02-TRD-JAT-2026-27	Miscellaneous work to improve Reliability of PSI Assets under jurisdiction of ADEE/TRD/PTKC.	73,73,008.70	NIL	Up to 27.08.2026 15:00 Hrs.	1,47,500/-	Three (03) Months	27.08.2026 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & Invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 02-TRD-JAT-2026-27 Dated: 04.08.2026

2693/2026

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Empty Chairs

A hospital ward without a doctor looks fine until a patient needs help. A classroom without a teacher still has desks and a blackboard, while a road without an engineer's inspection still carries cars.

That is the trick with vacant government posts: the damage remains hidden until someone actually needs the service.

So when Jammu and Kashmir announces a fresh round of hiring, the right response is a question: why did it take this long?

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board lately advertised 518 posts. Four hundred twenty-one sit in the Health and Medical Education Department. The rest are split among Higher Education, Agriculture Production and Labour and Employment.

Big numbers, sure, but big numbers after a long gap tell you something too: these jobs sat open for a while before anyone filled them.

Look at health care first. Government Medical College Srinagar just got approval to raise its MBBS intake from 200 seats to 250. That's good news for the future doctor supply, but hospitals don't run on doctors alone.

Nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians and admin staff keep a hospital moving between one diagnosis and the next. A new building with fancy equipment does nothing without the people to operate it.

Schools face the same problem in a subtle way.

An unfilled teaching post means the remaining staff take on extra sections, students lose subject options and everyone gets less individual attention.

None of this shows up right away. It builds slowly, month after month, until it finally shows up in test scores and how ready students are for college.

By then it's hard to trace the failure back to a single empty desk in the staff room.

Roads, bridges, drainage systems and water projects depend on engineers who are actually in the office. When those seats sit empty, small problems go unnoticed until they turn into expensive ones.

Towns keep growing, which means municipal staff still have to manage sanitation, garbage collection, street lights and building permits.

You can't grow a city responsibly while leaving the offices that oversee that growth short-staffed.

None of this is an argument against the current hiring push. It's a case for something simpler: tell the public how many posts are sanctioned, how many are filled and when the rest will be. Publish it on a schedule people can check.

Officials who put out real vacancy numbers invite comparison between what they promised and what they delivered. That type of accountability builds public trust far better than an occasional burst of recruitment notices.

Filling 518 posts is a start, not a finish line. Plenty of positions across health, education, agriculture and city administration are still open, and each one means a citizen somewhere is going without a service that job was created to provide.

Institutions run on people instead of blueprints or budget lines.

Kashmir's government just proved it can announce hiring. Now it needs to prove it can keep hiring, way before the next batch of empty chairs starts costing patients, students and commuters more than any one planned for.



Irshad Mushtaq



The union territory stands at a genuine juncture. It can treat central funding as permission to avoid hard choices about its own revenue base, or it can treat that funding as leverage to build institutions capable of standing on their own.

The Grant Economy

New Delhi keeps writing the cheques for Jammu and Kashmir, but nobody is checking whether the money works.

Jammu and Kashmir's budget for 2026-27 lands at roughly 1,13,767 crore, a sum large enough to fund highways, hospitals and welfare rolls throughout two regions still recovering from floods and years of political upheaval.

Most of that money comes from New Delhi, through tax devolution, grants-in-aid, centrally sponsored schemes and fifty-year interest-free loans under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment program.

The Union Territory's own tax and non-tax income totals about 31,800 crore rupees, a fraction of what the budget actually spends.

This is a story about dependence rather than generosity, where reliable funding dulled the instinct to ask whether it was well spent.

Officials project gross domestic product for the union territory will climb to about 3,15,822 crore rupees next year, a nominal growth figure near 9.5 percent and an overall expansion close to 11 percent.

Those numbers sound impressive until you notice what is missing: no stated inflation assumption, no breakdown of which sectors, agriculture, industry or services, will drive the expansion, and no accounting for how much of the projected growth depends on public spending versus private investment.

Tourism, horticulture and agriculture all took hits from recent flooding. Claiming double-digit growth without explaining the math behind it asks residents, investors and lawmakers to accept the projection on faith.

But fiscal planning needs more than faith.

The deficit tells a similar story.

The region expects a fiscal deficit near 3.69 percent of gross domestic product this year, up slightly from 3.63 percent in the revised estimate for last year.

Salaries, pensions and debt servicing consume a large share of spending, leaving little room for anything else. Own revenue covers only a sliver of total expenditure.

None of this is unusual for a developing territory with difficult terrain and a thin industrial base. But what is unusual is the absence of any published plan for closing the gap.

A medium-term roadmap, three to five years, laying out targets for raising local revenue and cutting non-productive spending, would tell citizens whether central support functions as a bridge toward independence or as a permanent crutch.

Welfare spending earns credit before it earns scrutiny.

The budget provides six free cooking gas cylinders a year to households under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana program, fee waivers for those same households' children from class nine through undergraduate study, free bus travel for women that



Salaries, pensions and debt servicing consume a large share of spending, leaving little room for anything else. Own revenue covers only a sliver of total expenditure.

now extends to people with disabilities, and monthly stipends of 4,000 rupees for six thousand orphaned children, paid directly into their accounts.

These programs can pull families back from the edge, but nobody has publicly totaled their cost by district, scheme or source.

Without that accounting, taxpayers cannot know whether Kashmir's own revenue funds these programs or whether New Delhi covers the entire bill. And without outcome data, tracking whether children actually stay in school or whether disabled residents actually gain mobility, lawmakers cannot tell success from good intentions.

Capital spending raises the same concern at a larger scale.

Roads, bridges, power systems and irrigation projects funded through the capital investment scheme will lift the territory's productive capacity for decades. But interest-free loans still come due, and the power sector already leans on repeated fiscal rescues to cover structural losses.

A public accounting of long-term debt obligations, including the repayment schedule for capital investment loans and projected future costs in pensions and power, would let today's builders plan for tomorrow's bill instead of leaving it for the next administration to discover.

None of this amounts to an argu-

ment against central support.

New Delhi's commitment gives Kashmir something few conflict-scarred regions ever get: money without conditions attached to political loyalty, spent on roads and hospitals rather than security operations.

That commitment earns a response equal to its scale, one built on independent audits of major schemes published in language ordinary citizens can follow, public dashboards that track targets against results in health, education, agriculture and tourism, and cost-benefit analysis applied before large, recurring commitments get locked in.

The union territory stands at a genuine juncture. It can treat central funding as permission to avoid hard choices about its own revenue base, or it can treat that funding as leverage to build institutions capable of standing on their own.

The first path produces a budget that looks generous on paper and answers to nobody, but the second produces a government that people can actually trust, because they can see where the money goes and what it buys.

Kashmir already has the resources it needs. What remains is the discipline to show its work.

The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator.

The 100-Yard Failure

Easy access to tobacco near schools weakens one of India's simplest public health protections.



Muhammad Hamza Shah

Before Kashmir talks about winning the battle against addiction, it should start by enforcing one law that already exists.

Tobacco vendors continue to sell cigarettes and other nicotine products within walking distance of schools and colleges, even though the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, bars such sales within 100 yards of educational institutions.

That disparity between law and practice has become one of the valley's most visible regulatory failures. And its consequences reach far beyond smoking.

Tobacco damages the body through several routes. Smoking harms almost every organ, while smokeless tobacco raises the likelihood of oral cancers and gum disease. Both forms contain nicotine in quantities that make addiction exceptionally difficult to break.

Kashmir has reached a point where addiction has blended into ordinary public life. Ask random men for a lighter or a matchbox in a busy market, and roughly one in six can produce one.

That simple observation captures the

scale of nicotine dependence more clearly than any official report.

Adults struggling to quit need support, although public policy earns its greatest success by stopping addiction before it begins.

Young people face the greatest risk because tobacco often becomes the first encounter with nicotine.

Scientists have shown that nicotine alters the brain's reward pathways, increasing the likelihood that users experiment with other addictive substances.

A cigarette handed to a teenager therefore becomes far more than a single purchase. It opens the door to a much larger public health problem.

School surroundings should block that first step, but Kashmir frequently does the opposite.

Tobacco shops stand a few steps outside school gates. Students leave class, cross the road and find cigarettes within immediate reach.

Peer pressure, curiosity and the desire to fit into a social circle already push adolescents toward risky decisions. Easy availability completes the equation.

Government has allowed convenience to become addiction's strongest ally.

The law leaves little room for confusion. Section 6(a) of COTPA prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone below 18 years of age. Section 6(b) prohibits tobacco sales within 100 yards of educational institutions. Those provisions face routine violation.

Students wearing school uniforms continue to purchase cigarettes from nearby vendors without serious resistance. University campuses present an equally troubling picture.



Shops outside campus gates pair cigarettes with tea, extend informal credit accounts to students and, in some places, become gathering spots where faculty members and students smoke together.

That culture erases the distinction between education and addiction.

Fresh legislation would solve nothing because the legal framework already exists. Section 4 of COTPA also prohibits smoking in public places, complementing the ban on tobacco sales around educational institutions.

Together, those provisions create smoke-

free campuses surrounded by sale-free zones. Authorities therefore possess the legal tools they need, but enforcement remains the missing ingredient.

Government should stop treating enforcement as an occasional campaign and begin treating it as routine administration. Vendors need clear awareness programmes explaining the 100-yard restriction because many remain unfamiliar with the law.

Educational institutions should display mandatory Tobacco-Free Educational Institution signs at entrances and boundary walls,

making the prohibition visible to students, parents and shopkeepers alike.

Police, district administrations and health authorities should then enforce the law with regular inspections rather than symbolic drives.

Critics may dismiss the Rs 200 penalty under COTPA as too small to influence behaviour, but repeated fines tell a different story.

Regular enforcement quickly turns minor penalties into meaningful financial consequences.

Those collections also generate revenue that can support additional awareness campaigns, creating a system that strengthens itself instead of demanding fresh public spending.

Kashmir often speaks about protecting young people from addiction after dependence has taken hold. That approach guarantees permanent catch-up.

Prevention begins outside the school gate, where the state's authority should stand before the cigarette seller does.

COTPA has been in place for more than two decades. Kashmir does not need another committee, awareness campaign or official statement. It needs the law to be enforced, every day and everywhere.

The question is no longer what the law says. The question is why Kashmir continues to tolerate its open violation without consequence.

The author writes on politics, governance, public policy, and social issues, and can be reached at hamzashah1007@gmail.com.

The End of Kashmir's Common Time

The valley's sirens and cannon fire once disciplined an entire community's day, and today's devices measure seconds while leaving people more lost than ever.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

Ask anyone in Srinagar how the week went, and the complaint comes back almost on cue: there was no time.

Money got chased, careers got built, and children got left waiting on porches for parents who promised ten more minutes.

The confession repeats itself house after house, and it should trouble us more than it does.

Kashmiris now own more devices for measuring time than any generation before them, and somehow they command less of it.

Phones buzz with the hour, smartwatches vibrate alerts, dashboards glow, and microwaves blink. Some devices display the hour in cities half the globe away, as if underscoring how far behind the valley has fallen.

The irony sits there plainly: the more timepieces this generation owns, the less respect it seems to show time itself.

It was not always like this. Decades ago, Srinagar's day had its own discipline, built and enforced in public. A siren opened office hours in the morning and closed them in the evening.

Before sirens spread through the valley, a cannon fired at fixed hours, telling the city that another slice of

the day had passed.

These signals belonged to everyone, heard by shopkeepers, students, and grandmothers alike, tying an entire city to one clock.

A wristwatch back then was rare and something close to sacred. Grooms received them as the finest gift a wedding could give, and brands like Favre Leuba and Seiko worked less as fashion than as proof of punctuality.

Owning the hour meant something.

The comedy hiding inside that reverence tells its own story.

A relative of mine once wore his gifted watch on his left wrist like a badge, proud of the hour strapped to his skin, though he could barely read the dial.

One morning, walking toward his shop, he passed a father hurrying his son to school. The father called out, asking the time. He kept walking, and the reason had nothing to do with arrogance.

It had everything to do with an inconvenient truth, since the watch decorated his wrist without ever teaching him to read it.

The father caught up and asked again. This time the man raised his wrist to his eyes, studied the dial with real seriousness, and answered, "See for yourself."

The father peered at the watch and confessed, with equal seriousness, that he could not read it either.

Two respected men stood on a public road, one wearing time and the other hunting for it, while the actual hour slid past both of them without apology.

The valley's most memorable timekeeper, though, may have been a hakeem whose lane still bears his name, decades after his death.

Back then, a hakeem worked as a doctor, a counsellor, and, when convenient, the neighbourhood's public clock.



THE MEDIEVAL SCHOLAR IMAM RAZI COMPARED TIME TO A BLOCK OF ICE ON A VENDOR'S CART, melting by the second while the vendor cried out that his wealth was disappearing and begged passersby to buy it before it was gone. Kashmiris today do not even attempt that sale.

Asked for the time one afternoon, he answered without hesitation that he had forgotten his watch beside his pillow. People slept with their watches close, back then, as

though the hour might wander off unattended during the night.

That evening the human clock returned home hungry and asked his wife for dinner. She looked confused

and reminded him that she had already sent him a fine lunch of chicken korma that afternoon.

He insisted he had received no meal and sent no messenger. She

explained that a man had come by, said the hakeem had guests, and asked for a proper lunch.

He mentioned, too, that the hakeem had left his watch beside the pillow, so she packed both the meal and the watch into a new copper container and handed them over.

Time, in that household, got eaten, digested, and thoroughly enjoyed by a stranger with a convincing story.

These stories read like comedy, and they are, but the deeper joke is on us.

People then wore time without truly possessing it, and still the valley ran on a shared clock, the cannon and the siren enforcing one hour for everyone.

Today the hour is more accurate, more available, and more personal, and that personalization is exactly the problem.

A phone shows the correct minute to a person scrolling past a child asking for attention. A dashboard clock ticks precisely while a parent misses a school event three streets away.

Precision has multiplied, but communal time, the one that once tied a whole city to one sound, has nearly vanished.

The medieval scholar Imam Razi compared time to a block of ice on a vendor's cart, melting by the second while the vendor cried out that his wealth was disappearing and begged passersby to buy it before it was gone.

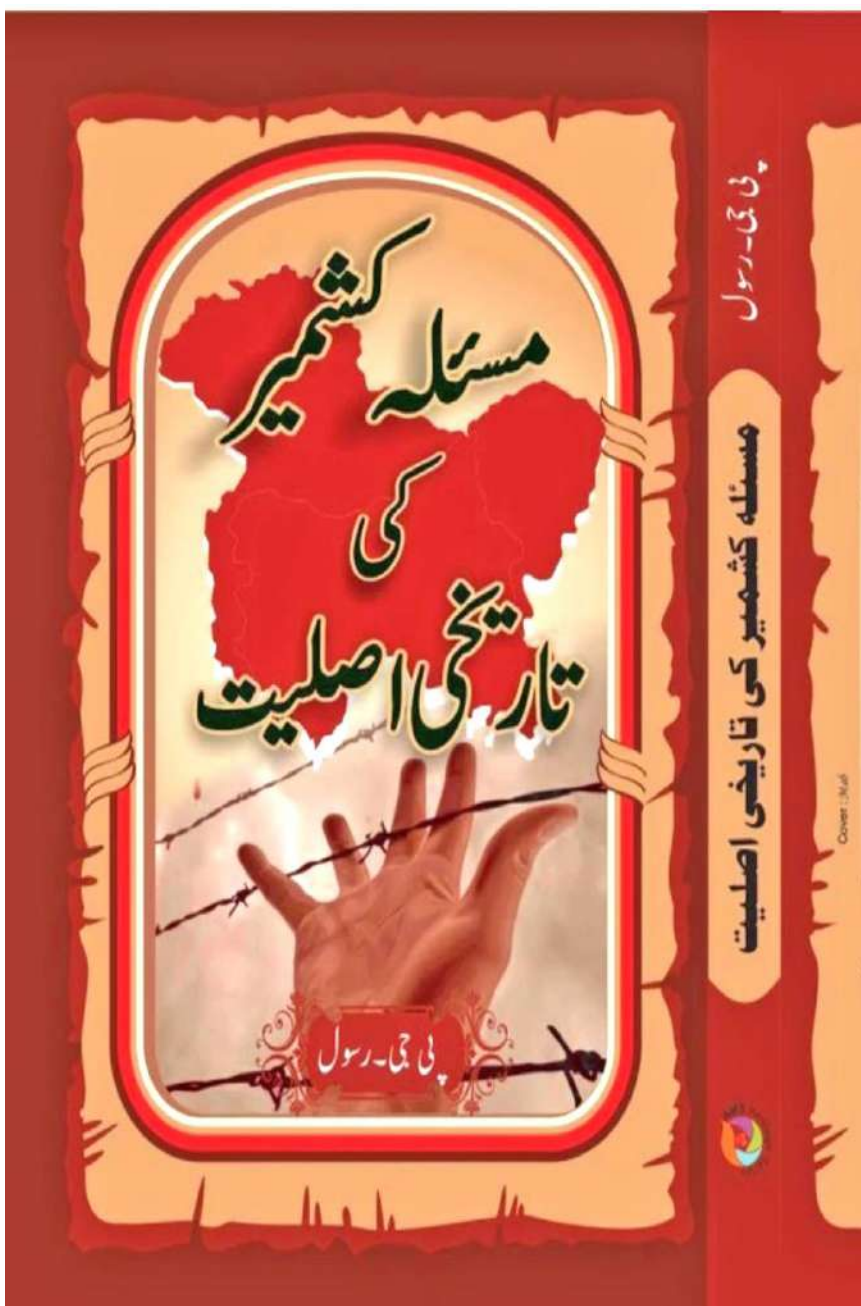
Kashmiris today do not even attempt that sale.

The ice melts on a hundred separate screens, and the only response is a shared complaint that it disappeared too fast.

— The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir. He can be reached at mbhatilyas@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Contested Past

P.G. Rasool revisits the origins of the Kashmir dispute through a deeply revisionist reading of history, inviting readers to examine evidence, assumptions and enduring political fault lines.



Tmr Mohsin

Few places invite competing histories with the same intensity as Kashmir.

Political speeches, official archives and personal memory often pull in opposite directions, leaving readers to sort conviction from evidence.

P.G. Rasool's *Masle Kashmir ki Tarikhi Asliyat* enters that contested space with confidence, presenting a forceful interpretation of how the Kashmir dispute emerged and why it continues to dominate the politics of South Asia.

The book succeeds less as a neutral chronicle than as a sustained challenge to established narratives, making it difficult to ignore even when readers question its conclusions.

Fresh unrest in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir gives the book added relevance. Civil protests, violent clashes, reports of dozens of deaths, hundreds of injuries and communications blackouts in places such as Rawalakot have shifted international attention toward the other side of the Line of Control.

Those events revive familiar questions about sovereignty, representation and political legitimacy. Rasool uses history to explain why those questions refuse to

fade, arguing that present-day turmoil grows from decisions made long before the first generation of Kashmiris living today came into the world.

The book begins with a broad survey of Kashmir's political past, moving through Afghan, Sikh and Dogra rule before concentrating on the event Rasool identifies as the dispute's true starting point: the Treaty of Amritsar, signed on March 16, 1846.

He calls the agreement the decisive colonial act that altered Kashmir's future, describing it as the foundation upon which later political crises were built.

That argument anchors the entire book, giving readers a clear framework through which the author interprets subsequent developments.

Rasool also expresses disappointment with what he sees as widespread confusion surrounding Kashmir's history. Public debate, he argues, often rests on incomplete knowledge, while academic engagement leaves important questions untouched. That concern drives the book's structure.

Rather than presenting isolated historical episodes, Rasool works through the familiar questions of what happened, when it happened, why it happened and how those events shaped the dispute that still dominates regional politics.

The book devotes considerable attention to the partition of British India in 1947. Rasool argues that Lord Mountbatten played a decisive role in steering Jammu and Kashmir toward India through political decisions that departed from the principles outlined in the June 3 Plan.

He maintains that geographical contiguity and the wishes of the population pointed toward Pakistan, while the partition of

Gurdaspur district through the Radcliffe Award secured India's land access to Kashmir.

Readers may dispute that interpretation, especially given the extensive scholarship surrounding Partition, although Rasool presents it as a central pillar of his case.

The strongest and most controversial chapters examine two defining moments: the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India and the landing of Indian troops in Srinagar on Oct. 27, 1947.

Rasool challenges widely accepted accounts of both events, arguing that extensive correspondence between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Maharaja Hari Singh indicates preparations had begun well before the military deployment.

Drawing on works such as *Indian Summer* by Alex von Tunzelmann and *New Light on Kashmir*, along with other cited sources, he argues that the Instrument of Accession and the standard account of the tribal invasion need renewed scrutiny.

Those claims remain highly contested, although the breadth of references gives readers material worth examining firsthand.

Rasool closes with a plea for a political settlement, arguing that decades of conflict and four wars between India and Pakistan have produced grief without resolution.

His writing remains accessible throughout, avoiding academic jargon while guiding readers through dense historical debates.

That clarity makes the book particularly valuable for students, researchers and general readers seeking to understand one influential interpretation of Kashmir's past.

Masle Kashmir ki Tarikhi Asliyat does not settle the Kashmir debate, and it never claims such authority. Its achievement lies elsewhere.



Kashmir's history has never belonged to a single voice, and this volume ensures that one influential perspective remains part of the conversation.

Rasool assembles a coherent historical argument, marshals extensive references and challenges readers to revisit assumptions that often pass without examination.

Readers who disagree with his conclusions still encounter a book that presses difficult questions with conviction.

Kashmir's history has never belonged to a single voice, and this volume ensures that one influential perspective remains part of the conversation.

— The author is a columnist and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration. He can be reached at tmrmohsin321@gmail.com.

J&K Govt Makes Independence Day Attendance Mandatory For Employees

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has directed all officers and officials stationed in Jammu and Srinagar to compulsorily attend the main Independence Day celebrations on August 15 as part of their official duty.

According to a circular issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), employees posted in Srinagar will attend the function at Bakshi Stadium, while those in Jammu will attend the celebrations at Maulana Azad Stadium.

The Government said any absence will be allowed only with the prior permission of the employee's immediate superior.

Describing Independence Day as an important national event that commemorates a significant turning point in the country's history, the circular said it is the duty of every government servant to attend the celebrations.

The GAD has directed all Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, Managing Directors and Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings, Corporations and Boards to ensure that officers and officials working under their administrative control and stationed in Jammu and Srinagar attend the functions at their respective venues.

Crime Branch Files Chargesheet in 17-year-old RTO Jammu Revenue Fraud Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Completing the investigation into a 17-year-old case, the Crime Branch Jammu on Wednesday filed a chargesheet in the alleged RTO Jammu revenue fraud through manipulation of one-time token tax records and the use of fake Public Service Vehicle (PSV) driving certificates, an official said.

The chargesheet was filed in the court of Additional Sessions Judge (Anti-Corruption) Jammu in a case registered in 2009 under various sections of Ranbir Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, a spokesman of the Crime Branch said.

He said the case was registered on the basis of reliable information regarding large-scale irregularities in the functioning of the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Jammu, resulting loss to the government exchequer worth lakhs of rupees.

During investigation, it was found that one-time token tax collected from vehicle owners was fraudulently recorded less amount in cash books, leading to the

alleged misappropriation of over Rs 12.97 lakhs, the spokesman said.

He said the investigation also unearthed the use of fake driving institute certificates, fabricated documents and forged attestations for obtaining Public Service Vehicles (PSV) driving licence endorsements.

The investigation, supported by seized records, witness statements and the forensic opinion of FSL Jammu, established that fake PSV driving certificates were allegedly prepared in conspired manner by Kulbhushan Sharma, Managing Director of Shivam Institute of Driving and Maintenance, and Raj Kumar, the spokesman said.

He said the beneficiaries stated that they had never undergone the mandatory training at the institute, despite certificates having been issued in their names.

Investigation also revealed that records of the institute had been destroyed to conceal the fraudulent activities, the spokesman said.

GCW, NIT Srinagar launch psychology-driven STEM learning

Observer News Service

Srinagar, August 6: The JKST&IC (SREP 2025-26) funded project 'Psychology Driven STEM Learning to Build Scientific Temper in the Border Villages of Kashmir' was inaugurated at Government College for Women (GCW), M.A. Road, Srinagar.

The programme was moderated by Dr. Eshrat Ara, Principal Investigator, who shared that the initiative emerged from a field-based insight during a visit to border areas. Developed in collaboration with Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Co-Principal Investigator from NIT Srinagar, the project aims to build scientific temper, resilience, and innovation capacity among youth in border regions.

She emphasized that while approval marked a milestone, the real impact lies in execution and outreach, describing the initiative as "not just a programme, but the opening of a possibility."

She further highlighted that following the pilot phase in Srinagar, the project will be implemented in border areas including Gurez, Uri, Karnah, and Keran, ensuring outreach to some of the most remote and underserved regions.

The project envisions training 120 Master Trainers and reaching over 6,000 students, with 600 students receiving



direct hands-on exposure through STEM camps. It integrates psychology-driven pedagogy—including growth mindset, metacognition, and experiential learning—with accessible STEM tools such as sensors, microcontrollers, robotics, drones, and 3D printing, enabling students to address real-life community challenges.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Malik Roshan Ara, Head, Department of Psychology. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran introduced the project, outlining its

interdisciplinary framework and long-term vision.

The event featured addresses by Guests of Honour, Mr. Muneer Ahmad Wani, Divisional Nodal Officer ATL, and Dr. Javid Ahmad Sheikh, Associate Professor, University of Kashmir and Regional Mentor of Change, NITI Aayog, who emphasized innovation, hands-on learning, and strengthening STEM education in frontier regions.

The programme was graced by the Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Yasmeen Farooq, Principal, GCW M.A. Road. She

highlighted that the initiative integrates research, innovation, artificial intelligence, and human-centered learning to redefine STEM education, and emphasized collaboration with NIT Srinagar and interdepartmental synergy.

On the occasion, the Psy-STEM Lab was also inaugurated, marking a significant step towards promoting experiential and technology-integrated learning.

As part of the first day of the workshop, three technical sessions were conducted including Psy-STEM Learning Framework, Basic Sensors & Block Programming and Arduino & ESP32 Applications Aligned with national priorities such as NEP 2020, Atal Tinkering Labs, and Startup India, the project aims to culminate in student-led innovations, community problem-solving prototypes, and a scalable psychology-driven STEM model for the region.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Naureen Naseer.

The inaugural session marked the beginning of a 3-day Master Training Workshop aimed at equipping educators to foster scientific temper, critical thinking, and innovation, particularly among students in border and underserved areas of Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Marks Seven

then," Itoo told reporters.

PDP leaders, including Iltija Mufti, MLA Waheed Para and party spokesperson Mohit Bhan, also staged a protest march in Srinagar's Sonwar area. Raising slogans demanding the restoration of Article 370, they attempted to march towards Dalgate but were stopped by police.

Addressing reporters, Iltija Mufti said the party was seeking to protest peacefully and would continue its campaign for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights.

The BJP marked the anniversary with victory rallies in Jammu and several other districts, including Srinagar and Anantnag. Party leaders said the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A ended decades of discrimination and strengthened the region's integration with the rest of the country.

"Our party marks August 5 as a historic milestone. The decision ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and reorganised the erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," BJP MLA Yudhvir Sethi said while leading a rally in Jammu.

Members of the West Pakistani refugee community and the Valmiki community also organised celebrations in Jammu and Samba, unfurling the national flag and distributing sweets. They described August 5, 2019 as a historic day that brought equal rights, expanded opportunities in education and employment, and ended decades of discrimination.

Authorities maintained tight security across Srinagar to prevent any law and order disturbances. Additional security personnel were deployed at sensitive locations, particularly around Lal Chowk, while roads leading to the NC and PDP headquarters were sealed as a precautionary measure ahead of the protests.

The Centre revoked Article 370 and Article 35A on August 5, 2019, ending Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status and bifurcating the erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Seven years later, the anniversary continues to evoke sharply contrasting political responses, with regional parties demanding restoration of constitutional safeguards and statehood, while the BJP celebrates the move as a landmark decision for national integration.

Articles 370, 35A

said the government would continue working to ensure that every citizen had the opportunity to "dream big, achieve and contribute" to the making of a Viksit Bharat.

"We reaffirm our commitment to the progress of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh and to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to dream big, achieve and contribute to the making of a Viksit Bharat," he said.

Modi also linked this year's anniversary with the 125th birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, saying the occasion carried added significance.

"His lifelong commitment to national unity continues to inspire generations. What he envisioned decades ago found historic fulfilment on August 5, 2019," the Prime Minister said.

On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led Central government revoked Articles 370 and 35A, ending the special constitutional status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating it into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The anniversary was marked by contrasting political responses in Jammu and Kashmir. While the Bharatiya Janata Party organised celebrations, regional parties, including the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party, held protests demanding the restoration of the region's special status and statehood.

Aug 5 Marked

persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

and Chhamb, and refugees had received constitutional rights, including full citizenship, voting rights and property ownership.

He also highlighted the rise in industrial investment, expansion of airports and railway connectivity, and progress in higher education and entrepreneurship. He said investment in Jammu and Kashmir reached Rs 5,824 crore in 2025-26, nearly 13 times the average investment before 2021, while airport expansion and rail connectivity were accelerating development.

Referring to security, the Lieutenant Governor said attempts by Pakistan-backed terror networks to destabilise the region had been thwarted after the constitutional changes.

"The people of Jammu Kashmir have chosen peace over violence, education over indoctrination, jobs over dependency and dignity over despair. The young generation deserves a future free of fear and that is the future we are building together under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Describing justice for terror victim families as a national obligation, Sinha said the government was committed to ensuring that all eligible families of civilians killed in terrorist incidents received compassionate appointments.

Speaking to reporters after the event, he said similar cases were being processed and assured that no eligible family would be left out under the existing policy.

Responding to a question on protests held by the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party demanding restoration of Article 370 and statehood, the Lieutenant Governor said he had not noticed any demonstrations. "I did not see any (protest). If I see, I will talk to you," Sinha told reporters.

Justice To Terror

appointments were more than employment opportunities and symbolised the nation's commitment to families that had endured decades of pain and loss.

"It is a profound honour to stand with the families of terror victims on this historic day. This is not merely about appointment letters but about remembrance of martyrs, justice to terror victim families and the reaffirmation of our national will," he said.

Paying tribute to civilians killed in terrorist violence, the Lieutenant Governor said the pain of affected families had remained unacknowledged for several decades.

"My heartfelt tribute to the innocent civilians martyred by terrorists. Today's appointment letters are not just documents of employment but symbols of social justice, recognition and the nation's solemn promise that its martyrs will never be forgotten, nor their families abandoned," he said.

Sinha said the families receiving appointment letters were among the beneficiaries of the post-2019 policy framework aimed at extending support to those affected by terrorism.

Quoting Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament on August 5, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor noted that more than 41,849 people had lost their lives to terrorism over the years.

"Their cases, delayed for decades, have finally been addressed. This is not compensation for loss because no money, no job and no paper can replace a loved one. It is, however, an assurance that the nation stands beside them and we are determined to help rebuild lives and restore dignity," he said.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment to eliminating terrorism, Sinha said the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF and civil administration were working in close coordination to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

"Terrorism must end completely. It is necessary not only for the government and security forces but for every common citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. We are determined to uproot terrorism and ensure those responsible are brought to justice," he said.

Referring to one of the beneficiaries, Sinha

recalled the case of Wali Mohammad Wani of Shopian, who was killed by terrorists on July 16, 1993.

"Today, after 33 years, a lamp has been lit in the home of martyr Wali Mohammad Wani. Not only his family but the entire Shopian feels connected to the national mainstream," he said.

Speaking to reporters after the event, the Lieutenant Governor said the administration was processing similar cases and assured that compassionate appointments would be extended to all eligible families of civilians killed in terrorist incidents in accordance with the existing policy.

"The government is committed to providing jobs to all eligible families of civilians killed in terrorist incidents," he said. (KNO)

Cloudburst Hits

during the past 24 hours, with the heaviest precipitation reported from the Jammu region. Kathua received 81 mm of rainfall, followed by Udhampur with 66.6 mm, Katra 51 mm and Samba 47 mm.

The Met Department has forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places across Jammu and Kashmir from August 6 to 8, with the possibility of brief but intense showers at isolated locations.

Between August 9 and 11, most areas are expected to receive intermittent spells of light to moderate rain, while a few districts may witness heavy rainfall or intense showers. Similar weather conditions, with light rain and thundershowers at many places, are likely to continue from August 12 to 15.

The weather office has warned that heavy rainfall and intense showers during August 5 and again between August 9 and 11 could trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at vulnerable locations. It has advised people, particularly those living in flood-prone and hilly areas, to exercise caution and follow official advisories.

NC Asks Centre

said it had been seven years since Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights and statehood were taken away and nearly two years since Assembly elections were held, yet there was no indication that statehood would be restored.

"Whenever we raise this issue, the response is that statehood will be restored at the appropriate time. What is the right time? We do not know when the right time is," Ramzan said.

He said the prime minister and the Union home minister had assured Parliament that statehood would be restored after delimitation and elections. He also referred to the Centre's assurance before the Supreme Court and urged it to restore both statehood and the constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Pawan Khara also backed the demand, saying the people of Jammu and Kashmir wanted their rights restored.

"While statehood is certainly required, constitutional rights regarding land, jobs and access to opportunities and resources must also be restored. This is the demand of the united opposition," he said.

The National Conference and the Congress also held separate protest rallies in Jammu, observing the anniversary of the August 5, 2019 decision and demanding the restoration of statehood and constitutional safeguards over land, jobs and other rights.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the Centre's promise to restore statehood remained unfulfilled seven years after the abrogation of Article 370.

"Our wounds have not yet healed. We had hoped that the promise of restoring statehood would be fulfilled. But seven years since August 5, 2019, that promise remains unfulfilled," Abdullah said.

The BJP-led central government abrogated Article 370 on August 5, 2019, revoking the

special constitutional status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating it into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The National Conference has since consistently sought the restoration of statehood, maintaining that the assurances made by the Centre after delimitation and Assembly elections are yet to be honoured.

Rahul Leads INDIA Bloc

calling on the Centre to fulfil its commitment to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood seven years after the abrogation of Article 370.

The opposition also demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement in Parliament on the alleged police action against students protesting at Jantar Mantar, describing the issue as one requiring the government's immediate response.

The demonstration was attended by MPs from several INDIA bloc constituents, including the National Conference and the Congress, and coincided with the seventh anniversary of the August 5, 2019 constitutional changes.

Our Wounds Have

in our stand and will continue to seek justice for the injustices done to us," he said.

Earlier in the day, Omar reaffirmed the National Conference's position in a post on X, saying the party had neither forgotten nor accepted the changes brought about on August 5, 2019.

"Seven years, we haven't forgotten, we haven't reconciled, far less accepted our current circumstances. My party and I remain committed to reversing all that was done to J&K that took away our rights and threatens our identity," he wrote.

He concluded the post with a line from Robert Frost's poem Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep. And miles to go before I sleep."

Protests Across J&K

The National Conference marked the anniversary with protests across Jammu and Kashmir, demanding restoration of statehood and the constitutional safeguards that existed before the abrogation of Article 370.

In Srinagar, scores of NC leaders, legislators and workers, led by Education Minister Sakina Itoo, assembled at the party headquarters, Nawa-i-Subah, carrying placards in support of Article 370 and statehood. Police prevented the protesters from marching beyond the party office premises. Similar demonstrations were organised in Jammu and several district headquarters across the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering, Itoo said the party had consistently pursued a peaceful and democratic struggle for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights.

"We demand that our special status and rights, which were snatched from us, be restored. Our party has been protesting peacefully for the restoration of our rights since then," she said.

Complaint Filed

Kashmir's special status through abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A in August 2019.

In his complaint, Sharma alleged that videos and photographs of the incident show Mehbooba holding the national flag with the saffron band facing downward.

"This has not only caused disrespect to the national flag but also deep emotional insult to all the nationalist individuals in the country," the doctor said in his complaint.

The complaint requests the police to take immediate action in accordance with the law and register an FIR after examining the matter.

Pulwama Firm

proceeds of the cyber fraud. The investigation further revealed that a portion of the defrauded money was allegedly paid to the Axis Bank Deputy Manager for facilitating the

siphoning of funds.

The agency said the fraud was orchestrated by a transnational organised criminal network operating from South East Asia.

The chargesheet has been filed under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including criminal conspiracy, cheating, receiving stolen property and using forged documents. The accused have also been booked under the Information Technology Act for offences related to cheating and impersonation using computer resources, besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act for bribery-related offences.

Reiterating its commitment to combating cybercrime, the CBI said it would take stringent legal action against individuals and entities that enable the misuse of banking and telecom infrastructure.

The agency also cautioned the public against falling prey to "digital arrest" scams, stressing that there is no legal concept of a digital arrest. It urged citizens not to panic or comply with such calls and advised them to report suspicious activity through the national cyber-crime portal or to the nearest law enforcement agency.

HC Stays CAT

Prof. Romshoo and IUST Registrar Shamim Ahmad Shah in a contempt petition over "non-compliance" with its interim orders. The Tribunal had observed that the compliance report filed by the university did not satisfactorily address its directions and had expressed concern over repeated delays in implementation.

The Tribunal had directed the Vice Chancellor and Registrar to appear in person to ensure compliance with its orders, while clarifying that its observations in the contempt proceedings would not affect the final adjudication of the main Original Application. The High Court has now stayed the contempt proceedings pending further consideration of the case.

Relief, Rehabilitation

Abdullah also said the government would examine proposals submitted by the district administration, including the possibility of providing six months of free ration in the worst-affected areas, particularly where crops had been destroyed, on the lines of the relief extended after the 2014 floods.

Referring to the July 19 disaster, which claimed 16 lives and left six persons missing, the Chief Minister said cloudbursts remain difficult to predict with existing technology. He said the government would explore the adoption of advanced early warning systems to improve disaster preparedness and reduce the loss of lives and property in future.

During the visit, Abdullah met bereaved families in Murrah, Surankote and Arigam-Loran and assured them of all possible government support.

At Murrah, he visited Mohammad Latief, who lost eight members of his family after a cloudburst-triggered flash flood swept away his house. While four bodies have been recovered, search operations are continuing to trace the remaining missing family members.

The Chief Minister also reviewed rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures with the district administration and praised Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Shafqat Hussain for their timely response during the disaster.

He said compensation for affected families had already been sanctioned and would be released as soon as the remaining beneficiary bank account details are received.

The July 19 cloudbursts and flash floods caused widespread devastation across Poonch and parts of Rajouri, damaging homes, roads, public infrastructure, agricultural land and vehicles, while triggering landslides and inundation in several villages.

Lithium Reserves of 10.88 Million Tonnes Identified in J&K: Centre

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Government on Wednesday informed Parliament that 10.88 million tonnes of lithium resources have been identified in Jammu & Kashmir, with Salal-Haimna and Kotla figuring among the country's major lithium-bearing areas discovered through exploration undertaken by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey, as reported by KNO, said the lithium resources have been augmented through exploration projects carried out by GSI and funded by the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT). Besides Jammu & Kashmir, major lithium resources have also been identified in Rajasthan.

The Minister said the Centre has simultaneously stepped up efforts to secure critical mineral supplies by strengthening domestic ex-

ploration and expanding overseas partnerships. He said Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has signed an Exploration and Development Agreement with Argentina's state-owned CAMYEN for exploration and mining of five lithium brine blocks covering 15,703 hectares. KABIL has also entered into an MoU with Australia's Critical Mineral Office for cooperation in mining and processing of critical and strategic minerals.

To encourage private participation in mineral exploration, the Government has introduced a series of incentives, including 100 per cent funding for exploration projects undertaken by notified private exploration agencies, reimbursement of exploration costs under various licence categories and incentives linked to successful auction of explored critical mineral blocks, the House was informed.

The Minister further said

the Government has launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to ensure long-term availability of minerals essential for electric vehicles and green technologies.

"Exploration of critical minerals has been significantly expanded, while 56 critical mineral blocks and six Exploration Licence blocks have already been auctioned across the country," he said.

The Centre has also introduced a ₹1,500-crore incentive scheme to promote recycling and recovery of critical minerals from secondary sources and expanded support for overseas mineral exploration.

According to the annexure tabled in Parliament, Jammu & Kashmir's Salal-Haimna and Kotla are among the major areas where lithium resources have been augmented, with the total identified lithium resources standing at 10.88 million tonnes—(KNO)



J&K Has 25,248 Waqf Properties Approved on UMEED Portal: Centre

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has uploaded details of thousands of Waqf properties on the UMEED Central Portal-2025, with 25,248 properties shown as approved as of July 31, 2026, the Ministry of Minority Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju in response to an unstarred question raised by MPs E Tukaram and Sasikanth Senthil regarding digitisation, income reporting and transparent management of Waqf properties following the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

According to data annexed to the reply, accessed by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir has 25,567 Waqf properties under the "initiated/completed till date" category. Of these, 25,248 properties have been submitted by the checker and are pending with the



approver category, while 62 properties have been rejected by the checker/approver and are pending with the maker. The data also lists 221 properties in the initial category, 33 initiated for entry by the maker and three submitted by the maker.

The Centre said the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) Act, 1995, as amended by the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, came into force from April 8, 2026. The UMEED Central Portal-2025 was developed and launched on June 6, 2025, to facilitate uploading and registration of Waqf properties and improve transparency in their management and governance.

The Ministry further

stated that details to be uploaded on the portal include annual income and expenditure of Waqf properties, along with amounts set apart for religious, charitable and other purposes. It said the process of uploading, verification and validation of property details is still underway.

On utilisation of Waqf income for educational, healthcare and other welfare activities, the Centre said the Waqf Boards are responsible for ensuring that Waqf properties are properly maintained and administered and that their income is applied for the purposes for which the properties were created or intended. The Central Waqf Council is responsible for advising the Centre, states and Waqf Boards on the administration of auqaf.

The Ministry said a clear assessment of annual income from Waqf properties and its utilisation for intended purposes can be ascertained after completion of the data uploading and validation process.

DLSA Ganderbal Concludes Training Programme for Community Mediators

GANDERBAL: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal successfully concluded the three-day Basic Training Programme for newly proposed Community Mediators under the NALSA SOP on Community Mediation: Towards Litigation-Free Rural India at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

The programme was held under the direction and guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA, Ganderbal.

The concluding day of the training programme focused on strengthening the professional competence of Community Mediators through interactive technical sessions and practical learning.

Adv. Syed Saif Ud Din, Trained Mediator, delivered an insightful session on the vision, objectives and basic principles of Community Mediation, emphasizing the importance of mediation as an effective and accessible mechanism for amicable resolution of disputes at the grassroots level, especially in rural areas.

A practical session on Case Studies and Demonstration of Community Mediation was conducted by Adv. Kaunsar Syed Masoodi, Trained Mediator, enabling the participants to gain hands-on experience in mediation techniques, communication skills and settlement procedures through simulated mediation exercises.

The programme culminated in an Open House Discussion, wherein the participants actively interacted with the Secretary, who addressed their queries, shared practical insights and encouraged them to uphold the values of neutrality, confidentiality and fairness while performing their role as Community Mediators. The participants also expressed their appreciation and shared valuable feedback regarding the three-day training programme.

The three-day training programme was conducted in accordance with the NALSA Community Mediation Training Manual and the communication issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority, with the objective of developing a trained cadre of Community Mediators capable of resolving disputes amicably and fostering a litigation-free rural society.

'Over 1.81 Lakh Minority Scholarships Sanctioned in BLs Since 2019'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Government on Wednesday informed Parliament that 1,81,650 minority scholarships under different Central schemes were sanctioned in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency between 2019-20 and 2025-26, while several infrastructure and development works have been undertaken at Waqf properties across Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to an unstarred question by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju, as reported by KNO, said the Ministry implemented Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Schemes for six notified minority communities—Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis—across the country till 2021-22. He said details of scholarships sanctioned in the Baramulla parliamentary constituency from 2019-20 to 2025-26 have been placed in the annexure.

According to the reply, 1,53,138 Pre-Matric scholarships were sanctioned with financial assistance of ₹33.13 crore, 24,781 Post-Matric scholarships with assistance of ₹15.54 crore, and 3,731 Merit-cum-Means scholarships amounting to ₹9.69 crore during the period.

The year-wise figures show that in 2019-20, 75,323 Pre-Matric, 16,350 Post-Matric and 904 Merit-cum-Means scholarships were sanctioned. In 2020-21, the numbers stood at 43,890, 5,038 and 1,186, respectively, while 33,387 Pre-Matric, 3,105 Post-Matric and 1,214 Merit-cum-Means scholarships were sanctioned in 2021-22.

During 2022-23, only renewal payments were made, benefiting 538 Pre-Matric, 288 Post-Matric and 427 Merit-cum-Means students. No scholarships were sanctioned under these schemes during 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, as the schemes were discontinued after 2021-22 except for pending renewals.

Replying to another part of the question regarding Waqf properties, Rijiju informed the House that several development projects have been completed or taken up at Ziyarat Baba Payamud-Din Reshi (RA), Baramulla and Tangmarg. These include restoration of Devri stone flooring and entrance staircase, construction of a modern kitchen, dining hall, cement concrete drain, toilet blocks, ablation block, guest house and double-storeyed shop complex, installation of fencing panels, landscaping, ornamental woodwork, polycarbonate roofing over the shrine sanctum, face-lifting of Jamia Masjid and other allied civil works.

Delhi Meet Sent Strong Message on J&K's Constitutional Rights: Ruhullah

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Member of Parliament from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Wednesday said a meeting held at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi reflected broad support for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights, including Article 370, with participants from across the country speaking against the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019.

Addressing reporters after the event, Ruhullah said the gathering brought together political leaders, writers, former judges, former bureaucrats, lawyers and other eminent citizens from different parts of the country.

"Those who came to our event in Delhi, including writers, former judges and other eminent citizens, spoke about the constitutional rights of Jammu and Kashmir, including Article 370," he said.

Ruhullah said the overwhelming majority of speakers supported the restoration of constitutional protections and guarantees that existed before the abrogation of Article 370.

"I would say that 99 per

cent of those who spoke supported Article 370, constitutional protections and guarantees, and spoke against the decisions taken on August 5, 2019. I believe that is a significant achievement for us," he said.

The Srinagar MP said the event challenged the perception that political parties from Jammu and Kashmir should limit their demand to the restoration of statehood alone.

"There are people who tell us that we should speak only about statehood and avoid talking about constitutional protections or Article 370. But today, people from Kashmir spoke openly in Delhi about Article 370," he said.

Ruhullah also welcomed the support expressed by political parties from outside Jammu and Kashmir, saying many of them had spoken in favour of restoring constitutional rights despite having no direct political stake in the region.

Asked whether the event marked the beginning of a broader political alignment, Ruhullah said the focus should remain on the constitutional and political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir rather than on individual leaders.



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 03 of 2026.

DATED: 22.07.2026

The Health and Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K invites applications from the eligible individuals/organizations for nomination as Non-official members under Section 46(1) of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 read with J&K Mental Healthcare (Mental Health Authority Rules), 2023 notified vide S.O 469 of 2023 dated 13th September, 2023, for the left-out categories mentioned below:-

S.No.	Authority in the Act (section 46 of the MH Act 2017)	Corresponding authority in J&K UT	Qualification	Designation
1.	One psychiatric social worker having at least fifteen years experience in the field.	To be selected through open advertisement by a selection committee in accordance with section 4 & 5 of J&K Mental Healthcare (MHA) Rules 2023 notified vide SO 469 of 2023.	Person having a post graduate degree in Social Work and a Master of Philosophy in Psychiatric Social Work obtained after completion of a full-time course of two years Which includes supervised clinical training from any University recognized by the University Grants Commission established under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 or such recognized qualifications, as may be prescribed .	Member
2.	Two persons representing persons who have or have had mental illness.	To be selected through open advertisement by a selection committee in accordance with section 4 & 5 of J&K Mental Healthcare (MHA) Rules 2023 notified vide SO 469 of 2023.	Possess qualification and experience as defined in the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 read with J&K Mental Healthcare (Mental Health Authority Rules) 2023 notified vide S.O 469 of 2023 dated 13th Sep. 2023	Member
3.	Two persons representing care-givers of persons with mental illness or organizations Representing care-givers	To be selected through open advertisement by a selection committee in accordance with section 4 & 5 of J&K Mental Healthcare (MHA) Rules 2023 notified vide SO 469 of 2023.	Possess qualification and experience as defined in the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 read with section 4 & 5 of J&K Mental Healthcare (MHA) Rules 2023 notified vide SO 469 of 2023. Or else nomination from Mental Hospital	Member

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:

- The applicant shall be an Indian National.
- The applicant shall not be of the age exceeding 67 years.
- A person can apply for only one category.

Term of Office and allowance of non-official members of Mental Health Authority:-

- Every non-official member nominated under rule-6 shall hold his office for a term of three years at a time from the date of his nomination.
- Every non-official member attending the meeting of the Mental Health Authority shall be entitled to sitting allowance, traveling allowance, daily allowance and such other allowances as are applicable to non-official members of similar commissions/committees of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

How to apply: Applications in the prescribed format along with required certificates/ documents shall be submitted through ordinary post/ speed post/ by hand to Personal Section (Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Health & Medical Education Department) Civil Secretariat Srinagar/Jammu. The last date for receipt of applications shall be 30 (thirty) days from the date of issuance of this Advertisement Notice.

Contact Person for queries/clarifications: Ms. Neha Bakshi, JKAS, (Deputy Secretary, H&ME, Mobile No. 9419144575)

Application form for nomination as member for Mental Health Authority to be constituted under the Mental Health Care Act 2017 read with J&K Mental Healthcare (Mental Health Authority Rules 2023 notified vide S.O 469 of 2023 dated 13th Sep, 2023.

Category for which applied _____
Section of the Act:- _____

1.	Name & Address in Block Letters					
2.	Date of Birth					
3.	Organization					
4.	Details of employment (if any) in chronological order. Enclose as separate sheet, duly authenticated by your signature, if the space below is insufficient.					
	Office/Insttt./Orgn	Post held	from	To	Scale of pay	Nature of duties
5.	Details of experience under the category applied for (to be supported by relevant documents)					
6.	Whether affidavit/undertaking enclosed					
7.	Additional information, if any, which you would like to mention in support of your suitability of being nominated as a member of the MHA. (Enclose a separate sheet, if the space is insufficient)					
8.	Remarks					

Date _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

Signature of the candidate: _____

UNDERTAKING

I Shri/Smt _____ R/o. _____
Designation _____ undertake that, once the State Mental Authority is constituted by Government; I undertake to register myself with the J&K State Mental Health Authority.

Date: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

Sign of the candidate: _____

No. HD-NHM/63/2022-02 (E-228281)
Dated: 22-07-2026
DIPK-4176-26
DT: 05/08/2026

Sd/-
(M. Raju) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government
Health & Medical Education Department

J&K Bank Ties Up with SBI Life to Expand Insurance Offerings

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Wednesday entered into a corporate agency agreement with SBI Life Insurance to offer a wider range of life insurance products through its branch network across the country.

The partnership will enable the Bank's customers to access SBI Life's protection, savings, retirement and child-focused insurance plans, giving them more options to meet their financial and long-term planning needs.



The agreement was signed by J&K Bank's DGM Cross-selling Masood Ahmad Lankar and SBI Life Regional Manager (Institutional Alliances) Budhaditya Banerjee in the presence of J&K Bank MD & CEO

Amitava Chatterjee, SBI Life MD & CEO Amit Jhingran, senior officials from both organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Chatterjee said the collaboration strengthens the Bank's customer-cen-

tric approach and supports its philosophy of "socially empowering banking" by expanding access to need-based life insurance solutions. He said the partnership combines the strengths of two trusted institutions to deliver greater value to customers across the country.

SBI Life MD & CEO Amit Jhingran said the alliance reflects a shared commitment to improving insurance awareness and financial protection for households, while supporting the national goal of "Insurance for All by 2047."



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE TRAL KASHMIR-192123

Cell No: 9419534394 Ph: 01933-251277 | website: www.gdctral.ac.in Email: gdctral-pul@jk.gov.in

NO: DCT/2026-27/ Notice/488

Dated: 03-08-2026

Re-Tender Notice For Running College Canteen

Due to poor response and non-fulfillment of required terms and conditions by the tenderers in previous tender notice, sealed re-tender affixed with a Revenue Stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited from the experienced persons for running the College Cafeteria/Canteen w.e.f 10-08-2026 to 31-08-2027. The tender documents along with the detailed terms and conditions be obtained from the college office during all working days or downloaded from the College website (www.gdctral.ac.in). The tenders complete in all respects, along with the earnest money in the shape of CDR of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) pledged to the Principal Govt. Degree College Tral should reach the office of the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this tender notice.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender without record any reasons thereof.

DIPK-4135-26

DT: 06/08/2026

SD/-
Principal

India Rejects Pak Bid to Mark 'Youm-e-Istehsal

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday categorically rejected Pakistan's "futile attempts" to observe August 5 as 'Youm-e-Istehsal' or 'Day of Exploitation' to oppose the scrapping of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir seven years ago.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Pakistan's attempts to interfere in India's internal matters were intended "solely" to deflect attention from its own "dismal" human rights record and its status as the "global epicentre of terrorism". The Indian government on August 5, 2019 had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union territories.

Since then Pakistan has been marking the day as the Youm-e-Istehsal. "India categorically rejects the

political absurdity and futile attempts by Pakistan to observe the so-called Youm-e-Istehsal to spread malicious propaganda against India," Jaiswal said.

He was responding to certain comments made by Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar who said New Delhi's action seven years back had complicated efforts to bring peace and stability in South Asia.

He asserted that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "are, have always been, and shall forever remain an integral and inalienable part of India".

Jaiswal said the constitutional changes made in 2019 are entirely an internal matter of India.

"These decisions have brought unprecedented socio-economic development, good governance, and democratic empowerment to the people of the region. Pakistan has no locus



standi to comment on matters that are strictly internal to India," he said.

The spokesperson said Pakistan's "desperate attempts to peddle falsehoods" are intended "solely to deflect" international attention from its own "dismal human rights record and its status as the global epicentre of terrorism".

"The international community is currently witnessing the brutal suppression of fundamental rights in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)," he said.

Jaiswal also made a mention of Pakistan's crackdown on protesters in PoJK. "The recent weeks have seen Pakistani security forces resorting to lethal violence, targeted killings, and draconian bans to silence peaceful civil rights protests led by the local populace," he said.

At least 90 people were killed in the crackdown by Pakistani forces on protesters in PoJK since June.

"Such state-sponsored violence against unarmed civilians exposes the profound hypocrisy of the Pakistani establishment," Jaiswal said.

"Instead of engaging in predictable diplomatic theatre, Pakistan would be well-advised to stop the bloodshed in PoJK, take credible, verifiable, and irreversible action against terror networks operating from its soil, and immediately vacate all Indian territories under its illegal and forcible occupation," he said.

Fake Loan Apps, Mule Frauds Surge in Kerala

Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Several people in Kerala, including students, are falling victim to fake loan app scams and mule account frauds, State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Convenor Santhosh V S said on Wednesday.

"Several people in Kerala, including students, are falling victim to fake loan app scams and mule account frauds," he said while addressing the monthly Inter Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC) meeting organised by the Press Information Bureau at Canara Bank here.

Santhosh, also the General Manager of Canara Bank, said the SLBC was conducting an extensive awareness campaign in colleges to educate students and the public about such frauds.

He advised people "never to share their bank account details, ATM PINs or One-Time Passwords with anyone" and cautioned them against downloading fake loan applications. He also outlined the various initiatives being undertaken by the SLBC to improve public awareness.



Referring to the prevailing geopolitical situation in West Asia, Santhosh said the SLBC had also organised awareness programmes on the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0.

As part of efforts to strengthen Kerala's MSME ecosystem, the SLBC, in coordination with Canara Bank, NABARD, SIDBI and member banks, has organised National Mission for Capacity Building of Bankers programmes in Kannur and Kasargod, he added.

The meeting was chaired by V Palanichamy, Additional Director General of the Press Information Bureau. Heads of various Central government institutions attended the meeting.

Joshi Storms Seven Shots Clear at J&K Open

Aabroo Hussain

SRINAGAR: Bengaluru golfer Khalin Joshi tightened his grip on the J&K Open 2026 after firing a flawless five-under 66 to open up a commanding seven-shot lead at the halfway stage of the ₹1 crore tournament at the Royal Springs Golf Course.

The 33-year-old, who began the day two strokes ahead, followed his sensational opening-round 63 with another bogey-free effort to move to 13-under 129. His round featured three birdies and a superb eagle, leaving the rest of the field chasing shadows.

Delhi's two-time Asian Tour winner Rashid Khan and Chandigarh's Angad Cheema shared second place at six-under 136 after carding identical rounds of 68.

Joshi's biggest highlight came on the par-five seventh, where he reached the green in two and drained a 20-foot



eagle putt.

"That was one of the best putts I made all day," Joshi said. "I hit the ball really well and probably could have gone even lower. The key over the weekend will be to keep finding fairways because the rough is thick."

A former Asian Tour champion and winner of the Andhra Open earlier this year, Joshi has dropped just one shot in 36 holes, underlining his dominance on the picturesque Srinagar course.

Away from the fairways, Joshi admitted the breath-taking setting—and even occasional bear sightings—have added to the experience.

"The scenery is unbelievable. It's exciting to see the bears too, though it's best to keep a safe distance," he quipped.

The chasing pack remains tightly bunched, with Stepan Danek of the Czech Republic, Gaurav Pratap Singh, Ajeetesh Sandhu and Joshua Seale tied for fourth at five-under 137.

Unlicensed Driver Lets Insurer Off the Hook

Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM, AUG 5 (PTI) The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Gurugram absolved an insurance company of liability to pay compensation after finding that the car driver did not possess a driving licence at the time of the road accident, police said on Wednesday.

The tribunal (MACT) ordered the car's owner and the driver to jointly pay Rs 21.30 lakh compensation, along with 9 per cent annual interest, to the victim's family, they added.

According to the police, on the evening of March 13, 2024, Deepak Tiwari (19) was riding his motorcycle from Naurangpur to Rampura, when a speeding car coming in the opposite direction collided with the two-wheeler near Mittal Farm House.

Deepak was critically injured and was first referred

to a private hospital and subsequently to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, where he passed away during treatment on March 17, 2024.

An FIR was registered against the car driver, during which the police invoked section 3/181 of the Motor Vehicles Act, along with other relevant sections of the then Indian Penal Code.

The chargesheet also noted that the driver did not possess a valid driving license, police said.

After examining the records, police investigation, and witness statements, the tribunal concluded that the driver was operating the vehicle without a valid driving license.

The vehicle owner and the driver failed to present any evidence in court to refute this fact. Consequently, deeming this a clear violation of the insurance policy terms, the tribunal exempted the insurance company

from paying compensation and placed the entire liability on the vehicle owner and the driver, police said.

The court of Presiding Officer Narendra Sura ordered that Brijbala, the mother of Deepak Tiwari, who lost his life in the accident, be awarded Rs 20.42 lakh, while his two sisters, Priya Tiwari and Mansi, are to receive Rs 44,000 each.

Brijbala is a native of Pular village in the Kanpur Dehat district of Uttar Pradesh. This amount is to be paid jointly by the vehicle owner, Himgiri Automobiles Private Limited and the driver, Chandrashekhar, a resident of Shivdaspur village in Varanasi, police said.

The court held that the absence of a valid driving licence at the time of the accident constituted a violation of the insurance policy terms, adding that the insurance company could not be held liable for compensation.

Man Marries Off Wife to Her Lover

Press Trust of India

SANT KABIR NAGAR (UP): In an unusual gesture of empathy and magnanimity, a man helped solemnise the marriage of his wife, a mother of five, with her lover at a Shiva temple here.

The incident took place in Uttar Pradesh's Sant Kabir Nagar district.

According to their family members and the village head, Buddhiram Nishad (45) and Phoolmati (37) from Debri village had married for love about 21 years ago. The couple had five children from the wedlock, including an 18-year-old son. A few months ago, Phoolmati fell in love with 26-year-old Awadhesh, leading to marital discord.

Phoolmati left home with Awadhesh around two months ago but returned later following persuasion from family members. However, the domestic disharmony continued. It was then that Buddhiram decided to arrange his wife's marriage with Awadhesh.

The ceremony was held at a Shiva temple in Asrafpur village on Tuesday in the presence of other villagers. The husband attended the wedding ceremony and the customary farewell. Speaking to reporters, Buddhiram said he had married Phoolmati 21 years ago, but she no longer wished to live with him.

"I do not wish to live with daily discordance in the house. So, I decided to get her married off to the person she wanted to live with," he said.

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