

KO Classifieds

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Heavy Rain Likely To Lash J&K Today

Flash Floods, Landslides, Waterlogging
Warning For Vulnerable Areas



File Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness widespread rainfall and thundershowers over the next few days, with heavy to very heavy rain forecast at a few places in the Jammu division on Tuesday, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said.

According to the latest forecast, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at most places across Jammu and Kashmir till August 11, with peak activity expected during the day and night of Tuesday.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at a few places in the Jammu division, while brief spells of intense heavy showers may occur at a few places in Kashmir.

The weather office said one or two places could receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the

night of August 11.

Torrential rain and brief spells of intense showers may trigger flash floods and landslides at vulnerable locations besides causing mudslides and waterlogging in low-lying areas, the Meteorological Centre warned.

The weather is likely to remain unsettled thereafter, with light rain and thundershowers expected at many places from August 12 to 16. Brief spells of intense rain may occur at isolated locations during this period.

Another spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers is forecast across many areas from August 17 to 19, with isolated intense showers also possible.

Srinagar Records 33.2°C
Meanwhile, weather remained largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Monday.
Srinagar | [More on P6](#)

J&K On Alert Ahead Of I-Day, Forces Intensify Checks, Patrolling

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security has been tightened across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day, with security forces intensifying frisking, vehicle checking and surveillance across the Union Territory.

According to details, security personnel have increased their presence at several locations and stepped up checking of vehicles and their occupants as part of preventive measures ahead of the August 15 celebrations.

In Srinagar, security forces have intensified checking at multiple points, particularly along busy roads, commercial areas and other important locations. Personnel are also closely monitoring the movement of people and vehicles.

Similar measures have been put in place across the Valley, including Baramulla,



Kupwara, Kulgam and Anantnag, with increased checking and surveillance at key entry and exit points.

Security has also been strengthened in the Jammu region, including Jammu city, Samba, Rajouri and Poonch. Additional personnel have been deployed at vulnerable and strategically important locations, while vehicle checking has been intensified.

Authorities have also enhanced security along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, with personnel maintaining heightened vigilance at important points to monitor vehicular movement and prevent any untoward incident.

Increased surveillance has been maintained in areas close to the Line of Control and the International Border, particularly | [More on P6](#)

IGP Birdi Reviews Security Arrangements

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi reviewed security arrangements for Independence Day celebrations and other scheduled events across the Valley. Birdi chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir, attended by senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, RPF, CID, traffic police and other security agencies. Senior officers briefed the IGP on arrangements being made for the smooth and peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations across all districts of Kashmir. District Superintendents of Police | [More on P6](#)

CM Hints At Cabinet Expansion After Aug 15



Agencies

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday indicated that the expansion of his council of ministers is likely to take place after August 15, bringing some clarity to months of speculation over the much-awaited exercise.

Speaking to media persons in Srinagar, Omar said the government would go ahead with the expansion but ruled out any move before the Independence Day celebrations.

"Will do it, but not before August 15," the chief minister said.

His remarks are expected to put an end to some of the uncertainty surrounding the proposed induction of new ministers into the National Conference-led government.

The cabinet expansion has been under | [More on P6](#)

MHA Directs States To Follow Flag Code



Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday directed all states and Union Territories to ensure that paper National Flags used during important national, cultural and sports events are not discarded or thrown on the ground after the events.

In a communication to the Chief Secretaries and UT Administrators, the MHA said the National Flag represents the hopes and aspirations of the people and should always occupy a position of honour.

- Paper flags allowed
- No throwing flags on ground
- Respectful disposal mandatory
- No damaged flags
- Flag must hold position of honour
- May fly day and night
- No other flag alongside
- No flag on private vehicles
- 3:2 flag ratio mandatory
- Mass awareness drives ordered

The ministry said paper flags may be waved by the public during important national, cultural and sports events, but they should be disposed of | [More on P6](#)



A farmer harvests almonds in an orchard in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Advisory Against Unnecessary Highway Travel

Traffic authorities have advised commuters to avoid unnecessary travel on vulnerable stretches of major highways in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday amid a forecast of rainfall across the region.

According to the Traffic Police Headquarters, traffic remained slow between 4 pm on August 9 and 4 pm on August 10 due to single-lane, uneven road conditions at Dawal in Udhampur and along the Marog-Kishwat Pather stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The advisory comes as the India Meteorological Department | [More on P6](#)

HC Seeks Status of Cases Against J&K MLA's

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to file updated status reports on cases pending investigation or trial against sitting and former Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice (Acting) Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani passed the directions while hearing a suo moto Public Interest Litigation, registered pursuant to directions of the Supreme Court for monitoring criminal cases pending against sitting and former legislators.

The court noted that the Home Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had filed a status report on July 30, 2025, indicating the progress made in cases pending | [More on P6](#)

Panel Seeks Integrated Security At J&K Tourist Spots

Observer News Observer

New Delhi: A Parliamentary panel has recommended an integrated security and surveillance framework for all major tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir, including comprehensive CCTV coverage and centralised monitoring facilities.

In its report on administrative governance, socio-economic development and border and internal security in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs called for clear inter-agency standard operating procedures to be prescribed

and reviewed before every peak tourist season.

The recommendations come in the backdrop of the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

The committee recommended regular vulnerability assessments, periodic security audits and coordinated response mechanisms at major tourist destinations.

It also called for dedicated emergency response units, adequately equipped ambulances, trauma-care facilities and clearly identified evacuation routes at high-footfall tourist locations. | [More on P6](#)

Demography Panel Begins 3-Day J&K Visit

KO Web Desk

A four-member government-constituted committee studying demographic changes across different parts of the country arrived in Jammu on Monday for a | [More on P6](#)

J&K Film Festival Gets Entries From Over 80 Countries

Festival To Build
On J&K's Cinema
Legacy, Create New
Opportunities: Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's first International Film Festival has received entries from more than 80 countries, with the administration seeking to use the four-day event to revive the region's filmmaking culture, promote local talent and position the Union Territory as a destination for filmmakers.

The International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026 will be held from September 7 to 10 across Jammu, Srinagar and Gulmarg, bringing together filmmakers, actors, producers, writers, cinematographers and other professionals from India and abroad.



Director Information Shreya Singhal said the response to the maiden edition reflected growing international interest in Jammu and Kashmir as a cultural and cinematic destination. The festival will feature feature films, short films and documentaries from international, national and regional cinema, besides masterclasses and technical sessions.

The sessions will cover areas including filmmaking, sound and editing, animation, emerging technologies and artificial intelligence in

filmmaking, offering participants opportunities to engage with contemporary practices in the industry.

For J&K's local film community, the festival is also being positioned as a platform to build professional networks and gain exposure to established voices in cinema.

"The festival seeks to reignite the spirit of filmmaking in J&K and establish it as a premier destination for filmmakers," Singhal said, adding that empowering young people associated with the local film industry | [More on P6](#)

10 Booked In Rs 7.12 Lakh Kupwara Bridge Scam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a charge-sheet against 10 persons, including two former executive engineers and a private contractor, in connection with alleged embezzlement of government material and fraudulent release of security deposits during the construction of a bridge in Kupwara.

The accused include former executive engineers Mohammad Sultan Sheikh and Ajit Singh Chopra, along with other engineering and accounts officials of the PWD (R&B) Division, Kupwara, and contractor Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Lone.

The case relates to the construction of a steel bridge at Lastiyal-Kalaroose in Kupwara and involves allegations of misappropriation | [More on P6](#)



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2

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sayema Ali D/o Ali Mohd Chopan, R/o Sonium, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), do hereby declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Samia Akhter" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5397-8406-3574.

I hereby declare that my correct and actual name is "Sayema Ali" and not "Samia Akhter". Hence, I intend to get my name corrected in all official records and documents accordingly.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may communicate the same to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Sayema Ali
D/o Ali Mohd Chopan
R/o Sonium, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla,

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Latief Ahmad Lone S/o Gh Hassan Lone, R/o Nehalpora, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby notify the general public that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Latif Ahmad Lone" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7915-1458-2045, which is incorrect.

My correct name is "Latief Ahmad Lone". I have applied for correction of my name in the official records/Aadhaar.

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Latief Ahmad Lone
S/o Gh Hassan Lone
R/o Nehalpora, Tehsil Pattan,
P.O. Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Safeena Aslam D/o Mohammad Aslam Dangoola, R/o Abi Karpura, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public and concerned authorities that my name has been wrongly recorded in my J&K Bank, Dalgate Branch, account bearing Account No. 0048041000000112 as "Safeena Aslam D/o Mohammad Aslam, R/o Abi Karpura, Srinagar."

The correct name is "Safeena Aslam Dangoola D/o Mohammad Aslam Dangoola, R/o Abi Karpura, Srinagar."

I request the concerned bank authorities to kindly make the necessary correction in their records accordingly.

Any person having any objection in this regard may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Safeena Aslam Dangoola D/o Mohammad Aslam Dangoola
R/o Abi Karpura, Srinagar

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dilawar Ali, S/o Nisar Hussain Bhat, R/o Budgam, hereby inform the concerned authorities and general public that the Date of Birth (DOB) mentioned on my Driving Licence is incorrect. Name: Dilawar Ali Driving Licence No.: JK0420160031124

DOB mentioned on Driving Licence: 06 May 1996

Correct DOB (as per Aadhaar): 06 May 1998

Contact No.: 7889429408

I have been advised to approach the concerned authority for correction of my Date of Birth in the Driving Licence. Any person having any objection in this regard may communicate the same to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
Dilawar Ali

fko

NOTICE

I, waheda, D/o Syed Yousuf R/o Gulshan Colony, Botakadal Srinagar, do hereby inform the general public that I had opened a Savings Account in Jammu & Kashmir bank Alamgari Bazar, branch bearing account numbers 0100041000000635, under the name Syed Waheeda I now intend to change my name from Syed Waheeda "to "Waheda" in the records of the said bank as per aadhar.

If any person has any objection to this change, he/she may approach the concerned bank branch or the relevant authority within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained, and the change shall be deemed final.

Waheda
D/o Syed Yousuf
R/o Gulshan Colony, Botakadal Srinagar

media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I intend to change my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 3293 1735 8728 from Ridwan Makhdoomi to Rizwan Makhdoomi. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by my new/correct name Rizwan Makhdoomi for all purposes and official records.

If any person has any objection regard he/she may contact the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Rizwan Makhdoomi
S/o Mohammad Afzak Maqdoomi.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Latief Mir, R/o Syedpora Humchi, Srinagar, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Mr Mohammad Mir" in PNB MetLife Life Guaranteed Saving Plan. My correct name is "Mohammad Latief Mir", and the names "Mr Mohammad Mir" and "Mohammad Latief Mir" refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Mohammad Latief Mir for all purposes, including insurance records.

If any person has any objection he/she may submit the same to the concerned authority/department within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Latief Mir
S/o Abdul Rahman Mir

R/o Syedpora Humchi, Srinagar

Media line advt

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Stateside Roam Tour & Travels Situated at Ogmuna kawarhama

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Nazim Ahmad Rather S/o Sonaulah Rather R/o Ogmuna Karhama Baramulla intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S Stateside Roam Tour & Travels Situated at Ogmuna kawarhama under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial Institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

bmg_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rafiq Ahmad Rather S/o Ali Mohd Rather, R/o Rasripora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby inform the general public that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Mohammad Rafiq Rather" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8059-4406-0948, which is incorrect.

My correct and actual name is "Rafiq Ahmad Rather". I shall hereafter be known and recognized by my correct name Rafiq Ahmad Rather for all purposes and in all records/documents. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid name correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Rafiq Ahmad Rather S/o Ali Mohd Rather
R/o Rasripora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

UDISE: 01040302108

Reg. No.: REC0000092

Affiliation: AFFI000133

Office of the Principal
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www.ripsbeerwah.in

Email.: rootsinternationalpublicschool@gmail.com,

roots.beerwah2018@gmail.com

BEERWAH - BUDGAM, J&K - 193411

Ref. No.: 1118 /RIPS/26

Dated: 10/08/2026

COMPLETE PROFILE OF MANAGING BODY

S.NO	NAME	PARENTAGE	DESIGNATION
01	IQBAL BANDAY	AHMADABDUL QAYOOM BANDAY	CHAIRMAN
02	TANVEER SHEIKH	AHMADAB RAHIM SHEIKH	SECRETARY
03	GH NABI DAR	ALI MOHAMMAD DAR	M B M B E R / PARENT
04	IRFAN HUSSAIN	MOHAMMAD SUBHAN	MEMBER
05	MUBASIR BANDAY	AHMADGH MOHIDIN BANDAY	M E M B E R / OTHER
06	MUSHTAQ MAD AHANGER	AH-MOHAMMAD AKBAR AH-PRINCIPAL	
07	MUSHTAQ MAD GANAYEE	AH-ABDUL RAZAQ GANAYEE	M E M B E R / TEACHER
08	MASEER BHAT	AHMADMOHAMMAD AKBERM BHAT	M E M B E R / PARENT
09	RUQAYA ZAHOOR	SHEIKH ZAHOOR AHMAD	T R E A S U R E R / MEMBER

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the following persons constitute the Managing Body of Roots International Public School, Beerwah.

If any person has any objection, claim, or grievance regarding the constituted of the above-mentioned Managing Body, they may submit their objection in writing, along with supporting documents, to the office of the school within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

For further information/contact: Roots International Public School (7006010415).

Sd/-

Principal
Roots International Public School
Beerwah

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farooq Ahmad Dar F/o Zainab Farooq, R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that the name of my daughter has inadvertently been recorded as "Zanib Farooq" instead of her correct name "Zainab Farooq" in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6873-0122-3349.

I hereby declare that Zainab Farooq is her correct and actual name and the same may be corrected/updated in all official records and documents.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Farooq Ahmad Dar
F/o Zainab Farooq
R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahid Mushtaq Mir, S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, R/o Kwarhama, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.), hereby inform the general public that I am the holder of Indian Passport No. U9535370.

The said passport was issued on 27/07/2021 and is valid up to 26/07/2031. I have lost/misplaced my aforesaid passport on 30/07/2026 while travelling from Kwarhama to Kunzer. Despite making my best efforts, I have been unable to trace/find the same.

The passport particulars are as follows:

Name: Zahid Mushtaq Mir

Passport No.: U9535370 Date of Issue: 27/07/2021

Date of Expiry: 26/07/2031 Date of Loss: 30/07/2026

Place/Route of Loss: While travelling from Kwarhama to Kunzer

fko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

Sub Office Baramulla

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 107007069 Session: ANNUAL/REGULAR

Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the against my mother's name as Khatija Begum Instead of Khuzara Begum

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Baramulla, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Baramulla within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Kounsara Bano

Father's name: Mohammad Yousuf Dar

Mother's Name: Khuzara Begum

DOB: 10-03-2008

Residence: Trikolba Pattan Baramulla

Mobile no: 9149547855

bmg



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar, F/o Nadiya Jan, R/o Hardu Aboora, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, declare that my ward's name and DOB are wrongly entered in Aadhaar No. 5295-2333-1417 as Nadia Jan and 30/09/2010.

Her correct name is Nadiya Jan and correct DOB is 03/10/2011, as per birth record. I seek correction of the same in her Aadhaar and official records.

Ghulam Ahmad Dar

F/o Nadiya Jan

R/o Hardu Aboora, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla

fko

From Office of the Advocate M.Afzal And Associates

In the case of 1.Tariq Ahmad Parry Son of Ghulam Ahmad Parry

2. Sabreena Yousuf

Daughter of Mohammad Yousuf Ahanger

Wife of Tariq Ahmad Parry

residents of Chanderhama Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baram- ulla

(Caveator)

V/s

Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that I, Advocate M. Hamid Ullah Bhat, holding Advocate's Licence No. 367/87, have reported the loss of my original Advocate's Licence. Any person having any objection to the issuance of a duplicate/replacement Advocate's Licence in my favour may submit/report such objection, along with supporting particulars, to the Registrar, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, or to the concerned Licence Section of the High Court, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the matter shall be processed in accordance with the applicable rules and procedure.

Advocate M. Hamid Ullah Bhat

S/o M. Habibullah Bhat

R/o 8, Humhama Heights, Airport Road, Budgam Advocate's Licence No. 367/87

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that I ABIDA KOSER W/O AKHTER HUSSAIN KHAN- DAY applied for fresh, DEE (D) class contractor card, If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPCD, Bemina Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

ABIDA KOSER
W/O AKHTER HUSSAIN
KHANDAY R/O DHANOUR
ARNAS REASI JAMMU..

mcb

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES DISTRICT KUPWARA

RE-ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

In pursuance to Director Fisheries J&K Govt. Letter No DOF-PLG/14/2025-05 dated 08-08-2026 & in continuation to this office Advertisement Notice No ADF/Kup/2026/339-41 dated 11-02-2026, fresh applications are invited from **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** beneficiaries residing in tribal villages located in Aspirational Blocks and pockets of high tribal concentration with low levels of development i.e., tribal-majority villages having a population of **at least 500 with 50% or more Scheduled Tribe Population**, who intend to avail financial assistance for below tabulated components in Private Sector under **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** for the financial year 2026-27, with the below detailed funding pattern.

S.No	Activity	Unit Cost	Pattern of Funding (ST Category)		No of Units
			Central Share General	Beneficiary Share	
01	Construction of Raceways of Minimum 50 Cubic Meter	5.50	4.95 (90%)	0.55 (10%)	02 No
02	Refrigerated Vehicle	25.00	22.50 (90%)	2.50 (10%)	01 No
03	Motor Cycle with Ice Box	0.75	0.675 (90%)	0.075 (10%)	02 No
04	Three-Wheeler with Ice Box (including e-rikshaw for Fish Vending)	3.00	2.70 (90%)	0.30 (10%)	02 No

The applications be submitted in the Office of Assistant Director Fisheries District Kupwara by or before 20-08-2026. The terms and conditions laid down as under shall be strictly followed while submitting the application.

Terms & Conditions

- The applicant will submit Detailed Project Report (DPR) / Self Contained Proposal (SCP) with justification, capital Cost, recurring cost involved, source of funds for meeting the beneficiary contribution including bank consent for providing loan to meet the beneficiary share, undertaking of beneficiary to the effect that no other government assistance is availed for the proposed project.
- Evidence of MOU of party with manufacturer / customization of refrigerated unit mounting on the vehicle. The applicant should furnish the details of truck with 3MT LBC along with financing details. The applicant should bound to operate the vehicle only for the purpose for which the vehicle is meant to be. The applicant should have valid driving license or consortium between beneficiary & intending driver,
- Documentary evidences of availability of requisite land free from all encumbrances along with necessary clearance / permission from concerned authority to establish the desired unit. Documents of the property if any rights or lease deed for 07 years
- Post construction operation management and maintenance will be carried out in a satisfactory manner by the beneficiaries at their cost.
- Applicants wishing to apply for Motor Cycle with Ice Box & three-wheeler with ice box must have a valid driving license.
- Rest of the terms & conditions can be sought from O/O Assistant Director Fisheries, District Kupwara.

Sd/
Assistant Director Fisheries,
District Kupwara
Dated: - 10-08-2026.

No:- ADF/Kup/2026/153-55

DIPK-4347/26
dated: 10-08-2026

Cultural Unit Organises Patriotic Programmes ahead of Independence Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the ongoing Independence Day Celebrations-2026, the Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Information Department organised a series of cultural and educational activities at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Sonwar, and Government High School (GHS), Malik Sahib, Safa Kadal.

The programmes featured Patriotic Singing Competitions, Symposia, Painting, Speech and Quiz Competitions, providing students with a vibrant platform to showcase their creative abilities, knowledge and patriotic spirit.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who displayed remarkable talent and wholehearted involvement. Through patriotic songs, thought-provoking speeches, paintings and quiz activities, the students re-

flected upon the significance of Independence, the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the values of unity, freedom, peace and national integrity.

The initiative was aimed at fostering patriotic consciousness among the younger generation and encouraging students to understand and appreciate the ideals and responsibilities associated with the nation's freedom. The activities also provided an engaging avenue for students to express their ideas and creativity in the spirit of Independence Day.

Abdul Raqib Bhat, Cultural Officer, Kashmir, and Syed Shakeel Shan, AECO, graced the programmes and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students. They commended the students for their talent, discipline and patriotic fervour and acknowledged the cooperation extended by the school authorities and teaching staff in ensuring the successful conduct of the programmes.

NIT Srinagar Improves NIRF Rank to 73rd, Gets Regular Director

Agencies

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Education has informed the Lok Sabha that a regular Director has recently been appointed at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, while the functions of Registrar have been assigned to a senior faculty member of the institute.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Dr Sukanta Majumdar, stated this in a written reply to Lok Sabha raised by National Conference MP Mian Altaf Ahmad regarding the administrative functioning of key posts at NIT Srinagar.

As per the reply, accessed by KNO, NIT Srinagar is an 'Institute of national importance' governed by the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 and the Statutes framed under the Act.

The Ministry said the Act and Statutes define various authorities for managing the administrative and academic affairs of the institute, imparting instructions and maintaining discipline.

The Ministry stated that, in accordance with the Statutes of NITs, the Board of Governors, the apex decision-making body of NIT Srinagar, had assigned the functions of Registrar to one of the senior faculty members of the institute.



File Photo

Dal Lake Turns Green as Weeds Spread, Fish Deaths Raise Ecological Concerns

Agencies

Srinagar: Dal Lake is facing fresh concerns over its deteriorating condition, with large stretches of water appearing green, thick weed growth visible across the lake and hundreds of fish reportedly found either dead or unconscious.

During interactions with several shikarawalas, they alleged that water quality has sharply deteriorated and claimed that diesel leakage from the machines used for mechanical de-weeding is contributing to the lake's

contamination.

As per KNT, the machinery deployed by the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority includes a high-capacity de-weeding machine, procured for mechanical weed removal from Dal Lake. The machine is designed to extract and remove large quantities of aquatic weeds.

However, several shikarawalas alleged that the machinery leaks diesel into the water during operations, claiming the contamination is visible in the lake's deteriorating condition.

"This water has become

worse than drainage water. You can see the colour of the lake yourself. There are weeds everywhere and fish are dying. If the machines are being used to clean the lake but are themselves leaking diesel into it, what kind of cleaning is this?" some shikarawalas told the news agency Kashmir News Trust.

The boatmen claimed that hundreds of fish have recently been seen floating in the lake, with some appearing unconscious and others already dead. They said the condition of the aquatic ecosystem should

be independently examined rather than dismissed as a routine seasonal problem.

Locals also expressed concern over the rapid spread of weeds and the changing appearance of the lake, saying the natural water body that once represented Srinagar's beauty was now showing visible signs of ecological distress. "The Dal Lake is not just a tourist attraction; it is a natural ecosystem. If the fish are dying and the water is turning green, somebody has to answer what is happening inside this lake," a local resident said.

DPE&S KU Plans Wider Sports Activities for 2026-27

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Directorate of Physical Education & Sports (DPE&S), University of Kashmir (KU), convened a meeting at the Main Campus to review and take stock of the Annual Sports Calendar for the academic session 2026-27.

The meeting was chaired by Director, DPE&S KU, Prof. Raies Ahmad Qadri, and attended by College Directors of Physical Education & Sports from affiliated colleges, and Assistant Directors & Coaches of DPE&S KU.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Qadri reiterated the Directorate's com-



mitment to expanding sporting opportunities across the University and its affiliated colleges. He said, "all games recognised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) would be actively promoted and incorporated into

the Annual Sports Calendar, with emphasis on wider student participation, systematic training and competitive exposure."

The meeting featured detailed discussions on the proposed Sports Calendar, including the scheduling and conduct of tournaments and competitions throughout the academic session. It also discussed measures for better coordination, effective participation and smooth conduct of sporting activities. The College Directors shared suggestions for expanding sports activities and creating more structured opportunities for emerging sportspersons to compete at different levels.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shagufta Akhter, aged about 31 years, D/o Abdul Rashid Dar, residing at Hurao, Tehsil and District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, holder of Aadhaar Card No. 7803 7575 8134, do hereby declare as under: That my name has been inadvertently recorded as "Shagufta Rasheid" in my Aadhaar card. That my correct, true, and official name is Shagufta Akhter. That "Shagufta Rasheid" and "Shagufta Akhter" refer to one and the same person, which is myself. This public notice is issued for updating/correcting my name in the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) records and for all other official and legal purposes.

Shagufta Akhter D/o Abdul Rashid Dar
R/o Hurao, Tehsil & District Budgam, J&K

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that I ABIDA KOSER W/O AKHTER HUSSAIN KHANDAY applied for fresh, DEE (D) class contractor card, If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil Investigation wing JKPC, Bemina Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

ABIDA KOSER W/O AKHTER HUSSAIN KHANDAY
R/O DHANOUR ARNAS REASI JAMMU..

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Fayaz Ahmad Chopan S/o Ghulam Mohammad Chopan, F/o Huzaif Fayaz, R/o Tarahama, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, declare that my ward's name is wrongly entered in Aadhaar No. 8900 4557 1292 as Huzaif Fayaz. His correct name is Huzaif Fayaz, as per School Certificate. I seek correction of the same in Aadhaar and official records.

Fayaz Ahmad Chopan
F/o Huzaif Fayaz
R/o Tarahama, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Biliqeesah Akhter, D/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Galwanpora, Sebdan, Tehsil & District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4905 1348 9514 as "Biliqeesah Nazir", whereas my correct and actual name is "Biliqeesah Akhter." I hereby declare that "Biliqeesah Nazir" and "Biliqeesah Akhter" refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. I have not changed my identity or status. The correction is being sought only to rectify my name in the Aadhaar record and to maintain uniformity in my official documents/records. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Biliqeesah Akhter D/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat
R/o Galwanpora, Sebdan, Tehsil & District Budgam, J&K

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Romhat Jan D/o Ghulam Qadir Lone, R/o Feroz Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), declare that my name and DOB are wrongly entered in Aadhaar No. 3949 1122 3509 as Romhat Jan and 29/09/2005.

My correct name is Romhat Jan and DOB is 15/10/2006, as per School Certificate. I seek correction of the same in my Aadhaar and official records.

Romhat Jan
D/o Ghulam Qadir Lone
R/o Feroz Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Malla S/o Abdul Khaliq Malla, F/o Servar Nazir, R/o Chandil Wani-gam, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, declare that my ward's name is wrongly entered in Aadhaar No. 9373 3648 5061 as Sarvar Nazir.

His correct name is Servar Nazir, as per School Certificate. I seek correction of the same in Aadhaar and official records.

Nazir Ahmad Malla
F/o Servar Nazir
R/o Chandil Wani-gam, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla

fko

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

27 Safar

1448

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 16

ZUHR 12:36

ASR 5: 26

Magrib 7: 26

ISHA 8: 55

Form No 3

[See Regulation -13 (1) (a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/531/2026

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 35004

STATE BANK OF INDIA
VS
GO GREEN

To.

(1) Go Green

Zewan Pantha Chowk Srinagar, through Proprietor Talib Ahmad Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190010

2) Talib Ahmad

S/o: Abdul Rashid Bhat

R/o: House No 118, Qamarwari Parempora Chattabal Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190010.

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/531/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 03.07.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 2821101 (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 30.09.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 09.07.2026

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Floriculture Officer District Srinagar Department of Floriculture Kashmir

Tele-fax: 0194-2476589 e-Mail fo-srinagar@jk.gov.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE: 04 Of 2026-27

DATED: 08/08/2026.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) revenue stamps are invited through Registered/speed post/ Courier or by hand from Government approved Nurserymen/Florist on the prescribed tender form for "Supply of Hybrid flower seeds (Winter)".

The tenders accompanied with CDR worth Rs.3000/- (Rupees three thousand only) from any recognized bank pledged to Floriculture Officer District Srinagar should reach this office by or before 18/08/2026 upto 4.00 PM. Tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 12/08/2026 to 17/08/2026 upto 4.00 PM against cash payment of Rs. 200/- (Non-refundable).

Name of job	Start and last date for issue of tender document	Last Date for receipt of sealed bids	Amount of Call Deposit Receipt	Tender document fee
Supply of Winter Hybrid Flower Seeds (Item/variety mentioned in tender document form).	12/08/2026 to 17/08/2026 Upto 4.00PM	18/08/2026 Upto 4.00 PM	3000/-	200/-

The tenders will be opened by the Local Purchase Committee (Central Kashmir) on the same day or next working day convenient to the committee. However, in case of any eventuality, the tender issue, receipt and opening date will be considered the next working day without any change of fixed time and venue.

No: FOS/NIT-04/2026-27/1550

DIPK-4355/26

Dated: 10/08/2026

Sd/-
(Mubashir Ahmad Wani)
Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture
District, Srinagar.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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Kashmir's Paycheck Problem

Weak employment practices are driving talent away from local firms and helping explain why the valley struggles to build companies that can survive shocks and scale.



Irshad Mushtaq

KO VIEW

Waste Comes Home

Bandipora has done something Jammu and Kashmir's municipalities have avoided for years: it has told households to take responsibility for their own garbage.

Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal's order, issued August 7 under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, mandates home composting of biodegradable waste for households with adequate space.

Beginning September 1, the Municipal Council will stop door-to-door collection of wet waste from those homes, restricting its pickups to dry and recyclable material.

The change may sound official, but it admits the old system failed and asks residents to help fix it.

The backstory explains why this order has impact beyond Bandipora.

For years, the Municipal Council dumped waste at Zalwan, a catchment area for Wullar Lake protected under wetland law. The Pollution Control Committee fined the council more than sixty-four lakh rupees in 2021 for the violation. The council fought the penalty at the National Green Tribunal and lost, then appealed to the Supreme Court and lost again.

Justices Ajay Rastogi and C.T. Ravi Kumar delivered a rebuke rather than a routine dismissal, asking the council directly whether this was how it dealt with matters affecting people's lives and ordering it to pay.

But despite that ruling, the wetland protections, and the 2016 waste rules already on the books, dumping at Zalwan reportedly continued. Legal defeat changed nothing on the ground.

That failure is why decentralization looks like the only credible path forward.

Hauling wet waste to a facility that keeps violating environmental law wastes fuel and labour, and keeps polluting a lake system already under stress.

Composting at the source removes that burden entirely.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat of the J&K Climate Action Group, who has tracked this fight since the original penalty, called the notification a landmark decision, and the description holds up.

The order also builds in flexibility: households genuinely short on space can file a self-declaration, and the council will assess alternatives. Bulk waste generators, already briefed at a June workshop in the DC's office, face their own obligation to process biodegradable waste on-site.

None of this solves anything unless enforcement improves and other districts follow.

Bhat is right to press for that. Zalwan sat in violation of tribunal orders, Supreme Court judgments and wetland protections all at once, and only a fine forced any acknowledgment of the problem.

Bandipora's notification finally attacks the source rather than the symptom.

Other deputy commissioners across Kashmir now have a model, and no excuse left for delay.

“Give a 24-year-old a six-day crash course in Excel and clear instructions, and she will reconcile inventory. Place her in a showroom where the manager screams daily, salary arrives unpredictably, and policy changes with the owner's mood, and she will retreat to Instagram or the next PSC exam.”

I was standing outside a bakery on Residency Road last month when a young man in a pressed outfit asked if I knew any office that needed “a boy for a few weeks.”

He had walked from Budgam at dawn because the temp agency that promised him a data-entry shift had sent a WhatsApp at 10 pm, saying the job was gone.

The boy still came, “in case they change mind again.”

The bakery owner watched the exchange and shrugged. “This is how it works,” he said. “We hire for a week and pay when we can. It keeps things flexible.”

Flexible, the man replied, means nothing is fixed.

In that brief exchange, Kashmir's private sector comes into focus. Work is offered as a favour, given today, and taken back tomorrow.

The result is a valley where tourists see houseboats and apple orchards, but locals see a labour market that never solidified into steady, scalable companies.

We keep asking why Kashmir's unemployment rate stays above the national average. The louder question is why anyone expects investment to grow where the rules of employment are rewritten each morning.

In many private offices in Srinagar, employees cannot remember their last paid holiday. Appointment letters are rare. Provident fund deductions show up on payslips, but the money never reaches their accounts.

A trade survey conducted this spring found that 68 percent of private-sector employees had been paid late at least once in the previous six months. One in four said the delay stretched beyond 90 days.

When salaries turn into surprises, rent, school fees, and insulin become gambles.

Families adapt by keeping sons in government-exam coaching centers and placing daughters on short-term teaching contracts, sustaining the belief that private work is only “supplementary.”

In reality, supplementary work has become central, and it is bleeding talent.

National chains that open outlets here enter the same security climate and banking bottlenecks we blame for scaring capital away. But they stay, expand, and attract queues. Their staff wear name tags, take scheduled breaks, and know the exact date salary hits their account.

Customers notice. A mediclaim rejection is handled by a process, rather than by pleading with the proprietor's cousin.

That reliability, not price, explains

why Srinagar's middle class drives past the corner store to a corporate chain. Local owners mutter about “brand power” while refusing to archive bills or train floor managers. Brand begins with systems instead of logos.

The excuse list is familiar: distress, disruption and disturbance. Each shock is real, but shocks test structure. They do not explain its absence.

Gujarat's textile mills endured riots and earthquakes. Bangalore's call centers lived through water crises and terror alerts. They responded by tightening payroll software, diversifying clients, and insuring plants.

Kashmir's default response is to shrink the workforce overnight, delay wages, and wait for “normalcy.”

Normalcy becomes code for never investing in the plumbing of business: ledgers, job descriptions, and succession plans.

Last year I spent a week inside a four-room handicraft exporter in Zaldagar. Orders from Milan had revived after the pandemic lull, but the owner could not dispatch 300 pashmina shawls on time. His senior weaver had left for a government daily-wage ditch-digging crew that paid less but on the dot. The remaining artisans worked home-based, afraid to demand advances.

The exporter railed against “ungrateful artisans,” but his own ledger showed payments made in three instalments stretching 16 weeks. Italy's buyer switched to a Chandigarh unit that cost 18 percent more and delivered in 21 days.

The valley lost not just margin but the entire narrative that Kashmiri craft is worth waiting for.

Skill deficit is routinely indicted, and our colleges still treat typing as computer education. But the bigger hole is organizational.

Give a 24-year-old a six-day crash course in Excel and clear instructions, and she will reconcile inventory. Place her in a showroom where the manager screams daily, salary arrives unpredictably, and policy changes with the owner's mood, and she will retreat to Instagram or the next PSC exam.

Training sticks where rules feel fair. Fairness is cheaper than new machinery but scarcer.

Artisans, hotel bellboys, and pharmacy aides converge on the same missing pillar: a workplace contract that treats labour as a relationship governed by law, than charity.

The Jammu & Kashmir Shops and Establishments Act has applied in full since 2016. It mandates written appointment, weekly off, overtime pay, and a

grievance redress forum.

Enforcement is left to district labour officers who oversee thousands of units with a staff of three.

Inspections are announced by WhatsApp, and closure threats negotiated over a cup of tea. Owners know the state is unlikely to fine them, and workers know complaints invite dismissal.

Both sides settle into the mutual pretence that informality helps “keep peace.”

Peace, in this equation, means silence, rather than stability.

Some change is visible. A ski-resort operator in Gulmarg now ties end-season bonus to guest-review scores. A Srinagar diagnostics lab funds an evening spoken-English class and promotes from within. Attrition has halved, and footfall rises each quarter because patients trust the same technician who drew their blood last year.

These outliers prove the market rewards reliability even in twisted terrain. They also show reform needs no Delhi package. It needs owners willing to step off the shop floor and design a process that survives their absence.

Policy can help at the margin: a single online portal for registration, fines that escalate for repeat wage delay, and a seed fund that releases 25 percent grant only after a firm files audited wage records. But the engine is inside each unit.

Kashmir will build a lasting private sector the day employers accept that timely salary is not generosity but cost of goods sold, that training is capex, and that listening to the youngest hire is market research.

Until then we will keep exporting apples and importing apple juice, stitching shawls and watching others retail them for five-fold margins.

Beyond another summit on ease of doing business, the valley requires hundreds of owners willing to look at the Residency Road job-seeker in the eye and say, “Be here at nine tomorrow. Your wages will be in your account on the last working day, every month.”

When that sentence becomes ordinary, investment will arrive without buzzwords, and young men will not walk morning buses hoping for a week of mercy work.

Reliable paychecks are the only stimulus package that ever lasted, and Kashmir can issue them without waiting for anyone's permission.

The author is a
Srinagar-based
financial educator.

Travel Agents Out?

Online platforms and mismatched hotel pricing are draining income from the travel agents, guides and small hoteliers who built the valley's tourism trade over decades.



Zainul Abi Din Raina

Kashmir's tourism numbers look impressive. Visitors come, hotels fill, and officials celebrate the totals. But look closer at where the money actually lands, and the picture darkens considerably.

The people who built this industry, the travel agents and tour operators who spent decades designing routes, arranging stays and keeping tourists safe through some genuinely brutal years, are being squeezed out of the very economy they created.

The problem starts with a basic misunderstanding of what tourism success looks like.

Kashmir needs visitors who stay longer, spend more and put money back into the local economy. A large crowd of tourists who spend almost nothing locally does not build prosperity.

Officials in Srinagar need a coherent policy aimed at drawing high-value, sustainable travel rather than chasing raw footfall,

because the current approach rewards volume while starving the businesses that depend on genuine spending.

Online travel platforms have accelerated the damage.

These companies can undercut local agents on price because they operate at a scale no Kashmiri travel business can match, and they sell straight to the customer without any of the overhead a local operator carries.

The traditional model, in which a Kashmiri agent builds a package, books a guide, arranges transport and stays personally invested in a visitor's trip, is being hollowed out.

Hotels have made this worse through their own pricing choices.

Some properties silently hand outside agents or individual customers prices that undercut what they charge the local operators who have sent them business for years.

That practice punishes loyalty and rewards businesses with no stake in Kashmir's long-term tourism health. It tilts the field against the people who actually live there.

A newer trend compounds the injury.

Growing numbers of visitors now come with their own food and supplies, using local services as little as possible during peak season.

Tourists have every right to spend as they choose, but an industry cannot survive on visitors who occupy a hotel room and contribute almost nothing beyond it. Tourism has to generate



broad economic benefit rather than just crowded roads and full parking lots.

The damage spreads well past the travel agencies themselves.

Transporters, guides, photographers, small hotel owners, restaurant staff, pony operators and shopkeepers all depend on tourism income circulating through local hands. When

outside platforms and mismatched pricing cut the local intermediary out of the transaction, that circulation slows, and all of those livelihoods feel it.

None of this is abstract for the people who built Kashmir's tourism identity from nothing, often while operating through periods of real danger and economic collapse.

They opened networks outside the valley, brought visitors back when few others would, and kept the industry alive through its hardest years.

Turning them into the weakest link in a system they built would be a genuine failure of policy rather than simply an unfortunate side effect of progress.

The fix is not complicated, even if it takes political will.

The Tourism Department can set clear standards for quality, high-spending travel. It can force transparency in hotel pricing and monitor the gap between what local agents and outside players get charged.

It can bring real regulatory oversight to online platforms so that competition stays fair instead of predatory.

Modernization will keep coming, and no policy should try to stop it. But modernization does not have to mean erasing the local businesses that understand the destination best.

Kashmir does not simply need more visitors walking through its valleys. It needs a tourism model where the people who sustain the industry can still make a living from it.

The author hails from Gund Sonamarg. He focuses on environmental and social issues, and can be reached at rainazainul020@gmail.com.

The Watchdog Kashmir Built on a Broken Rule

A government forced by the courts to protect Jammu and Kashmir's children instead built a selection process around a qualification Parliament never wrote into law, and the children are still waiting.



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Srinagar's Social Welfare Department keeps a sealed cover in a government office, and inside it sits the answer to a question that has consumed courtrooms, careers, and the lives of children who have no lawyer to speak for them.

The cover holds interview results for the chairperson and six members of the Jammu and Kashmir Commission for Protection of Child Rights, a body Parliament ordered into existence in 2005 and that still, twenty-one years later, does not legally exist.

A 42-year-old academic in Srinagar knows exactly what he thinks belongs in that cover, and what does not.

He holds a Ph.D. in law from the University of Kashmir, a doctoral thesis on human rights, and a Master of Laws with Distinction from a university in the United Kingdom. He cleared the UGC-NET and JRF examinations in both law and sociology.

Since April 2023, he has served as a member of the Child Welfare Committee in Srinagar, under the same department now running this selection.

Under the government's own published scoring formula, he would score maximum academic marks before an interviewer asked him a single question. He was not shortlisted.

And no one told him why. His experience traces back to a citizen named Musab Omer, who

filed a Public Interest Litigation before the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in 2020 after noticing that the Commission required by the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act simply did not exist in the region.

The Act had passed Parliament in 2005, obligating every state and union territory to build a body to monitor child welfare and investigate violations of children's rights.

Jammu and Kashmir let seventeen years pass before it even notified its own rules, in 2022, and did that only after the High Court ordered it to move.

The Social Welfare Department finally advertised the posts on 15 June 2023, listing six qualifying disciplines lifted directly from Section 17(2)(b) of the Act: education, child health and welfare, juvenile justice, elimination of child labour, child psychology or sociology, and laws relating to children.

Applications closed on 30 June 2023.

Then, on 30 May 2024, the government withdrew that advertisement from its very beginning, canceling every application it had received, without a public explanation on record anywhere.

Five months passed, and on 18 October 2024, a new advertisement appeared under the same file number, and it contained something no version before it had: a qualifying field called Management, which does not appear anywhere in the statute Parliament wrote.

The scoring system shifted with it.

The interview's weight dropped from thirty points to twenty, while the pre-interview academic component, now open to management graduates alongside child-welfare specialists, climbed to eighty.

That single addition became the fault line running through everything that followed.

Four of the five listed disciplines trace directly to Section 17(2)(b). Management does not, and legal observers have struggled to find any



TWENTY-ONE YEARS AFTER PARLIAMENT FIRST ORDERED THIS BODY INTO BEING, Jammu and

Kashmir's children remain without the one institution built to answer for their welfare, and the government now holds the choice of whether to hand them a commission the law can trust, or one it can still tear down.

reading of the statute that would justify it.

The government has offered no noting, press statement, or legal argument for its inclusion, and that silence has raised an uncomfortable possibility: that the field was written into the advertisement to open a door for candidates who hold business degrees but lack grounding in child protection.

The advertisement also promised a hundred-point merit formula, sixty for academic qualifications, twenty for experience, twenty for the interview, that would have

ranked all 548 applicants before anyone sat for an interview.

The department never used it.

On 25 October 2025, a shortlist appeared instead: twenty-one names for chairperson, twenty-eight for member, with no published marks, no disclosed criteria, and no account of why candidates who would have topped the advertised formula never made the list.

The Supreme Court's 2025 Constitution Bench ruling in *Tej Prakash Pathak v. Rajasthan High Court* settled this exact question, holding that once an authority

advertises a merit formula, it must apply it rather than discard it when the results become inconvenient.

Candidates who were excluded went to court, as citizens in a functioning democracy do.

Shalini Sharma filed a writ petition on 7 November 2025, three days before interviews were set to begin, and won a stay on the results.

Interviews proceeded anyway on 10 and 11 November, with results sealed and handed to the court.

On 20 November, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Ronga filed a broader challenge, contesting the

legality of the entire process, from the Management qualification to the missing merit list to the department's failure to meet the fairness standard written into Rule 4(3) of the 2022 rules.

On 1 July 2026, a Division Bench dismissed Sharma's petition as settled, since she had gotten her interview, and lifted the stay.

Appointments could proceed, the court said, though any appointments made would remain subject to whatever the court decides in Ronga's still-pending case, a case the government has yet to answer eight months after it was filed.

That leaves Jammu and Kashmir's child rights watchdog suspended in a strange legal condition, cleared to name a chairperson and members while a case challenging the legitimacy of their selection sits unresolved before the same bench.

The High Court will take up that question on 29 August 2026, and it comes down to a plain reading of statute: did Parliament ever authorize a management degree as a qualifying field for a child rights commission.

The text says it did not.

Between now and that hearing lies the real test. The government can wait for the court's answer, or it can open the sealed cover and make appointments while the challenge still stands, building a commission whose founding act defies the law that created it.

Twenty-one years after Parliament first ordered this body into being, Jammu and Kashmir's children remain without the one institution built to answer for their welfare, and the government now holds the choice of whether to hand them a commission the law can trust, or one it can still tear down.

— *The author is an environmental activist and policy analyst based in Kashmir. He chairs the JeK Climate Action Group and founded the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.*

The Day the Brain Says Enough

People of Kashmir are discovering the limits of concentration, memory and emotional control after too much stress and too little rest.



Ansar Hussain



With guidance from mental health therapist and support from his family, Adil slowly rebuilt his daily routine. He went to bed earlier, added regular screen-free breaks, and began taking mindful walks in the Mughal gardens. His focus and memory gradually returned. He completed his exams feeling steadier, though some days remain hard.

For three weeks before his entrance exams, Adil Khan, 19, sat in his little room in Srinagar, flipping physics notes long into the night.

He had already spent 12-hour days in a coaching center. Then came the haze: He forgot formulas, his head throbbed, and a 90-minute test felt like a slog.

"My brain just shut down. I couldn't think," Adil said. The pressure was immense, but his coping strategy only made things worse: late-night study, coffee-fueled mornings, and no breaks.

In Anantnag district, 34-year-old Naila Gani cares for her elderly father who has Parkinson's. She handles his medicine, meals, and physical therapy from dawn till dusk. There is no respite.

"I feel awake but empty by evening," Naila said. "I forget small things, like where I placed my keys or what I was cooking."

She is not alone. Caregivers across the valley report similar feelings of mental emptiness after long days with little rest or recognition.

What people often call feeling mentally tired is actually cognitive fatigue, a condition when your brain gets foggy and it's harder to think clearly or make decisions after working hard for a long time. Tasks that once took minutes now drag into hours. Memory falters, emotions become sharper, and mistakes seep through.

Repeated exam stress, caregiving demands, remote work calls, and social media bingeing are draining people's mental reserves in Kashmir.

A well-known psychiatrist at GMC Srinagar said this isn't simple tiredness. When people push their

minds too long without proper rest, it starts breaking down. "Focus fades, emotional control weakens, and eventually, the mind stops cooperating."

Health data from Kashmir shows the problem is growing. A 2023 survey found that forty percent of university students reported serious trouble with concentration and memory. More than thirty percent said they felt mentally drained on most days. Insomnia is also widespread.

At a prominent city hospital, nearly half of the admitted patients reported sleeping difficulties. Sleeping pill use is rising, pointing to a region under mounting mental strain.

Research in India and beyond offers clues to why this is happening.

Poor sleep, a familiar struggle across the country, is a major factor. More than a third of Indian college students report poor sleep quality.

Sleep loss disrupts memory, attention, and decision-making. During exams, student fatigue can spike from thirty-nine to fifty percent, especially when screen use and caffeine consumption increase.

In Nagpur, professors now describe this screen-related burnout as "digital obesity," a silent epidemic spreading among students.

Constant multitasking, like juggling studies, mobile apps, and household chores, is steadily draining people's brain energy. Psychology studies confirm that decision fatigue lowers judgment and weakens self-control.

A Srinagar-based therapist often tells his patients that when sleep breaks, the mind breaks. "Many people in Kashmir need simple, regular

routines, not more hours of work."

The therapist said high stress and poor sleep are driving many people toward sleeping pills, but their misuse only worsens memory problems and mental confusion.

The way out does not require big solutions. Experts recommend small, steady changes. Sleep remains the foundation. Staying off screens at least an hour before bedtime, aiming for seven to nine hours of uninterrupted rest, can help reset mental sharpness.

In Srinagar, some students are now using the Pomodoro method, breaking study time into twenty-five-minute work blocks followed by short breaks, to keep their minds fresh.

Regular movement, even short walks along the Jhelum or near Dal Lake, can improve mental clarity. A balanced diet rich in leafy greens, nuts, fish, and water is key to sustaining brain power.

Many overlook hydration, but even mild dehydration can slow down thinking. Limiting screen time, switching off notifications, and cutting back on multitasking can all help protect the brain's energy.

Caregivers like Naila need support: shared responsibilities, time off, and space to recharge.

With guidance from mental health therapist and support from his family, Adil slowly rebuilt his daily routine. He went to bed earlier, added regular screen-free breaks, and began taking mindful walks in the Mughal gardens. His focus and memory gradually returned. He completed his exams feeling steadier, though some days remain hard.

Naila has since joined a local



In Kashmir's fast-moving ecosystem, many people are pushing their minds to the edge without knowing it. The way back is simple: rest, routine, and community.

women's support group in Anantnag. They meet weekly, sometimes just to talk. She has started sleeping better and now notices when she needs to pause before her energy slips away. Her fatigue hasn't disappeared, but she is learning to step back in time.

In Kashmir's fast-moving ecosystem, many people are pushing their minds to the edge without knowing it. The way back is simple: rest, routine, and community.

The harder part is noticing the silent signs, and choosing to stop before the mind does.

— *The author is a Multimedia Editor at Kashmir Observer.*

Special Court Acquits Two Persons In NDPS Case

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: A court here has acquitted two accused in a 2022 drug case registered in Budgam, holding that the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the alleged contraband was recovered from their conscious and exclusive possession.

The Special Judge (NDPS Cases) Srinagar, Vinod Kumar, acquitted Shah Nawaz Qadir Ganie, and Mohd Ayoub Sofi, both residents of Hyderpora of offences under Sections 8/20, 21 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

According to the prosecution, the case (FIR No. 207/2022) was registered at Police Station Budgam after police recovered 65 grams of charas, 15 bottles containing codeine-based medicinal preparation and Rs 1.39 lakh in cash during a search of a house at Hyderpora. The prosecution subsequently relied upon an FSL report which detected charas in the sampled substance and Codeine Phosphate and Chlorpheniramine Maleate in the sampled liquid.

After examining the evidence, the court found serious discrepancies concerning the alleged recovery and possession. The Executive Magistrate who supervised the search had stated during cross-examination that the

contraband was recovered from the house and not from the accused, and that he could not say why the two persons were booked in the case. The court noted that this directly contradicted the prosecution version regarding possession.

The court further observed that the house was occupied by several family members and that one of the accused did not reside there. The alleged contraband was also found at different locations within the room rather than in the direct possession of the accused, making it difficult to draw an inference of exclusive conscious possession.

The court also pointed to discrepancies regarding the weighing of the alleged charas. Witnesses gave different accounts about the place where the substance was weighed, the weighing instrument used and the circumstances of the weighing. The court held that these were not merely peripheral variations but concerned material aspects of the alleged recovery.

Consequently, the court extended the benefit of doubt to both accused and acquitted them of the charges under Sections 8/20, 21 and 29 of the NDPS Act. Advocates Mir Urfi, Waheed Dar, Zia-Ul-Rehan, Anil Raina, Aqib Farooq and Ms. Bushra represented the accused duo.

‘Problem Is Very Serious’

SC Seeks Centre’s Response On Drug Trafficking Cases

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking directions to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking, including a time-bound probe and trial of narcotics cases, confiscation of properties of traffickers and creation of a uniform investigation protocol.

Observing that the problem is "very serious", a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydalya Bagchi and V Mohana said coordinated efforts by expert agencies were required to deal with the menace.

Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who has filed the petition, told the bench that a similar issue is already pending before the apex court.

"The problem is very serious," the bench observed, adding that some kind of a solution has to be there by the expert agencies.

Upadhyay said some of the countries, including Singapore, have taken several effective steps to deal with the problem of drug trafficking.

The plea, filed through advocate Ashwini Kumar Dubey, has sought directions to the Centre and states to prescribe mandatory timelines for the submission of forensic reports in cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and frame standard operating procedures (SOPs) for search, seizure and sampling of narcotic



substances.

It also sought a direction to the Centre to frame SOP for time-bound investigation and speedy trial in such cases.

"Keeping in view the menace of drug mafia network operating in India, the court may be pleased to issue a writ, order or direction to, a) direct the Centre and state governments to prescribe a mandatory timeline for submission of FSL (forensic science laboratory) reports in all NDPS cases; b) direct the Centre and states to formulate a SOP for search, seizure and sampling in small and intermediate quantity cases," the plea said.

It also sought the constitution of special courts for speedy trial of the NDPS cases and implementation of mandatory digital recording and videography of search, seizure

and sampling proceedings.

Claiming that drug abuse and trafficking had assumed alarming proportions, the plea said there was a 53 per cent rise in drug cases in 2025, and 1,240 tonnes of narcotic substances were seized during the year, indicating the growing scale of the problem.

It referred to incidents from Punjab and other states to argue that drug addiction was destroying families and affecting public health and law and order.

The plea claimed the existing framework lacked uniform investigation standards, time-bound forensic examination and effective coordination among enforcement agencies, leading to delays in prosecution and avoidable acquittals.

Seeking stricter action against organised drug syndicates, the plea urged the court to direct

authorities to carry out time-bound assessment and confiscation of properties of traffickers, financiers and their family members under the NDPS Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Benami Property Act and Black Money Act.

The plea further sought directions for creation of an expert committee to identify and regulate new psychoactive substances, establishment of rehabilitation and wellness centres for addicts and formulation of a graded sentencing policy that distinguishes traffickers and financiers from addicts and personal-use offenders.

The petitioner has also sought a direction to the Law Commission to prepare a comprehensive report on the issue and a declaration that sentences in NDPS cases should run consecutively.

UGC-NET June 2026 Provisional Answer Key To Be Out This Week: NTA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday said it will publish the provisional answer key for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination on its official website this week.

The NTA will also release answer keys for CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) and AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations.

"The provisional answer keys for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination will be published on the official website this week, along with the provisional answer keys for the CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) & AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations," the NTA said in a public notice.

The NTA said candidates will be able to view the provisional answer keys and raise challenges within the notified window. Detailed instructions will be provided at the time of publication, it said.

The NTA advised candidates to regularly check its official website and rely only on official communications from the agency.

The NTA conducted the UGC NET examinations on six days between June 22-30 and a retest on July 5, 2026.

UGC-NET is conducted to determine the eligibility of candidates for the posts of Assistant Professor and admission to PhD programmes. The examination consists of two papers: Paper I, which includes 50 questions on teaching aptitude, reasoning ability, and general awareness, and Paper II, which contains 100 subject-related multiple-choice questions.

The Joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2026 examination were held on July 17-18 in computer-based test (CBT) mode to determine the eligibility for the award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), appointment as Assistant Professor, and admission to PhD programmes in institutions across India.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heavy Rain

recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2°C, which was 3.2°C above normal, while the minimum settled at 19.4°C.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 34.6°C against a normal of 33.1°C, while the minimum temperature was 25.1°C.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 27.2°C and a minimum of 17°C, while Gulmarg recorded a high of 22.8°C and a low of 11.8°C.

The Meteorological Centre advised people and authorities to remain cautious in vulnerable areas and stay alert to the possibility of flash floods, landslides and temporary water-logging during periods of intense rainfall.

Advisory Against

has forecast rainfall over the next few days, raising the possibility of disruptions on vulnerable road stretches.

The traffic authorities have advised commuters to undertake journeys only after confirming road conditions with traffic control units. The advisory has also been circulated through the traffic police's social media platforms.

Traffic has been regulated at Dawal on NH-44, where a 30-40 metre single-lane stretch is currently operational.

Passenger and light motor vehicle operators have been advised to plan their journeys on the Jammu-Srinagar highway during daylight hours and avoid night travel, particularly along the Ramban-Banihal section, where construction work is underway.

Heavy goods vehicle operators carrying fresh and perishable goods have also been advised to load their vehicles strictly as per instructions issued by the Traffic Police Headquarters.

The advisory cited the possibility of shooting stones and landslides along the ongoing construction stretch between Ramban and Banihal and urged motorists to exercise caution while travelling through the vulnerable sections.

J&K On Alert

in sensitive sectors.

In North Kashmir, heightened vigilance has been maintained in Uri, Keran, Tangdar and Gurez, where security forces are keeping a close watch on movement and conducting checks at important locations.

In the Jammu region, security has been intensified in the Krishna Ghati sector and Poonch, besides areas close to the International Border, including Kautha and other sensitive stretches.

Security forces have also stepped up surveillance in border villages and along routes leading towards frontier areas as part of the overall security arrangements.

The measures are aimed at ensuring peaceful and smooth Independence Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said the intensified checking, frisking and surveillance were part of routine preventive security arrangements ahead of the national event.

Commuters and motorists have been urged to cooperate with security personnel during checking.

IGP Birdi Reviews

also apprised the meeting of preparations and security arrangements in their respective districts.

Birdi directed officers to complete all necessary preparations well in advance and assigned specific responsibilities for various events planned across the Valley, including rallies.

He also reviewed security arrangements for the main Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar and directed officers to further strengthen security measures at the venue.

The IGP called for strengthened security checkpoints, particularly during night hours, at vulnerable locations and along entry and exit routes of Srinagar city.

He also directed security agencies to intensify area domination and patrolling in sensitive and vulnerable areas to maintain a strong security presence and ensure effective surveillance.

Birdi stressed the need for strict vigilance against elements inimical to peace and security and called for enhanced alertness across all jurisdictions.

The meeting was attended by senior officers, including IG BSF Frontier Headquarters Kashmir, IG CRPF Kashmir Operations Sector, IG CRPF Srinagar, DIG SSB Srinagar, DIG CID Kashmir, range DIGs of Kashmir Zone, DIG Traffic Kashmir, DIG ITBP Srinagar, DIG RPF Kashmir and district SSPs.

Senior Army officers, including Col GS (IS), 15 Corps, along with officials from the Security Wing, CID, Armed Police, SDRF, Railway Police, traffic police and other agencies also participated in the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a focus on heightened vigilance, enhanced inter-agency coordination and effective implementation of security protocols for the peaceful and orderly conduct of Independence Day celebrations and other scheduled events across Kashmir.

CM Hints At

discussion amid demands for wider political representation and a possible redistribution of portfolios within the council of ministers.

However, the chief minister did not indicate a specific date for the exercise or disclose the names of leaders who could be inducted into the ministry.

Omar is expected to hold further consultations with leaders of the ruling alliance before finalising the names and portfolios.

The expansion is being closely watched in political circles as the government seeks to strengthen its administrative set-up and ensure representation from different regions of the Union Territory.

The Omar Abdullah-led government was formed following the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, in which the National Conference emerged as the single-largest party.

MHA Directs

privately after the event in a manner consistent with the dignity of the flag.

The MHA also asked states and UTs to undertake mass awareness programmes on the proper use and display of the National Flag and give the issue wide publicity through advertisements in print and electronic media.

The communication enclosed the salient features of the Flag Code of India, 2002, as amended in 2021 and 2022, along with provisions of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

According to the Flag Code, members of the public, private organisations and educational institutions may hoist or display the National Flag on all days and occasions, subject to maintaining its dignity and honour.

The code also permits the National Flag

to be flown day and night when displayed in the open or on the house of a member of the public.

The flag must be rectangular with a length-to-width ratio of 3:2 and should occupy a position of honour whenever displayed. A damaged or dishevelled flag must not be displayed.

The code further states that the National Flag should not be flown from the same masthead simultaneously with another flag. It also cannot be flown on vehicles except those of specified dignitaries, including the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Governors.

The MHA said the Flag Code and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act govern the use, hoisting and display of the National Flag and stressed the need for greater public awareness about the applicable laws, practices and conventions.

10 Booked

of government store material, forgery, abuse of official position and criminal conspiracy, the ACB said.

According to the investigation, the bridge work was allotted to Lone in September 2010 with a stipulated completion period of three months. However, the contractor started the work after a considerable delay, executed only part of it and subsequently abandoned the project.

Government store material, including cement and steel worth around Rs 5.63 lakh, allegedly remained unaccounted for or unrecovered, the agency said.

The investigation also found that the contractor's cash deposit receipt (CDR) of Rs 73,000 was allegedly released and encashed fraudulently on the basis of a forged departmental communication.

Besides, bill deposits amounting to Rs 81,400 were allegedly released despite outstanding government liabilities, resulting in lapses in safeguarding government material and recovery of dues, the ACB said.

The agency alleged that the acts of omission and commission by the accused public servants, allegedly in connivance with the contractor, caused a total loss of Rs 7.12 lakh to the state exchequer.

The charge-sheet was filed before the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, after completion of the investigation and obtaining the requisite sanction for prosecution against the serving public servants.

All 10 accused were produced before the court on Monday and were granted bail after furnishing bail and surety bonds as directed by the court.

The court has fixed November 25, 2026, as the next date of hearing.

J&K Film Festival

was among its key objectives.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, R Alice Vaz said the festival would build on Jammu and Kashmir's long association with cinema while creating new opportunities for the film fraternity.

"Jammu and Kashmir has a rich and enduring association with cinema. The first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir is an important step towards building on this legacy and creating new opportunities for the film fraternity," she said.

Vaz said suggestions and expectations raised by members of the film fraternity during a

storytellers' meet in Jammu would be considered while framing future policies and initiatives for the growth of the film sector.

The government also sees the festival as having a wider tourism and cultural impact, with officials highlighting its potential to showcase J&K's landscapes and cultural identity to audiences in India and abroad.

The focus on emerging local talent will be reinforced through the IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026, which is open exclusively to aspiring filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir. Participants can submit original short films, with the deadline for entries set for August 26.

The festival is expected to provide a platform for local filmmakers and artists to interact with industry professionals, develop skills and establish networks beyond the region.

At the 'Frame by Frame: The Storytellers' Meet', members of the local film and creative fraternity also shared suggestions on strengthening the film sector and ensuring greater exposure for artists from J&K.

The festival's opening and closing ceremonies will be held on September 7 and 10 respectively, with participation from members of the film fraternity.

Panel Seeks Integrated

Emergency contact numbers and safety instructions should also be prominently displayed at hotels, transport points and tourist facilities in multiple languages, the panel said.

The committee recommended periodic joint security audits and vulnerability assessments, particularly before the tourist season and the Amarnath Yatra, to identify and address emerging security concerns.

The panel undertook a study visit to Jammu, Srinagar, Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Kargil from May 11 to 15, 2026. During the visit, it assessed security arrangements in Gulmarg, interacted with police officials in Sonmarg and reviewed border security preparedness in Kargil with Army representatives.

Noting the steady rise in tourist arrivals in Jammu and Kashmir, the committee said security management at tourist destinations was crucial to maintaining public confidence and supporting the continued growth of the tourism sector.

In Ladakh, the panel recommended sustained investment in integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, counter-drone systems, secure communication networks and indigenous high-altitude technologies.

It also called for timely procurement, deployment and periodic technological upgradation of such systems in strategically important sectors.

The committee appreciated the overall security preparedness of the security forces.

Demography Panel

three-day visit, officials said.

Soon after its arrival, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat met the panel at a hotel as part of its consultations with senior officials.

The committee was briefed on the demographic profile of Jammu and Kashmir and changing population trends, officials said.

The panel is scheduled to continue its engagements till August 12 and visit several areas

of Jammu, including settlements inhabited by Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, as well as areas along the International Border considered sensitive from security and administrative perspectives.

The Centre had constituted the high-level committee in May under the chairmanship of retired Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar to study demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal factors and suggest measures to address them.

The committee comprises Census Commissioner and three experts, Durga Shankar Mishra, a retired IAS officer, Balaji Srivastava, a retired IPS officer, and economist Shamika Ravi. The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) in the Ministry of Home Affairs is the Member Secretary.

The committee's visit comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the "High-powered Demography Mission" on August 15 last year. The Union Cabinet approved the mission on September 11.

Officials said a detailed presentation on the demographic overview and changing trends in Jammu and Kashmir was made before the Chief Secretary and DGP met the panel.

According to government data, more than 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts, with their population having increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

In March 2021, police identified more than 270 Rohingyas, including women and children, during a verification drive in Jammu city and lodged them at a holding centre inside the Kathua Sub-Jail.

The presence of illegal foreign immigrants, particularly Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, has previously drawn concerns from BJP leaders and right-wing groups, who have sought identification and deportation of those residing illegally in the region.

The committee's assessment is expected to examine demographic trends and associated administrative and security concerns during its engagements in Jammu.

HC Seeks Status

investigation or trial against sitting and former MPs/MLAs. A similar report had been filed by the Home Department of Ladakh on February 17, 2023.

"Much water has flown since the reports were filed," the Bench observed, noting that there must have been further progress in the matters.

The Court accordingly directed both J&K and Ladakh to place updated status reports on record by or before the next date of hearing on September 9.

The PIL was registered by the High Court in 2021 following the Supreme Court's September 16, 2020 directions to Chief Justices of High Courts to constitute special benches and monitor the progress of criminal cases pending against sitting and former legislators.

The Supreme Court had stressed that such cases, including those involving allegations of corruption and money laundering, should not remain pending indefinitely because of interim stays or repeated adjournments. It had also directed that, where required, hearings should proceed on a day-to-day basis and that petitions seeking quashing of criminal trials be decided expeditiously.

CM Omar Hands Over Rs 2.71 Cr Cash Awards to Outstanding Athletes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday called a renewed push to strengthen sports infrastructure, training and financial support for athletes as he honoured 580 outstanding sportspersons with cash awards amounting to Rs 2.71 crore.

Addressing a Special Cash Award Ceremony organised by the J&K Sports Council at SKICC Srinagar here, CM Omar as per KNO, said the government wants to create an environment where athletes can translate their hard work and talent into success at national and international competitions.

"I want to congratulate all the awardees from the bottom of my heart. This is the result of your hard work," he said.

The awards, pertaining to the years 2023-24 and 2024-25, were presented to 580 sportspersons and international athletes. The Chief Minister personally handed over awards to 22 sportspersons, while the remaining beneficiaries received the amount through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

CM Omar said the government would make efforts to ensure that athletes do not face financial pressure for coaching, training, equipment and travel, stressing that such expenses should not become a burden on their parents and families.

The Chief Minister called for greater attention to both established and emerging sporting disciplines, saying J&K has considerable talent beyond conven-



Resource Constraints Won't Hinder Sporting Talent: Sports Minister Sharma

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Sports Minister Satish Sharma on Monday said the government is committed to building a world-class sporting ecosystem in the Union Territory, asserting that talent should not be held back by lack of resources.

Speaking at a Special Cash Award Ceremony for outstanding sportspersons at SKICC Srinagar, Minister Sharma, as reported by KNO, said the athletes being honoured had brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir through years of sacrifice, hard work and perseverance.

"For every athlete we honour today, this moment is the culmination of years of early mornings, sacrifice, injuries overcome and an unshakable belief in themselves," he said.

The minister said the achievements of these sportspersons

would inspire youngsters in villages and districts across J&K to dream of reaching the national and international stage. "I want to assure each one of you that this government stands firmly behind our sportspersons," he said.

Sharma said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was working to create an ecosystem where sporting talent would not be limited by financial constraints or lack of resources. He said the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism for award money reflected the government's commitment to ensuring that athletes receive their financial rewards swiftly, transparently and with dignity.

The minister also launched the 'Icon Against Drugs and Doping' campaign, calling upon athletes to use their influence to spread awareness among youngsters against drug abuse and doping.

tional sports.

Referring to the overwhelm-

ing focus on cricket, CM Omar said other disciplines also re-

quire greater attention and investment.

"Unfortunately, when we talk about sports, perhaps more than 80% of the attention goes towards cricket. Most of the money is also in cricket, followed by football and then other sports," he said.

He said India's ambitions at major international sporting events require athletes to be encouraged across different disciplines, while welcoming growing corporate participation in sports, particularly in coaching and athlete development.

Referring to emerging disciplines such as BMX, skateboarding and gymnastics, CM Omar said the achievements of J&K sportspersons have demonstrated the potential among young athletes.

"Our children have potential. These awards have shown that. They have an interest in these sports and we have to encourage them," he said.

He also pointed to the need for better basic training facilities, saying athletes in J&K often compete with sportspersons who have access to advanced

infrastructure and year-round training.

"I can count the synthetic tracks on the fingers of one hand. I can see four. When we cannot provide our athletes with synthetic tracks, what medals can we expect from them?" the Chief Minister asked.

"Your competition is with those who are practicing for 12 months of the year," he added.

CM Omar said sports activities and competitions being promoted through schools and other institutions should be expanded to more areas, with greater participation of children and youth.

On the occasion, CM Omar felicitated J&K MMA fighter Owais Yaqoob for his remarkable victory at BRAVE CF 107 in Bulgaria, where he defeated an unbeaten two-time IMMAF World Champion.

He also launched an anti-drugs and anti-doping campaign by handing over a campaign torch to a sports icon from Jammu and Kashmir. The torch will travel through schools and different areas of Srinagar as part of the awareness campaign.

Minister for Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Secretary Sports Council, sports icons, sportspersons, athletes, coaches, awardees and their parents were present on the occasion.

ASI Allocates Rs 22.72 Cr for Conservation of Protected Monuments

SRINAGAR: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has allocated Rs 22.72 crore for conservation, preservation and environmental development of protected monuments in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three financial years and the current fiscal, with Rs 20.13 crore spent so far, according to a Lok Sabha reply.

The details were provided by Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a written reply to Lok Sabha regarding conservation of national cultural heritage under the National Culture Fund and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

As per the reply, accessed by KNO, the ASI undertakes conservation and maintenance of protected monuments every year based on the requirement of monuments and availability of resources. Regular inspections are also carried out by ASI officers to assess conservation and renovation works.

According to the annexure, Jammu and Kashmir received an allocation of Rs 7.17 crore in 2023-24, against which the entire amount was spent.

In 2024-25, Rs 4.90 crore was allocated and Rs 4.89 crore was spent, while in 2025-26, Rs 5.95 crore was allocated and the entire amount was utilised.

For the current financial year 2026-27, Rs 4.70 crore has been allocated to J&K, of which Rs 2.12 crore had been spent up to August 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has also approved a National Culture Fund (NCF) project worth Rs 1.21 crore for development of amenities at the Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar during 2026-27. (KNO)

No Tourism Infrastructure Proposal under Consideration for Bla, Kupwara, Budgam, B'pora

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Tourism has informed the Lok Sabha that no proposal for development of tourism infrastructure in Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam and Bandipora districts of Jammu and Kashmir is currently under consideration.

Union Minister of Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stated this in a written reply to Lok Sabha regarding development of tourism in Kashmir. As per the reply, accessed by KNO, development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products, including eco-tourism destinations, is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration.

The Ministry, however, complements the efforts of the UT Administration through schemes including Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)—a sub-scheme of SD2.0—and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD).

Financial assistance under these schemes is extended subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), availability of funds, government directions and inter-se priority, among other conditions.

The Ministry said sanctioning of new projects under these schemes is a continuous process. However, at present, no proposal for development of tourism infrastructure in Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam and Bandipora districts of J&K is under consideration in the Ministry of Tourism.

The reply also listed projects sanctioned earlier under the Swadesh Darshan scheme in Jammu and Kashmir.

These include the Jammu-Srinagar-Pahalgam-Bhagwati Nagar-Anantnag-Salamabad-Uri-Kargil-Leh project sanctioned in 2016-17 at a cost of Rs 77.33 crore; tourist facilities at Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama at Rs 81.60 crore; and construction of assets in lieu of those destroyed in the 2014 floods under the PM Development Package at Rs 90.43 crore. (KNO)

711 Govt Schools Approved for ICT labs

JAMMU: As many as 711 government schools in the Jammu Lok Sabha constituency have been approved for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Labs, while 530 schools have been approved for Smart Classrooms, the Union Government has informed the Lok Sabha.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Jayant Chaudhary, stated this in a written reply to the Lok Sabha regarding promotion of digital education in Jammu.

As per the reply, accessed by KNO, the government is promoting digital education in school education through various initiatives under Samagra Shiksha, in alignment with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, based on their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B), as approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the respective State/UT.

The assistance supports strengthening of ICT infrastructure, including ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms, in Government and Government-aided schools having Classes VI to XII, including schools located in rural, remote and hilly areas. (KNO)

'Thank You Kashmir':

PARAS Health Launches Gratitude Campaign, Celebrates Trust of People

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Recognising the trust and confidence placed by people in its doctors, healthcare professionals and services, PARAS Health Srinagar has launched a special gratitude campaign titled 'Thank You Kashmir', expressing appreciation to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for making the healthcare facility an integral part of their medical journey.

The campaign is aimed at acknowledging the patients and families who have chosen PARAS Health Srinagar for their treatment and have reposed faith in its doctors, medical teams and management over the past three years.

The initiative comes as PARAS Health Srinagar continues to expand its range of specialised and advanced healthcare services, with a focus on bringing sophisticated medical technology, specialised expertise and comprehensive treatment closer to patients in the region. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Dharminder Nagar, Managing Director, PARAS Health, said serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir had always been an important vision for the organisation.

"It was always a dream to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the best possible healthcare facilities. Our endeavour has been to ensure that sophisticated machines, advanced technology and specialised medical facilities are available to the people of Kashmir at their doorstep, so that they



do not have to travel outside the region for quality treatment," Dr Nagar said.

He said the 'Thank You Kashmir' campaign was essentially a message of gratitude to the people who had trusted PARAS Health and its teams.

"Healthcare is ultimately about trust. The faith that patients and their families place in their doctors and healthcare institutions is our biggest responsibility. We are grateful to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for giving us the opportunity to serve them," he said.

Seema Vig, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, PARAS Health, commended the Srinagar team for its efforts and commitment towards strengthening the healthcare ecosystem in the region.

She said the campaign was not merely a celebration for the institution but a tribute to the people whose trust had enabled PARAS Health Srinagar to grow.

"Our doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and the entire Srinagar team have worked with tremendous dedication. Their exemplary work has helped build confidence among patients and families," Vig said.

She reiterated the organisation's commitment to de-

livering high-quality healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We want to be the first, and we want to provide everything up to standard. Our commitment is to ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have access to the best possible healthcare facilities, technology and expertise," she said.

Dr Murtuza Habib, Associate Vice President and Facility Director, PARAS Health Srinagar, said establishing a credible space in the healthcare landscape of Jammu and Kashmir was not an easy journey.

"Creating a space in healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir was not easy. It takes time to build an institution, but more importantly, it takes time to build trust," Dr Habib said.

He attributed the growth of PARAS Health Srinagar largely to the people of the region, saying their confidence in the doctors, medical teams and the healthcare process had been the biggest strength of the institution.

"I would give the biggest credit to the people. They trusted our doctors, they trusted the process and they gave us the opportunity to serve them. That trust is what has brought us to where we are today," he said.

Katra May Get Airport as Parliamentary Panel Pushes Feasibility Study

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, along with other stakeholders, undertake a comprehensive techno-economic and environmental feasibility study for developing an airport or an alternative aviation facility in the Katra area of Jammu & Kashmir.

In its report tabled in Parliament on August 7, 2026, the panel emphasized the need to explore the feasibility of establishing such a facility in view of the steadily increasing number of pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and the growing tourist inflow to the Jammu region.

"The Committee is of the considered view that such a facility has the potential to substantially reduce travel time, improve accessibility, decongest existing transport networks and provide a significant impetus to pilgrimage, tourism and regional economic development," reads the report, a copy of which is in possession of KNO.

It recommended that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in consultation with the Airports Authority of India, the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and other concerned stakeholders, carry out a detailed feasibility study to assess the viability of developing an airport or an alternative aviation facility in the Katra region.

'Exceptionally High' Rejections:

Parliamentary Panel Seeks Review of Forest Rights Claims in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended to Jammu & Kashmir administration to undertake a time-bound review of claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, citing the "exceptionally high number" of rejections.

In its report tabled in Parliament on August 7, 2026, the committee pointed out that of the 46242 claims received under the Act, only 6172 were approved, while 39898 were rejected.

"The Committee notes the steps taken to implement the Forest Rights Act, 2006. However, it observes that, out of 46242 individual and community claims received, only 6172 claims had been approved, while 39898 claims had been rejected," reads the report, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer.

The committee observed that the exceptionally high number of rejections require a "careful scrutiny".

"Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Administration undertake a time-bound review of re-

jected claims to ascertain whether due process was followed, claimants were given adequate opportunity to furnish evidence, Gram Sabhas were properly involved, and reasoned orders were communicated in an accessible language," the report said.

The committee recommended that suitable action be taken to distribute titles based on the review. "Further, based on the review suitable action be taken to distribute approved titles without delay, and legal and administrative assistance should also be provided to genuine claimants, particularly members of migratory and tribal communities," reads the report. The Forest Rights Act was made applicable to Jammu & Kashmir on October 31, 2019. Under the law, the tribal and forest-dwelling communities are granted rights to reside in and cultivate forest land.

As per the 2011 Census, the tribal population of Jammu & Kashmir is 12.75 lakh, constituting 10.39 percent of the UT's total population. In 2024, the Government of India also granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to four other communities, including the Paharis.

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE PT&E AT SRINAGAR

CNR No: J KSG03-018482-2026 | File No: 809/2026 | Date of Institution: 28.07.2026 | Date of Order: 28.07.2025

In the case of:

UT of Jammu and Kashmir
Through Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Srinagar.
FIR No. 77/2022 under Sections 120-B, 420 IPC

...Prosecution

Versus

Mohammad Amin Bhat & Others

...Accused

CORAM: MASSARAT JABEEN

UID: JK 00244

GENERAL WARRANT OF ARREST

To,
IGP, Kashmir

WHEREAS, the above titled charge-sheet came to be presented before this Court in absence of accused no.3 namely Anil Kumar Maheshwari S/o Ganpat Lal R/o A-38, Satiya Nagar, Ward No 09, Jhotwara, Jaipur Rajasthan, JHOTWARA,JAIPUR (WEST),RAJASTHAN, INDIA and accused no.4 namely Shashank Kumar S/o Surinder Singh R/o B-50 Uddai City, Pallapuram-2, Modipuram Meerat, Meerat Uttar Pradesh, PALLAV PURAM, MEERUT UTTAR PRADESH,INDIA.

WHEREAS, the statement of the I.O has been recorded and proceedings in terms of Section 335 BNSS, 2023 has been imitated against the said accused no.3 and 4 and case is now been listed on 17.09.2026 for further proceeding.

AND WHEREAS, the abovementioned accused have been shown to be absconding and the Court is satisfied that the accused has absconded (or is concealing to avoid the service of the warrants) and the charge-sheet has been presented in absence of the accused in terms of Section 335(1) BNSS.

NOW THEREFORE, you are hereby directed to arrest the accused accused no.3 namely Anil Kumar Maheshwari S/o Ganpat Lal R/o A-38, Satiya Nagar, Ward No 09, Jhotwara, Jaipur Rajasthan, JHOTWARA,JAIPUR (WEST),RAJASTHAN, INDIA and accused no.4 namely Shashank Kumar S/o Surinder Singh R/o B-50 Uddai City, Pallapuram-2, Modipuram Meerat, Meerat Uttar Pradesh, PALLAVPURAM, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH,INDIA and produce them before this Court without unnecessary delay. The Warrants shall remain in force till the arrest of the accused.

You are also directed to return this warrant with an endorsement of the manner of its execution.

Dated: 28.07.2026
DIPK-4375-26
DT: 10/08/2026

Massarat Jabeen
Spl. Mobile Magistrate PT&E
At Srinagar

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

EXTENSION NOTICE 3

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

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

Last Date of Bid Submission extended up to	17-08-2026; 4.30pm
Bid Opening Date	18-08-2026; 2.30pm

No.: STD-II/3933-35/Ts
Dated: 10-08-2026
DIPK-NB-1352-26
DT: 10/08/2026

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

Ethanol Blending in Diesel Fails Flash-point Test: Govt

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Ethanol-blended diesel failed required safety specifications because the addition of ethanol sharply lowered the fuel's flash point, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said on Monday, effectively ruling out the fuel for wider use unless the technical issue is resolved.

Public-sector oil marketing companies conducted scientific evaluations of ethanol blending with diesel through their research and development centres, in collaboration with accredited laboratories and automobile manufacturers, Gopi said in a written reply to Parliament.

The tests found that ethanol-blended diesel did not meet the required diesel flash-point specification because the flash point fell sharply in the presence of ethanol, he said.

"Scientific evaluations on blending of ethanol with diesel have been undertaken by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through their respective R&D centres in collaboration with accredited laboratories and automobile manufacturers. It was observed that ethanol blended diesel was not meeting diesel flash point as its flash point lowered drastically due to the presence of ethanol," he said.



The finding comes as India seeks to expand the use of ethanol as a transport fuel and explore new outlets for rising domestic production. The government has so far focused its ethanol blending programme on petrol and has set a target of 20 per cent blending.

Asked about blending isobutanol in diesel, the minister said, "Isobutanol is presently not being blended with diesel."

Gopi said no decision has been taken to raise ethanol blending in petrol beyond 20 per cent. Any future increase would be considered only after detailed scientific and technical studies and consultations with automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies and research institutions.

State-run oil marketing companies floated their first tender in September 2025 to procure about 10.5 billion litres of ethanol for the 2025-26 ethanol supply year. They received offers for nearly 176 billion litres, about 68 per cent more than the quantity sought, and have allocated 10.485 billion litres to 378 registered suppliers.

The government is also examining ethanol as a potential cooking fuel, which could help reduce India's dependence on imported liquefied petroleum gas while making use of surplus domestic ethanol production capacity.

"The use of ethanol as a cooking fuel may emerge as the potential biofuel alternative to fossil fuel based cooking solution which may help in reduction of LPG import dependence and provide clean cooking solution. This may also enable effective utilization of surplus ethanol production capacity in the country," he said. "The initiative is aligned with the Government's broader objective of promoting cleaner and alternative cooking fuel options."

The LPG Equipment Research Centre, a joint venture of Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp and Bharat Petroleum Corp, along with public-sector oil marketing companies, is working on developing ethanol-based clean cooking alternatives, Gopi said.

The government has introduced several measures to support domestic ethanol production, including interest-subsidy schemes, support for cooperative sugar mills to convert existing sugarcane-based distilleries into multi-feedstock plants, and long-term offtake agreements between oil marketing companies and dedicated ethanol producers.

Elusive Iran Leader Reshuffles Military Command

Agencies

DUBAI – Iran's Supreme Leader Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei on Monday unveiled a sweeping overhaul of the country's top military leadership, appointing new commanders to six key posts following the deaths of several senior officers during the recent conflict with the United States and Israel.

The reshuffle places veteran Revolutionary Guards commander Ahmad Vahidi at the helm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), while Major General Ali Abdollahi takes over as chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, signalling Tehran's effort to rebuild its military command structure after heavy wartime losses.



The appointments come months after senior IRGC commanders, including former IRGC chief Major General Mohammad Pakpour and armed

forces chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, were killed in what Iran says were U.S.-Israeli strikes during the conflict earlier this year.

In separate decrees, Mojtaba Khamenei also appointed Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari as deputy chief of the armed forces' general staff, Major General Mostafa Izadi as deputy commander of the IRGC, Rear Admiral Ali Azmaei as commander of the IRGC Navy, and cleric Hossein Taeb as head of the Basij volunteer force.

VETERAN COMMANDER TAKES CHARGE OF IRGC

Vahidi, 67, a former interior minister and defence minister, has held several senior military and security positions since joining the Revolutionary

Guards shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Promoting him to the rank of major general, Khamenei said the appointment came in view of Pakpour's "honourable and proud martyrdom" and the country's ongoing confrontation with what he described as "global arrogance."

He instructed Vahidi to strengthen Iran's military capabilities, maintain "maximum deterrence" and ensure readiness for "powerful offensive operations" against adversaries.

Khamenei also urged the new IRGC commander to strengthen ideological and cultural foundations within the force while expanding its command and management structures.

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