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DRONES, CHECKING, AREA DOMINATION

J&K Sharpens Security Cover Ahead Of I-Day

Around 30 contingents to participate in Bakhshi Stadium parade; CM Omar to unfurl flag



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security arrangements have been reinforced across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day celebrations, with police, Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) intensifying surveillance, area domination, vehicle checking, frisking and search operations to ensure peaceful conduct of the August 15 events.

Security forces have increased deployments at sensitive locations, major towns, district headquarters, vital installations, vulnerable areas and key entry and exit points across the Union Territory, officials said.

A senior security official said

a multi-layered security grid had been activated across all districts, with additional personnel deployed at important locations and around venues where Independence Day functions will be held.

"Security personnel are maintaining heightened vigil to prevent any attempt to disrupt the celebrations," the official said, adding that forces had intensified area domination and patrolling, while search operations and sanitisation exercises were being conducted in vulnerable areas.

Police and paramilitary forces have also been deployed in strength at several places in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Valley to

J&K's Enthusiasm For Tiranga Campaign Inspires Nation: LG Sinha

» Leads Yatra in Srinagar; calls for unity, patriotism and collective responsibility

» Says 21st century will be India's century of self-confidence and progress

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the remarkable participation of people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram campaigns had become a source of inspiration for the entire nation.

Sinha made the remarks while participating in the Tiranga Yatra in Srinagar, where he led a celebration of national pride and addressed citizens after the yatra.

The event marked the confluence of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Tiranga was the living embodiment of India's consciousness and pride, adding that the Tiranga Yatra in the Kashmir Valley sent a clear message that India must never stop and must always move forward.

"On this sacred soil, the Tricolour is flying high as India's living conscience and Vande Mataram echoes as its immortal voice. It embodies our shared



strength, unity, and unwavering patriotism," Sinha said.

Recalling the launch of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in 2022 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Sinha said the initiative was aimed at rekindling in every Indian a sense of closeness, respect and emotional connection towards the Tricolour.

"When the Tiranga flutters simultaneously on millions of homes, 140 crore Indians' hearts beat as one in a single sentiment, a single faith, a single resolve," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Tiranga Yatra had now evolved into a "festival of people's consciousness", a

tradition of patriotism and a cultural value binding every citizen to the motherland.

Congratulating the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram campaigns, Sinha said their enthusiasm had become a source | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Highway Dump Draws Rs 33 Lakh Pollution Bill

A watchdog moves to fine a Kashmir municipal body after months of unsegregated waste piled beside a national highway.

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: Mounds of plastic, kitchen waste and hospital refuse have piled up beside an irrigation canal at Dangerpora Padgampora, just 10 to 15 metres from National Highway 44, far inside the 200-metre buffer mandated by rules.

The violation has now drawn a financial penalty, exposing the widening gap between waste-management regulations and their enforcement on the ground.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee has issued a show cause notice to the Executive Officer of Municipal Committee Awantipora, proposing an environmental compensation of Rs 33.24 lakh for illegal dumping at the site.

The figure, calculated on the Polluter Pays Principle, highlights four metric tonnes



of solid waste generated daily and left unsegregated for 197 days, according to the notice signed by Member Secretary Dr R Gopinath.

The case traces back to Original Application No. 147 of 2026, filed with the National Green Tribunal by social activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat.

He alleged that municipal solid waste, plastic, and biomedical material from Awantipora and Tral had accumulated in the open, close

to the canal, for extended periods without treatment.

The Tribunal intervened in February 2026, directing the Pollution Control Committee to inspect the site, measure the volume of waste, and determine how long the dumping had continued. Municipal officials were told to begin remedial work.

What inspectors found, laid out in a report submitted to the Tribunal on August 5, described a | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly's Autumn Session To Begin Sept 21

MLAs asked to submit questions, bills by August 25

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will commence on September 21, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha summoning the House to meet at 10 am in Srinagar.

According to a bulletin issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat on Wednesday, Sinha has summoned the Legislative Assembly to meet at Srinagar on September 21, 2026.

The order issued by the Lieutenant Governor said he was exercising the powers conferred upon him under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

"I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant



Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to meet at Srinagar on Monday, the 21st of September, 2026 at 10:00 AM," the order stated.

In a separate bulletin, the Assembly | [More on P6](#)

Eight-Question Cap Sparks Row

Agencies

A controversy has erupted over the question quota of MLAs in the upcoming autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, with Peoples Conference legislator Sajad Gani Lone charging the Speaker with restricting the rightful quota of legislators. In a post on X, Lone | [More on P6](#)

80 Countries, 1,100 Films 7 Screens: J&K Readies For Maiden Film Festival

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's maiden international film festival is set to bring global cinema to the Union Territory, with around 1,100 film entries from nearly 80 countries received for the four-day event scheduled from September 7 to 10.

The International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK-2026) will feature film screenings across seven screens in Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, besides masterclasses, workshops and roundtable discussions bringing together filmmakers, industry professionals,



artists and students.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior officers from the civil administration and police to review preparations for the festival

and directed departments to ensure world-class arrangements for its inaugural edition.

Dulloo said IFFJK was the first festival of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir and that its maiden

Festival to feature screenings, masterclasses, workshops and roundtable discussions from Sept 7 to 10

edition should set a benchmark for future editions. He said the festival was envisaged to become an annual affair from this year onwards and called for meticulous planning and execution.

He directed all concerned departments to walk through the entire festival process in advance, from the arrival of guests and participants to the conclusion of the event, to identify gaps, streamline procedures and ensure seamless coordination.

The Chief Secretary placed particular emphasis on providing befitting reception and hospitality to invited dignitaries, filmmakers, artists | [More on P6](#)

Alleged Irregular Land Allotments

HC Refuses To Quash FIR Against Ex-DIC Pulwama GM

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday dismissed a petition seeking quashing of an FIR registered against a former General Manager of District Industries Centre (DIC), Pulwama, in connection with alleged irregularities in allotment of industrial land and execution of lease deeds.

A bench of Justice Shahzad Azeem dismissed the petition filed by the former GM, Laiq Parvez, observing that

the investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) was still at a preliminary stage and involved several interlinked issues concerning beneficiaries and officers of SICOP/SIDCO.

The FIR (No. 03/2020) was registered by the ACB on July 7, 2020 under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B RPC. Parvez had served as GM, DIC Pulwama from June 2017 to February 2018 before retiring in April 2019 | [More on P6](#)

Rain Likely From Aug 16

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a prolonged wet spell over the coming days, with light to moderate rainfall and thundershowers forecast at many places and heavy rain or brief intense showers possible in parts of the Union Territory from August 16 to 19, the Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday.

According to the MeT forecast, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places across J&K between August 13 and 15, with brief intense showers expected during the early morning and late afternoon to evening hours.

From August 16 | [More on P6](#)

Tunisian Creator Finds Kashmir in Its People & Flavours

Agencies

Srinagar: Gliding across Dal Lake, stopping at local markets and trying Kash-miri food, Tunisian travel content creator Karima Bel is discovering Kashmir not just through its postcard landscapes but through its people, flavours and every-day life.

From enjoying views from a shikara to exploring local food stalls, Bel has been sharing glimpses of her Kashmir journey with her Arabic-speaking audience on social media.

Known as Alam Kari-ma, Bel is travelling in Kash-mir with her husband and says she came to experience the region beyond the pic-tures she had seen online.

“I came to Kashmir because I wanted to dis-cover it beyond the beauti-

ful pictures we see online. I wanted to experience the culture, meet the people, try the local food, and see the real life here for my-self,” Bel told KNO.

In a recent social media post, Bel is seen enjoying a shikara ride on Dal Lake. In another video from a lo-cal market, she is seen try-ing food while interacting with vendors, giving her followers a glimpse into the everyday life and street food culture of Kashmir.

For Bel, the experience has already changed the way she looks at the region. “Kash-mir has always been a place I was curious about. I had seen the mountains and land-scapes, but I wanted to come and experience the place my-self. And honestly, being here made me realise that Kash-mir is much more than just its scenery,” she said.

Foreshore Road’s Duck Park Remains Closed during Peak Tourism Season

Agencies

Srinagar: The Duck Park along the Foreshore Road in Srinagar has remained closed, drawing concern from locals and visitors who questioned the au-thorities over the timing of the closure during the peak tourism season.

Locals, speaking to KNO, said the park, which attracts visitors along the Foreshore and Dal Lake, has remained locked for more than two weeks now, leav-ing tourists and residents

unable to access the facility.

“During the peak tour-ism season, how can a tourist attraction remain locked? Authorities should ensure that such public places remain accessible to visitors,” Umer Ahmad, a local from Nishat, said.

Locals urged the au-thorities to reopen the park at the earliest.

Executive Engineer, Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), told KNO that the tender for the park had expired, leading to the clo-sure of its gate.



KU Launches Fashion Technology Programme with Focus on Skills

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Directorate of Life-long Learning & Skill Development (DLLSD), University of Kashmir (KU) on Wednesday launched a three-month introductory training programme in Fashion Technology at the Main Cam-pus. The programme was inaugurated along with a dedicated Fashion Tech-nology Lab.

The programme has been de-signed to provide participants with both theoretical knowledge and prac-tical training in fashion technology, with a focus on developing skills rel-evant to the contemporary fashion and apparel sector. It aims to equip learners with practical competencies that can support employment, entre-preneurship and further professional training in the field.

While addressing the partici-pants of the training programme

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that skill-based pro-grammes can help bridge the gap be-tween academic learning and emerg-ing employment opportunities.

“Skill development becomes mean-ingful when learners are able to trans-late their training into practical work and livelihood opportunities. Such courses can help young people develop specialised skills while responding to changing requirements of the employ-ment market,” she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, and Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in their re-marks, appreciated the initiative and emphasised the importance of expand-ing skill-oriented programmes along-side conventional academic courses. They said specialised training can provide learners with additional path-ways towards financial independence and self-employment.

KU Focuses on Smart Libraries, Digital Services Ahead of National Librarians’ Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Allama Iqbal Library (AIL), University of Kashmir (KU), or-ganised a one-day capacity-building programme for Library and Informa-tion Science (LIS) professionals on the theme “Smart Libraries, Skilled Librarians, and Smiling Users” at the University’s Main Campus on the eve of National Librarians’ Day.

The programme aimed to fa-miliarise library professionals with emerging practices in library and in-formation services, with emphasis on technology-enabled libraries, chang-ing user expectations, digital resour-ces and professional skills required for contemporary library management.

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Magrib	7: 25
ISHA	8: 54

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[See Regulation 33(2)]
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RC/2/2025
JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
Versus
Mr. Jahangir Ahmad Bhat

13.04.2026

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(CD 1) Mr Jahangir Ahmad Bhat
S/o: Noor Mohammad Bhat
R/o: Batpora Khanabal Anantnag Jammu and Kashmir
(CD-2) Gulzar Ahmad Tantray
S/o: Ab Majeed Tantray
R/o: Maqdaumpora Guree Bijbehara
(CD 3) Muzaffar Ahmad Gassi
S/o: Mohammad Shafi Gassi
R/o: Lidder Matoo Khanabal.
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1) in OA/1556/2022 an amount of Rs 2112477.01 (Rupees Twenty One Lac Twelve Thousands Four Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise One Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 18% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 09.06.2022 till realization and costs of Rs 24005 (Rupees Twenty Four Thousand Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).
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3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 15.08.2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
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(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 13.04.2026
Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

NIT Organises Tiranga Rally under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednes-day organised a ‘Tiranga Rally under the nationwide ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Campaign 2026, as part of its celebra-tions ahead of India’s 80th Indepen-dence Day.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the NIT Srinagar community, including Deans, Heads of Departments and Centres, faculty members, non-faculty employees, outsourced staff, students, research scholars, NCC and NSS vol-unteers and other staff members.

The programme was aimed at pro-moting patriotism, national unity and pride while encouraging members of the institute community to display the National Flag, the Tiranga, with pride and respect.

The rally was flagged off by Incharge Director Prof. Roohi Naaz in the presence of Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman. Deans, HoDs, HoCs, faculty members, administrative staff and the institute’s Security Officer also par-ticipated in the event.

NCC and NSS volunteers were also present during the programme. Participants carried the National Flag and raised patriotic slogans as



they marched around the campus in a coordinated display of national pride and unity.

The rally was organised in accor-dance with the institute’s call for ac-tive participation in the ‘Har Ghar Ti-ranga’ Campaign 2026. The campaign aims to strengthen citizens’ emotional connection to the National Flag and encourage people to display the Tiran-ga as a symbol of national pride, unity, and identity.

The rally was part of the broader Independence Day celebrations being organised by NIT Srinagar. The Insti-tute is conducting a series of activities

involving students, faculty and staff to mark the occasion and highlight the significance of the country’s freedom struggle, national unity and constitu-tional values.

The Institute’s campaign message, “Tiranga – Our Pride, Our Identity, Our Nation.” was highlighted as the central theme of the initiative.

The programme concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to the values of patri-otism, unity and national service and to celebrating Independence Day with pride and respect for the National Flag.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of Abdul Ahad Dar S/O Mohammad Jamal Dar R/O Acha Bagh Malla Bagh Hazratbal on 11-08-206 .May Allah grant the jannatul Firdous to the departed soul.The congregational Fateh khawani will be held on Friday 14-08-2026 at their ancestral graveyard Malbagh, Hazratbal, Srinagar at 8 am. Thereafter Fateh khawani will be held at their residence throughout the day.
Note:- Women's are requested not to bring any kind of eatables with them

Bereaved Family
Contact no:-7889559721



INF

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-35-26-27 Closing Date/Time 02/09/2026 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earned money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed

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Name of Work	(i) S&T work in c/w Firozpur Division - TTR(FS+TWS+WCMS) - 54 sets, TTR(TWS) - 4 sets, TTR(TSR) - 22 sets & TTR(TWS+WCMS)-23 sets (ii) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Siemens (Westrace Mark-II) Make Electronic Interlocking system installed at Batala (BAT) Station of Firozpur division for Three (03) Years		
Tender closing Date Time	(i) 02/09/2026 15:00 (ii) 02/09/2026 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	11/08/2026 16:05
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 39088876.00 (ii) 5370407.25	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	(i) 19/08/2026 (ii) 19/08/2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 781800.00 (ii) 107400.00	Period of Completion	(i) 9 Months (ii) 36 Months
NOTE Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.			
Tender Notice No:433-Sig-T-35-26-27 Closing Date/Time 02/09/2026 15:00 Date:- 11/08/2026			
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Government Medical College Baramulla.

Procurement Section
e-mail: omer.hussain0337@jk.gov.in
NOTICE

Subject: Cancellation of Tender Ref. No. 02-GMGB of 2026-27 dated 21.07.2026

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that Tender Ref. No. 02-GMGB of 2026-27 dated 21.07.2026, issued for "Supply of Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Reagents and other General Items at Associated Hospitals, GMC Baramulla", stands cancelled with immediate effect.

It is further informed that the procurement of the aforesaid items is proposed to be processed afresh through the GeM Portal shortly, as per the applicable rules and procedures.

All the bidders/firms who had participated in the aforesaid tender are hereby advised to take note of the cancellation and remain in regular touch with the official website of Government Medical College, Baramulla, for future updates/intimation regarding the publication/uploading of the GeM Bid/ Rate Contract, as and when processed, so that they may participate in the fresh procurement process, subject to fulfilment of the prescribed terms and conditions.

No separate communication in this regard shall be necessary.

Sd/- Principal
Government Medical College Baramulla

GMCB/ po /2026-27/673-79
DIPK-4450/26
dated: 12-08-2026



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

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

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Executive Engineer

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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
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RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Let Heritage Live

Srinagar’s old city has a problem that goes beyond ageing buildings. The city is beginning to treat historic neighbourhoods as attractions while the people who give them life receive less attention. The scale of Srinagar’s built heritage is considerable. The city’s current Master Plan records about 1,000 heritage buildings and historically important sites mapped with geographic coordinates and other details during planning work. The plan says this inventory should expand and recommends legal protection for listed buildings, precincts and historic places. That is a useful start, but it also reveals the larger challenge. A list can record a building, while it cannot by itself record the family that has lived there for generations, the craftsman working nearby or the market that has served the neighbourhood for decades. Srinagar’s old quarters remain living places. Their wooden houses, mosques, shrines, markets, workshops and narrow streets form part of an urban culture that visitors now increasingly seek out. Tourism can bring money into these areas and create a reason to repair old structures. The Master Plan itself links heritage conservation with tourism, leisure and economic development. The economics can also push the other way. A residential house can become more attractive as a shop, café, guesthouse or commercial property. A traditional business can shift toward visitors with greater spending power. Rising commercial activity can bring congestion, waste and pressure on public space. Over time, the neighbourhood can retain its old appearance while its daily life changes. UNESCO has spent years making this distinction in its approach to historic cities. Its Historic Urban Landscape framework treats buildings, public spaces, local communities, cultural practices and economic life as parts of one system. Its 2011 recommendation specifically asks cities to combine heritage conservation with social and economic development rather than treat historic buildings as isolated objects. Srinagar can apply that principle in practical ways. Building owners should receive technical and financial help to repair historic homes and shops. Adaptive reuse should make old structures economically useful while keeping local residents and businesses in the area. Tourism revenue can support sanitation, roads, public spaces and conservation. Heritage surveys should record crafts, markets, religious practices, oral histories and traditional occupations alongside buildings. The city also needs a simple measure of success. After a heritage project is completed, can local families still live there? Can traditional businesses continue? Can residents still use the streets, markets and public spaces for ordinary life? A restored façade gives visitors something to see, but a functioning neighbourhood gives heritage its meaning. Srinagar has already mapped about thousand historic buildings and sites. The next task is to make sure the people living among them remain part of the map.

Kashmir’s Carbon Market Moment

India’s new carbon trading system opens a potential revenue stream for Jammu and Kashmir, if the region can turn its clean-energy resources into verified credits.



Sri Varshith Kumar Reddy E



What has changed by this August is that the market waiting on the other side is no longer theoretical. Certificates will soon hold a quoted price on Indian exchanges, and any tonne of emissions the valley’s rivers and sunlight avoid, once properly certified, becomes a sellable instrument instead of an unrecorded good deed.

Total installed renewable capacity touched 3,629 megawatts by February. But solar still contributes barely 80 megawatts against an estimated 111 gigawatts of potential concentrated in Ladakh. Any megawatt of clean hydro, any solarized rooftop, or any hectare of afforestation in this heavily forested region is a latent credit sitting unmonetized, waiting for someone to formally connect it to the offset mechanism. The caution here comes from the valley’s own recent record. This month, the Centre cancelled a sanctioned allocation of 20 megawatts under PM-KUSUM and 4,000 solar pumps, after Jammu and Kashmir failed to show delivery progress. More than half of rooftop solar applicants still wait for installation. The region lost capital simply because of implementation and monitoring discipline. A carbon strategy without matching project-delivery muscle and rigorous measurement, reporting and verification will produce the same outcome at a far higher price. Building that muscle means creating a regional layer on top of the national scaffolding already in place. A dedicated cell within JAKEDA or the power department should bundle small hydro, rooftop solar and afforestation projects so they qualify under the offset mechanism. Blockchain-anchored, project-level tracking would stop double counting as JKSPDC, JAKEDA and NHPC joint ventures all report generation data separately. Internet-connected real-time monitoring would meet the verification standards buyers now demand. Public-private partnerships should fund the detailed project reports still needed for 61 finalized small-hydro

projects worth 340 megawatts that remain on paper. Governance discipline counts as much as ambition here. A single, publicly accountable body should certify projects and publish transaction-level data, mirroring the transparency already built into the national portal. Competing claims from multiple agencies would only muddy the record buyers rely on. Sharing the revenue with panchayats and local communities is just as important. It can build local support for projects that use community land and water, especially in places with a long history of such disputes. A functioning carbon channel, even a modest one, would give Jammu and Kashmir a revenue stream independent of central transfers and tourism cycles, money that could then fund the grid upgrades and monitoring systems needed to scale further. What has changed by this August is that the market waiting on the other side is no longer theoretical. Certificates will soon hold a quoted price on Indian exchanges, and any tonne of emissions the valley’s rivers and sunlight avoid, once properly certified, becomes a sellable instrument instead of an unrecorded good deed. So the question sharpens rather than fades: can Jammu and Kashmir move fast enough to turn its rivers, sunlight and forests into a genuine fiscal asset, or will it watch this window close the way it watched its PM-KUSUM allocation lapse, rich in resource and short on follow-through?

The author is a pracademic working on government policy and public institutions, and can be reached at varshith7.reddy@gmail.com.

A Culture of Reaction

Kashmir reacts strongly to sexual violence after it happens, but remains reluctant to examine the attitudes and failures that precede it.



Zobiya Bhat

Two cases surfaced in Kashmir within days of one another, and together they expose a failure that runs deeper than either crime alone. In Bandipora, a twelve-year-old girl walking toward an Urs was allegedly taken and sexually assaulted. In Baramulla, a twenty-one-year-old woman says two men gang-raped her, filmed the assault on a mobile phone, and then threatened her into silence. Both stories will hold public attention for a week, maybe two. Then something else will take over the news cycle, and both women will be left to live with what happened long after the rest of us have moved on. That disparity between public attention and private aftermath is the real story here, and Kashmir keeps refusing to look at it honestly. Outrage after a rape case has become almost ritual: statements from politicians, segments on television, arguments on social media, demands for the death penalty or chemical castration or some other maximum punishment. All of that anger is justified, but none of it explains why

sexual violence keeps happening despite more than a decade of legal reform. India rewrote its rape laws after the 2012 Delhi gang rape. It built the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita with specific provisions for rape and gang rape. It passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act to give children their own legal framework. It created Fast Track Special Courts specifically to move these cases through the system faster. But none of it stopped Bandipora or Baramulla. That failure points somewhere uncomfortable: toward prevention, not punishment, as the piece the system has never taken seriously. Punishment addresses a crime once it has already been committed, but prevention asks what happens before that, in homes and classrooms and the ordinary discussions adults have with children. And on that front, Kashmir’s failure is almost total. Consider what girls are taught: don’t walk alone, don’t stay out late, don’t trust strangers, keep your phone charged and tell someone where you are. This advice treats safety as something a girl must personally engineer, as if a twelve-year-old on her way to a religious festival bears some obligation to anticipate an adult’s decision to harm her. Now consider what boys are taught about consent, boundaries, coercion, and the basic premise that another person’s body belongs to that person alone. In most homes, that discussion simply does not happen. Prevention has been aimed entirely at the potential victim and almost never at the potential offender, and that imbalance alone should explain why laws written in 2013 have not ended what happened in 2026.



The Baramulla case adds another twist worth naming directly: a phone that recorded the assault also became the instrument used to threaten the survivor afterward. Technology cuts in both directions here. It can preserve evidence and help investigators build a case. It can also let an attacker turn a recording into leverage, extending the harm long past the assault itself. Any serious response to sexual violence now has to treat digital coercion as part of the crime rather than a footnote to it. Then there is the interrogation survivors face once a case becomes public, an interrogation that somehow always lands on her choices instead of his actions. What was she wearing? Why was she alone? Why did she wait to report it? These questions surface as concern, but they perform the same function every time: they move the spotlight off

the accused and onto the person he hurt. A woman’s clothing did not cause her assault. Her decision to trust someone did not cause it either. And a delay in reporting usually signals fear, threats, or family pressure instead of deception, though Kashmir’s public discourse treats it as the opposite almost automatically. None of this changes once an arrest is made and cameras move elsewhere. A survivor’s ordeal does not end at the police station. She may need medical treatment, counselling, legal support, and protection from the stigma that follows her after the accused has been jailed or released. If the survivor is a child, as in Bandipora, the stakes climb higher still: what happened to her can distort how she understands trust and safety for years to come, and no arrest reverses that on its own. Kashmir has proven it can legislate. It has built courts, passed statutes, and made arrests within days of both recent cases. What it has not built is a culture willing to ask hard questions about what boys are taught, what girls are made responsible for, and what happens to a survivor once the headlines stop. Real progress will not be measured by how forcefully the valley reacts to the next assault. It will be measured by whether there eventually is no next assault left to react to, and right now, Kashmir has given no indication it is prepared to do that work.

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Why Does Everything Break So Soon?

Phones, purifiers and everyday goods are increasingly designed around replacement, leaving consumers to pay twice, first at the counter and then through the waste they leave behind.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

Decades ago I bought a pair of shoes from a well known brand. A decorative sticker was missing from the left shoe, so the shop noted my complaint and promised a free replacement within a year if any fault showed up.

None did. I played cricket in those shoes, lent them to friends, wore them on rough ground, and they held together long after I expected them to give out.

Eventually I stopped waiting for the fault that never came and simply kept the shoes.

That pair taught me something about how goods once got made, and how differently they get made now.

The same brand still sells shoes today under the same name, but the product underneath has changed.

Soles thin out within months. Stitching gives way faster than it should, despite decades of advances in materials and manufacturing that should have made the opposite true.

My old pair lies in a cupboard as proof that companies once built things to outlast the customer's patience, not to test it.

Smartphones tell the same story with sharper edges.

Manufacturers push out several models a year, most of them

separated from the last by a marginally better camera or a slightly faster chip, presented as essential progress.

Batteries sit sealed inside the casing, so replacing one costs nearly as much as buying new, and most owners never try.

Software updates then demand processing power the older hardware cannot supply, and the phone slows to the point where upgrading feels like the only sane choice.

A device with years of working life left gets binned because the company that made it decided those years belonged to the next model instead.

Water purifiers run a silent version of the same operation.

Companies insist that filters and cartridges get swapped only through their own authorised network, and customers get told a filter needs changing every six months regardless of how much water passed through it or how clean that water actually was.

I once tested the total dissolved solids in a bottled mineral water against tap water from my own kitchen and found barely any difference between them, which raises an obvious question about what buyers are actually paying for.

The purifier keeps working fine, but the manufacturer keeps collecting money for parts the machine may not need, on a timetable the manufacturer alone controls.

None of this happens without cost outside the wallet.

Discarded phones swell the growing pile of electronic waste, and inside that pile sit plastics, metals, and battery components including lithium and cobalt, some of it genuinely toxic if it ends up buried rather than recycled properly.

Used filter cartridges, purifier housings, and the plastic packaging



SOME OF THESE MATERIALS TAKE DECADES TO BREAK DOWN, AND SOME LEACH INTO SOIL AND GROUNDWATER LONG BEFORE THEY DO. Kashmir has

no vast recycling infrastructure waiting to catch any of it, so the waste settles into the same land people farm and the same water they drink.

that surrounds both add their own weight to landfill sites that were never built to absorb this volume.

Some of these materials take decades to break down, and some

leach into soil and groundwater long before they do. Kashmir has no vast recycling infrastructure waiting to catch any of it, so the waste settles into the same land people farm and

the same water they drink.

Step back and the picture stops looking like a string of unrelated product complaints and starts looking like a business model.

Consumers pay more over time than a durable product would have cost outright. Manufacturers extract that difference as profit passed as innovation or maintenance.

Natural resources get pulled out of the ground faster to feed a replacement cycle that has nothing to do with how long a phone or a purifier could actually run.

The environment absorbs whatever gets thrown away at the end of that cycle, without a bill sent anywhere near the company that designed the throwaway into the product in the first place.

A different approach exists and it is not complicated.

Repairable design, batteries a user can swap without a workshop visit, spare parts built to a common standard instead of a proprietary one, and filter guidance based on actual water testing rather than a fixed calendar date would all cut this waste sharply.

None of it requires new technology. It just needs companies willing to profit from products that last, rather than from the disparity between what a product could do and what it gets allowed to do before the next upgrade notice lands.

Until that shift happens, buyers here keep paying twice.

They pay at the till for a product engineered to fail early, and they pay again in the land and water that absorb what gets left behind once it does.

Someone has to take responsibility for the waste, and it should not always fall on the customer.

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A School Full of Wonder

With a few toys, colours, games and committed teachers, one government school has made learning joyful for its youngest children.



Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

It was just another school monitoring visit. Or so I thought. At 11 in the morning, our team reached a hamlet called Shpora in the Narbal zone of Budgam district. We were there to check on a government primary school nestled under the calm shade of old walnut trees.

The school looked like any other, until we stepped inside.

One classroom, in particular, caught my eye. It was the pre-primary room. Sunlight poured through the windows. Kids under the age of five were scattered across the room, lost in their own magical world. They didn't seem to notice us at all. Some were tossing rubber balls at each other. Others were busy with activities. There was joy in the air.

I walked in and gently asked one of them to stand up.

"What's your name?" I asked.

"Aban," he said, with a cheeky smile.

"Spell it for me," I said.

He proudly shouted, "A... B... I... N!"

Laughter erupted in the room. His spelling was off, but his confidence was sky high. The kids were clearly at home here. No fear. No hesitation. Just happiness. I couldn't stop smiling.

I asked Aban which class he was in.



"Fourth!" he said. "No, no," I replied. "KG!" he beamed. That drew more smiles all around.

There was something so pure about the whole moment. These kids didn't have a playground. But their teachers had turned a large hall into a magical learning space. The walls were full of colourful art. Each corner of the room buzzed with activity.

One child, not older than four, was working with math tools. He had small Rubik's cubes. I asked him to break them up and make a rod of seven. He did it without blinking. Then he made a tens rod too. I watched in awe.

In another corner, I saw a girl playing with dice. I rolled one. "How many dots?" I asked her. "Foul," she said.

I gently corrected her, "Four." She nodded and smiled.

Suddenly, a loud "Yeshhhhhhh!" echoed from across the room. It was Rounaq Zehra, age five, celebrating her win in a colour-matching game. She had just placed a green glass over a green ball. Simple, but for her, it was victory.

Everywhere I looked, learning was happening. And it was all aligned with NEP 2020, the new education policy that focuses on learning through play and discovery in early childhood.

Aban, now my little hero, had moved on from toys to musical instruments. I followed him. He struck the drum with excitement. Music, after all, isn't just about rhythm, it builds memory, coordination, and joy.

Later, I watched him pick up a sketch pen and start drawing on a slate. No one told him to do it. He just felt like it. That's the beauty of early childhood education. Art and craft activities help children express what they can't say in words. They build fine motor skills, creativity, and emotional understanding.

Aban and I ended up playing with colourful rings. I asked for blue, he threw the right one. Then red. Then

yellow. He got them all.

As an academic monitoring team, we were left speechless. This tiny government school, with just four teachers, had transformed one classroom into a space of wonder. A space where the NEP lived and breathed.

One of my colleagues asked quietly, "If this school can do it, why can't others?"

It's a question I'm still thinking about.

How much does it really cost - rubber balls, coloured rings, dice, math kits, sketch pens? Not much. So what's stopping other schools?

We didn't hear a single complaint from these teachers. Not one word about workload or staff shortage. They weren't waiting for a directive or a donor. They were simply doing what needed to be done with heart.

Why aren't all our schools like this? Why are the walls of most classrooms bare when a little paint and effort can turn them into dreamscapes?

What I saw that day reminded me: early childhood education doesn't need fancy budgets or big policies. It needs care. It needs people who believe.

If we bring toys into the classroom, we bring in joy. If we bring art, we bring expression. If we bring music, we bring confidence. These are not extras. These are essentials. Too often, government policies bloom in private schools and wither in government ones. Not because of lack of money. But because of lack of will.

We left the school, still smiling. And there was Aban, standing at the door, waving goodbye like an old friend.

He had no idea what he had taught us. But I won't forget it.

— The author is a Budgam-based teacher. He can be reached out at muntashirkifayat@gmail.com.



What I saw that day reminded me: early childhood education doesn't need fancy budgets or big policies. It needs care, and people who believe.

J&K Govt Issues Fresh Directives On Forest Rights, Encroachment

Forest authorities directed to strictly verify claims and act against unauthorised occupation of forest land

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued fresh directives for the protection of forest areas and processing of claims under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, while

directing authorities to take action against unauthorised occupation of forest land.

The directions have been issued by the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department in a circular dated August 11, which reiterates that all actions relating to forest land, including encroachment and forest rights

claims, must strictly conform to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

The department said protection and preservation of forest areas and recognition of the rights and interests of forest dwellers need to be dealt with in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions.

The circular directs concerned forest authorities to ensure proper verification of Forest Rights claims before they are processed. The verification is required to cover the identity and eligibility of claimants, the period of occupation and the evidence supporting the claim. Authorities have also been

directed to establish the identity, location and extent of the land claimed and ensure that the area is properly demarcated to avoid erroneous identification of land and prevent unauthorised occupation of forest land.

The government has further directed that where occupation of forest land is found to be

unauthorised and is not covered by a recognised Forest Rights claim, the concerned forest authorities shall initiate appropriate action in accordance with the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other applicable laws.

The circular also calls for action against unauthorised occupation that changes the physical status of forest land, causes degradation

of forest resources or otherwise prejudices the protection and conservation of forests.

It stresses that the statutory framework under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 must be followed while processing claims and that the relevant authorities must ensure proper scrutiny before rights are recognised.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Sharpens

thwart any attempt by terrorists to disrupt the celebrations.

Plainclothes policemen have been deployed around the venues of Independence Day functions to keep watch on suspicious persons, officials said.

Random as well as targeted searches of vehicles and frisking of people are being carried out at several places in the Valley, while roadside checkpoints have been strengthened at strategic locations.

"Security personnel are conducting random as well as targeted checks of vehicles and individuals to detect any suspicious movement," another official said.

Drones and other surveillance equipment are being used to monitor sensitive locations and event venues. Sniffer dogs are also being deployed for anti-sabotage checks and searches, officials said.

The security forces have increased patrolling and area domination exercises, particularly in vulnerable areas and locations around venues where Independence Day functions will be held.

The Line of Control and International Border are also under heightened vigil, with the Army and BSF maintaining close surveillance along the frontiers and strengthening coordination with other security agencies.

Senior officers have reviewed security arrangements and operational preparedness in border districts, officials said.

Bakhshi Stadium Under Security Cover

The main Independence Day function in Jammu and Kashmir will be held at Bakhshi Stadium in Srinagar, where Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will preside over the celebrations.

Sharpshooters have been deployed on high-rise buildings around the stadium to prevent any untoward incident. CRPF personnel have also been deployed as part of the security arrangements.

Human and technical surveillance is being used to ensure that the celebrations pass off peacefully, while drones are being used for aerial surveillance.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, V K Birdi, said multi-layered and robust security arrangements had been put in place across Kashmir for the peaceful and smooth conduct of the Independence Day celebrations.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police always maintains robust security arrangements not just in Srinagar city, but across various districts of the valley. Multi-layered security arrangements are in place, not only at the specific venues, but also in the areas surrounding the city," Birdi said on Tuesday.

Preparations at Bakhshi Stadium

Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Anshul Garg said preparations for the Independence Day function at Bakhshi Stadium had been made and the administration had been working on the arrangements for the past month.

"Preparations have been made for the Independence Day celebration at Bakhshi Stadium, which has been our traditional venue for celebrations, and preparations are an ongoing process, whether it is rehearsals or security arrangements," Garg told PTI Videos.

He said the divisional administration had been working for the last one month to ensure that the arrangements were befitting the national occasion and met the expectations of the people.

The Chief Minister will unfurl the national flag at the main function, Garg said, adding that parade contingents were preparing for the event.

"Approximately 30 contingents will be seen in the parade this time," he said.

Garg also appealed to the public, particularly youth and students, to participate in the Independence Day celebrations at Bakhshi Stadium.

"I would appeal to everybody, especially our youth, our students, and our citizens, that they must definitely come to this August 15 event at Bakhshi Stadium, and if you are in other different districts, then you should reach your respective district-level events there," he said.

He said public participation would also encourage the administration and noted that this year marked the 80th celebrations of the national event.

Security Reviews Across Kashmir

Security preparations were also reviewed at senior levels in North and South Kashmir, with officers stressing inter-agency coordination, intelligence sharing and operational readiness.

In North Kashmir, the Deputy Inspector General, North Kashmir Range, chaired a security-cum-coordination conference at District Police Lines, Baramulla.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB and other security formations.

The conference reviewed the overall security preparedness and stressed close inter-agency coordination, effective area domination, enhanced vigilance, seamless communication and timely sharing of actionable intelligence.

In South Kashmir, DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Matoo chaired a security review meeting at the District Police Office in Anantnag.

Senior officers from the Army, CAPFs and police, including SSPs of districts under the South Kashmir Range, attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the prevailing security situation, deployment arrangements, surveillance, naka checking, protection of vital installations and security of sensitive locations.

Matoo directed officers to maintain heightened alertness, intensify patrolling and checking, closely monitor the security environment and ensure a swift response to any emerging threat.

Security agencies said the measures were aimed at ensuring peaceful Independence Day celebrations while facilitating maximum public participation across Jammu and Kashmir.

SIA Raids 9

recent years and handed over to the SIA.

According to officials, a raid was conducted at Shahbaaz Colony in Bagh-e-Bahu area of Jammu early on Wednesday morning. Searches were also conducted in multiple locations across Anantnag. The operation was still underway when the last reports were received.

Further details about the locations searched and the outcome of the operations are awaited.

J&K's Enthusiasm

of inspiration for the entire nation.

"The Tiranga is the soul of our nation and 'Vande Mataram' is the immortal voice of that soul," he said.

Sinha urged citizens to reflect on their contribution towards building the India envisioned by the nation's forefathers.

He said that while martyrs had defended the nation with their blood, the present generation had to defend it through character, honesty, hard work, unity and service.

The Lieutenant Governor said the confluence of Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram was not merely the meeting of two campaigns but the "announcement of a new era".

"This is the symbol of a Jammu Kashmir filled with self-confidence and marching firmly toward the future where 'Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara' is a life's resolve in every citizen's heart, where every home is a centre of patriotism and where every heart beats in rhythm with the pulse of national unity," he said.

Sinha called upon people to take collective as well as personal responsibility for shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir and India.

He urged citizens to ensure that the Tiranga not only flew high at every home but was also reflected in their thoughts, character and actions.

"Let us resolve that the sacred spirit of 'Vande Mataram' will reflect in every action, every decision, and the discharge of every responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged citizens to take a pledge to repay the debt of the sacrifices of the nation's heroes by building a country that was prosperous, secure and just and opened doors of equal opportunity for every citizen.

He called for collective efforts to realise the vision of a Jammu and Kashmir where the three colours of the Tiranga were visible in the values of life.

"We should build a Jammu Kashmir that is economically strong and takes unbroken pride in Indian culture, civilization, and spiritual values," Sinha said.

"The future is ours. This century belongs to India. This is the era of India's self-confidence, its courage, and its immortal national consciousness," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor honoured Veer Naris and war heroes.

He also inaugurated the Har Ghar Tiranga Exhibition and felicitated the nodal officers of the Vande Mataram campaign.

The celebrations featured the screening of a special documentary by the Department of Culture, followed by a Tiranga concert where artists paid a musical tribute to the nation's bravehearts.

Justice Rahul Bharti, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology and Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board Darakhshan Andrabi were among those present.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, and Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma also attended the event.

People from different walks of life, senior officials of the civil administration, police and security forces, and a large number of youth joined the Tiranga Yatra.

'Slackness' Delayed

revealed that GMC Srinagar had taken up the matter of procurement of Factor VIII and Emicizumab with JKMSCL, but despite repeated reminders, the Corporation had not responded.

The Court noted that the shortage was not confined to GMC Srinagar, with the affidavit indicating that both GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu were facing shortage, or rather non-availability, of the two medicines and were in dire need of them.

Taking serious note of the lack of response from the procurement agency, the Division Bench observed that the issue appeared to have remained unresolved due to the "slackness" on the part of JKMSCL, resulting in delay in procurement of the essential medicines.

The Court directed the Managing Director, JKMSCL, to remain personally present before it and also file an affidavit in advance setting out how the Corporation responded to the requirements projected by GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu regarding Factor VIII and Emicizumab.

The latest order follows the Court's earlier

intervention after the Hemophilia Society of Kashmir highlighted the difficulties being faced by patients due to the non-availability of the medicines. During the previous proceedings, the petitioner had raised concerns over the shortage of the life-saving drugs, following which the Court had directed the Principal, GMC Srinagar, to take immediate steps to address the deficiency.

The PIL has been listed for further hearing on September 7.

Kashmir Highway

partial response.

The municipality had built infrastructure for waste management, including a shed and compost pits, and pointed to steps taken toward collection and processing. But inspectors observed mixed waste still handled without segregation, and machinery inside the plant sitting idle.

A Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the findings and recommended the Rs 33.24 lakh figure, treating the accumulation as a sustained violation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, rather than an isolated lapse.

The notice gives the Executive Officer fifteen days to explain why the compensation should be avoided and why prosecution under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, should be avoided as well.

"Absent a tenable response," the order states, "the penalty and prosecution proceedings follow automatically."

To Bhat, the episode illustrates a deeper failure of planning as much as enforcement.

He estimated that public spending on the site had reached Rs 5 crore or more, undermined from the outset by a location chosen well inside the highway buffer zone the rules demand.

"The machinery set up inside the plant is also defunct and all the waste is dumped unscientifically," he said, arguing the facility should close because it cannot function so close to a national highway.

The Tribunal has already taken the Pollution Control Committee's report on record, granting the respondents time to file replies in a May 13 order.

The matter returns for hearing on August 18, when the panel will weigh whether the penalty stands and whether prosecution should follow.

J&K Assembly's

Secretariat directed each MLA to submit not more than four starred and four unstarred questions, along with one bill, by August 25.

Members have also been asked to submit not more than two resolutions by September 5.

The Secretariat further ordered that meetings and other affairs of the Financial and other Committees of the House would remain suspended with effect from August 22 in view of the commencement of the autumn session.

The session will be the next major sitting of the elected Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, with legislators expected to raise issues concerning their respective constituencies and the functioning of the administration.

The Assembly Secretariat has accordingly set deadlines for members to submit questions, bills and resolutions ahead of the session.

Eight-Question

cited the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly and said that the move to reduce the number of questions sets a bad precedent and defeats the purpose of legislative oversight. He urged the Speaker to restore the quota in line with the rules.

"I urge Speaker Sahab, who is the custodian of the House, to kindly review his decision and restore the rightful question quota of members, in accordance with Rule 45," Lone said.

Rule 45 provides that each member is entitled to 20 questions during a budget session-10 starred and 10 unstarred-and 10 questions during a non-budget session-five starred and five unstarred. However, as per the bulletin issued by the Assembly Secretariat, members have been asked to submit only eight questions in total-four starred and four unstarred.(KNO)

HC Refuses To

as Programme Officer, ICDS, Kulgam.

The case originated from a complaint alleging that DIC Pulwama had become a hub of corruption, followed by an ACB verification into alleged violations of the Industrial Policy, 2016 and the Procedural Guidelines of 2017. The ACB alleged that the petitioner had abused his official position by making land allotments and executing lease deeds in favour of various unit holders, allegedly conferring undue benefits upon them.

Parvez, however, maintained that the Industrial Policy empowered the GM, DIC to allot land to MSME units having investment in plant and machinery up to Rs 5 crore and to execute lease deeds. He argued that he had acted within his lawful authority and that the FIR did not disclose any criminal misconduct, personal monetary gain or conspiracy.

The ACB opposed the plea, contending that the relevant industrial estates at Pulwama and Chatpora had already been transferred to SICOP in April 2017, yet Pervaz continued making allotments. It further relied upon departmental and expert committee findings pointing to irregularities in around 62 units, including allotments allegedly made without Single Window Clearance Committee (SWCC) approval and acceptance of physical applications despite the online-only requirement.

The Court noted that while the Industrial Policy

did confer certain powers on the GM, DIC in relation to MSME land allotments, those powers were subject to prescribed procedures. The court observed that decisions concerning allotment of land were required to be taken by the SWCC headed by the GM, rather than by the petitioner individually.

The court further noted that under the 2017 procedural guidelines, final allotment orders were to be issued by an officer notified by SICOP/SIDCO after SWCC approval, while lease deeds were required to be executed with SICOP/SIDCO.

A significant factor before the court was that, according to the case diary, 48 allotments had allegedly been made in industrial estates that had already been handed over to SICOP.

The court held that this rendered Parvez's distinction between land held by DIC and land under SICOP/SIDCO control irrelevant at this stage.

The court also noted that the investigation was examining the role of beneficiaries whose applications had earlier been rejected but were subsequently processed and recommended, besides the role of other officers who may have facilitated or failed to object to the alleged irregularities.

It observed that the investigation would have to determine whether undue benefits were actually conferred, whether there was concerted action, whether Parvez acted alone or in league with others, and whether officials of the corporations remained silent or facilitated the process.

The court further recorded that documents relating to 42 units had been sent for forensic examination, while the role of beneficiaries and other SICOP/SIDCO officers remained under scrutiny. It held that quashing the proceedings at this stage could result in an incomplete investigation.

The court held that the question of whether Parvez abused his official position to obtain or confer pecuniary advantage required investigation and evaluation of documentary evidence. The court observed that it was too early to determine the existence of mens rea or dishonest intention at the stage of considering a plea to quash the FIR.

The court also emphasised that the industrial estates concerned had been handed over to SICOP on April 20, 2017, before Parvez assumed charge as GM, DIC Pulwama, and said that continued exercise of allotment powers thereafter would require clear justification.

Holding that there was sufficient material at this stage to warrant continuation of the investigation, the Court said the plea was devoid of merit and dismissed it.

Rain Likely

to 19, similar weather is likely to continue at many places, while heavy rain or brief intense heavy showers are possible at a few districts of the Jammu division. Isolated intense showers are also likely in the Kashmir division during the period.

The Meteorological Centre has warned that torrential rain and brief intense heavy showers could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides, particularly in vulnerable areas.

It advised people, especially those travelling through hilly and landslide-prone areas, to remain cautious during periods of intense rainfall.

Between August 20 and 22, light rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places across J&K, according to the forecast.

Several areas received significant rainfall in the 24 hours ending Wednesday morning, with Pulwama recording 57.5 mm, Poonch 53 mm, Awantipora 47.8 mm and Rajouri 44 mm.

Weather Remains Warm Across J&K

Despite the expected wet spell, weather remained largely warm across the region on Wednesday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius, which was 1.7 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 20.9 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees above normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 35.4 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 25.5 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam remained considerably cooler at 27.3 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius.

Among other stations, Kupwara recorded 30.7 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 30.4 degrees, Banihal 32.7 degrees, Batote 30.5 degrees, Katra 33 degrees and Bhaderwah 31.3 degrees Celsius.

The weather office has particularly flagged the August 16-19 period for possible heavy rainfall and brief intense showers, warning that the weather could temporarily disrupt traffic and affect vulnerable infrastructure in some districts.

Authorities and residents in flood- and landslide-prone areas have been advised to remain alert and follow advisories issued by the administration during periods of intense weather.

80 Countries, 1,100 Films

and other participants.

He directed the General Administration Department to designate nodal officers at major boarding airports, including Mumbai and Delhi, besides ensuring seamless reception and facilitation at the airports in Jammu and Srinagar.

Dulloo said the festival provided a significant opportunity to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's potential as both a film destination and a premier tourism destination.

He called upon the Tourism, Handicrafts, Floriculture, Culture and other concerned departments to make comprehensive arrangements to showcase the region's heritage, crafts, culture,

landscapes and artistic traditions.

Curated tours, craft safaris, heritage experiences and other activities will be organised for visiting guests to provide them firsthand experience of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need for timely invitations to dignitaries from the Government of India, the UT administration and other distinguished guests.

He reviewed arrangements concerning their accommodation, transportation, hospitality and visits to important tourist and heritage destinations in and around Jammu and Srinagar.

Focus on publicity

Dulloo directed the Information Department to undertake a comprehensive and sustained publicity campaign through local and national media, social media platforms and outdoor publicity, including hoardings and other visibility mechanisms across Jammu and Srinagar.

He called for creating wide awareness about the festival and projecting J&K's capabilities, creative ecosystem and tourism potential to audiences across the country and beyond.

He also directed the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to organise live cultural performances by local artists at suitable locations identified by the Divisional Administrations.

These performances, he said, would provide a vibrant cultural ambience for visiting guests and complement the film festival experience.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for adequate security arrangements and directed the Home Department to ensure coordination with all security agencies.

He further asked the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a micro-level review of every arrangement and activity and ensure that all departments, agencies and stakeholders remained fully coordinated.

1,100 entries from nearly 80 countries Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, R Alice Vaz, gave an overview of preparations being undertaken for the festival.

She apprised the meeting of a series of coordination meetings held with various departments and agencies and outlined the responsibilities assigned to different stakeholders for the smooth conduct of the event.

Director, Information and Public Relations, Shreya Singhal, subsequently made a detailed presentation on the vision, objectives and proposed format of IFFJK-2026.

The presentation covered the festival schedule, film entries, screening venues, programmes, logistics, hospitality, publicity and other arrangements.

Singhal informed the meeting that around 1,100 film entries from nearly 80 countries had been received for the maiden edition of IFFJK-2026.

The entries are currently being scrutinised by the Preview Committee for selection of films to be screened across seven screens over four days of the festival.

The proposed screening venues include the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) and INOX Cinemas in Srinagar, Waves Cinema in Jammu, besides select festival sessions at Gulmarg.

The inaugural, closing and award ceremonies are proposed to be held at SKICC in Srinagar, with arrangements for live broadcasting to ensure wider reach and visibility.

Masterclasses, workshops and roundtables Besides film screenings, IFFJK-2026 will feature masterclasses, workshops and roundtable discussions, providing opportunities for interaction among filmmakers, industry professionals, artists, students and other stakeholders, including students of Mass Communication.

The meeting was also apprised of the day-wise schedule of programmes and screenings planned across different venues, with dedicated arrangements proposed for jury members and festival participants.

Various committees have already been constituted with clearly defined Terms of Reference to ensure clarity of responsibilities, accountability and effective coordination among stakeholders.

A dedicated IFFJK application has also been developed by the Department of Information and Public Relations to facilitate registrations and provide real-time updates about the festival.

The meeting discussed in detail the publicity strategy, invitations, transportation, traffic management, security, hospitality, protocol and other logistical arrangements.

Departments including Tourism, Home, Traffic, Transport, Hospitality and Protocol and the General Administration Department were sensitised about their respective roles.

Dulloo directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and ensure that every arrangement was completed well in advance.

He reiterated that the maiden IFFJK should emerge as a landmark annual cultural event showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's cinematic potential, artistic talent, cultural richness and tourism appeal to national and international audiences.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary Home, Commissioner Secretary Information, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Secretary Transport, Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, SSP Srinagar as representative of DGP J&K, Director Information, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Director Hospitality and Protocol, Joint Director Information (Headquarters), Joint Director Information (Kashmir Division) and other senior officers from concerned departments and agencies.

Govt Rolls Out 'JK Karigari' to Take UT's Authentic Handicrafts to National, Global Markets

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir government launched "JK Karigari", the official marketplace for authentic products from Jammu and Kashmir during the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav which commenced here at Dehli.

The move is a major step towards connecting the region's centuries-old handcrafted heritage directly with the national and global buyers.

Launched as an initiative of the Housing & Urban Development Department under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), JK Karigari has been designed to empower the urban women Self Help Groups, preserve traditional crafts and create sustainable livelihoods across the Union Territory.

Present on the occasion were MPs Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzaan, Sajjad Kichloo and Gurvinder Singh Oberoi, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur and her entire team including Vikas Sharma, MD NUDM, Shabir Hussain Bhat



VC Srinagar Development Authority, Kapil Sharma, Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Mridhu Salathia, MD NULM, Ankush Kapoor, Chief Information Security Officer, HUDD, JK, SHG women and other officers of State Urban Development Agency(SUDA).

The platform will showcase 100 percent authentic Kashmiri handicrafts including Pashmina, Kani and Sozni shawls, papier-mache, walnut wood carving, crewel embroidery, carpets and organic local produce and

Jammu handicrafts including Chabri, Macrame Home & Devotional Decor besides traditional food products and wooden craft,

all made by skilled artisans and SHGs. Every product listed on JK Karigari will carry a QR code with artisan details, district and GI tag to ensure secure and transparent shopping, with payments going directly to the artisan groups and no middlemen involved.

The Commissioner Secretary termed the launch a "game changer for urban women artisans" and said the initiative will provide them a dedicated, government-backed platform to reach customers beyond local markets. She informed that presently the department has 4000 SHGs with about 50,000 women members associated with DAY-

NULM across J&K. She said the government is actively exploring ways to encourage more interstate collaborations to further boost the business of SHGs and give their products a wider national footprint.

She described JK Karigari as a revolutionary concept of the government that brings together heritage, technology and inclusive growth. She added that the main motive behind this huge government-backed marketplace is to ensure that artisans get a genuine price for their products while consumers get authentic quality stuff, directly from the makers. By integrating QR-based traceability, pre-

approval of SHGs by DAY-NULM City Mission and secure digital transactions, the government is ensuring both authenticity for buyers and sustainable income for artisans.

The Commissioner Secretary said that with continuous government support and better market linkages, these women artisans are now confidently stepping into larger markets with products that reflect both tradition and innovation.

Nodal Officers of the event Kapil Sharma and Vikas Sharma, along with Chief Executive Officer Urban Development Authority Kashmir Tazayun Mukhtar and MD DAY-NULM Mridhu Salathia also addressed the gathering on the occasion. They made a fervent appeal to the public and institutional buyers to visit the JK Karigari stall and experience the exquisite collection of traditionally blended, handmade products of Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasized that the platform not only showcases the artistic brilliance of local artisans but also serves as a bridge between heritage craftsmanship and contemporary markets.

J&K among 25 States, UTs Implementing Crop Insurance Schemes in Kharif 2026: Gol

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is among 25 States and Union Territories where the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and/or Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is being implemented during Kharif 2026, the Government of India (Gol) informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ramnath Thakur in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3895 regarding Crop Insurance Schemes, raised by Shri Sachithanantham R.

According to the government data, accessed by KNO, the crop insurance schemes are currently operational in Jammu and Kashmir along with Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The data placed before the House shows that during the last five financial years from 2021-22 to 2025-26, farmers in Jammu and Kashmir contributed Rs 60.55 crore as their share of premium under PMFBY. During the same period, claims worth Rs 182.57 crore were reported, of which Rs 172.40 crore had been paid.

At the national level, farmers contributed Rs 18,351.69 crore as their share of premium during the five-year period, against reported claims of Rs 91,318.21 crore, with Rs 86,731.59 crore in claims paid.

The government said the State-wise and insurance company-wise details of premium collected and claims paid have been provided in the annexures accompanying the reply. The company-wise data shows that the Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC) accounted for Rs 38,560.26 crore in paid claims nationally during the period. (KNO)

3,673 Landless Households Identified under PMAY-G in J&K: Centre

SRINAGAR: As many as 3,673 rural landless households have been identified as eligible under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 498 have been provided land, while 3,175 are yet to be allotted land, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Singh Chauhan in reply to a starred question raised by Lok Sabha members Benny Behanan and Anto Antony regarding housing for landless households under PMAY-G.

According to the statement laid before the House, a total of 5,61,919 rural landless households have been identified as eligible under PMAY-G across the country. Of these, 3,26,183 have been provided land, while 2,35,736 households are yet to be provided land by the respective States and Union Territories.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the data, accessed by KNO, shows that out of 3,673 identified landless beneficiaries, 498 have been provided land, leaving 3,175 households awaiting land allotment.

The government has also reported 3,41,644 PMAY-G houses as the overall target for Jammu and Kashmir. Against this, 3,34,597 houses have been sanctioned and 3,26,860 have been completed, while 14,784 houses remain incomplete against the allocated target.

At the national level, the Centre said that as on August 6, 2026, a total of 1.05 crore houses remained incomplete against the overall PMAY-G targets. The government has approved Phase-II of PMAY-G for completing an additional two crore houses by March 2029.

The Ministry said delays in completion may be due to several reasons, including unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession of deceased beneficiaries, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries, delays in updating credit confirmation from State IFMIS, elections and unavailability of building materials.

Chhari Mubarak Rituals Begin as Amarnath Yatra Enters Final Phase



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The traditional rituals marking the final phase of the annual Amarnath Yatra began in Srinagar on Wednesday with the holy Chhari Mubarak, the sacred mace of Lord Shiva, taken to the historic Shankaracharya Temple for special prayers.

The Chhari Mubarak, led by its custodian Mahant Deependra Giri, was taken to the hilltop temple as part of the traditional rituals associated with the annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir.

According to KNO, special prayers were offered at the temple amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and blowing of conch shells, with sadhus accompanying the holy mace participating in the rituals.

The rituals at Shanka-

racharya Temple mark an important stage in the traditional Chhari Mubarak pilgrimage, which will continue with a visit to the Sharika Bhawani Temple at Hari Parbat on August 13.

The holy mace will then be taken to the Amareshwar Temple at the Dashnami Akhara in Srinagar, where Chhari-Sthapana rituals are scheduled for August 15, followed by Chhari-Pujan on August 17, on the occasion of Nag Panchami.

The main traditional journey of the Chhari Mubarak towards the Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to begin from Srinagar on August 22. The holy mace will make night halts at Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni before reaching the cave shrine for puja and darshan on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima—(KNO)

Govt Employee Dismissed for Involvement in Drug Trafficking

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday dismissed an employee of the Wildlife Protection Department from government service, allegedly for his repeated involvement in drug trafficking.

The dismissed employee, identified as Vinod Kumar Raina, a resident of the Kandikhas area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, was posted as a watcher in the Wildlife Protection Department.

In an order, commissioner/secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology, and Environment, Sheetal

Nanda, ordered Raina's dismissal from service with immediate effect.

The government also disqualified Raina from any future employment with the government.

The dismissal came after the department conducted an inquiry into the charges levelled against Raina after he was arrested on July 18, 2021, under the NDPS Act in FIR No 329/2021 registered by the Nagrota police station, for possessing approximately 300 grams of charas.

During the departmental inquiry, it was found that Raina had previously been involved in drug trafficking.

Pony Rally Held at Sonamarg as Part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026', a vibrant Pony Rally was organised at Sonamarg, witnessing enthusiastic participation from pony operators, hoteliers, local residents, tourists and other stakeholders.

The rally was organised under the supervision of the Sonamarg Development Authority, with Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan participating in the event.

Carrying the Tricolour, the participants took part in the rally through Sonamarg, creating a vibrant display of patriotism and national pride. The participation of local stakeholders, particularly pony operators and residents, reflected the strong public spirit and enthusiasm towards the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

The rally also witnessed participation of hoteliers, tourism stakeholders and members of the local community, who joined the celebrations carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans.

J&K to Advertise Around 800 Para-Medical Posts in December: Sakeena Itoo

Agencies

JAMMU: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Masood Itoo on Wednesday said the Jammu and Kashmir Government is set to launch another major recruitment drive in the health sector, with around 800 para-medical posts expected to be advertised in December this year.

The announcement came during the inauguration of a newly established CT Scan facility at Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital, Jammu, where the minister underlined the government's efforts to strengthen both healthcare infrastructure and manpower across the Union Territory.

Talking to reporters after the inauguration Itoo, according to KNO said the recruitment of para-medical staff was being pursued in view of the shortage of trained manpower in government hospitals and health institutions.

The Minister said she has

taken up the issue with the Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). "Recruitment of around 800 paramedics is expected to begin in December," the Minister said, adding that the move would help address staff shortages and improve the delivery of healthcare services.

She said the government has already recruited around 900 doctors and is simultaneously working to augment the para-medical workforce. According to her, strengthening manpower was essential alongside the creation of new infrastructure to ensure that facilities could be utilised effectively and patients receive treatment without unnecessary delays.

Speaking about the newly inaugurated CT Scan facility at SMGS Hospital, Itoo said patients were earlier being referred to other hospitals because of the non-availability of the diagnostic facility at the hospital. "Now they won't face any problems."



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES KASHMIR BEMINA SRINAGAR

Visit us at: www.dhskashmir.org Email: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in

Subject: 2nd Tentative Seniority List of Sr. Pharmacists (PM Package) Kashmir.

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the 2nd Tentative Seniority List of Senior Pharmacists (PM Package) working under the administrative control of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of the service records available in this Directorate and the information furnished by the subordinate offices.

Whereas, representations received from various officials in response to the 1st Tentative Seniority List of Senior Pharmacists (PM Package), circulated vide this office Circular No. Est-II/NG/7929703/3050-86 dated 24-07-2026, have been examined, and the requisite corrections, wherever found justified, have been incorporated in the present list.

Accordingly, the 2nd Tentative Seniority List of Senior Pharmacists (PM Package) is hereby circulated for the information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All Senior Pharmacists (PM Package) are advised to carefully verify the particulars recorded against their names.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation, duly supported by documentary evidence, through the proper channel to this Directorate within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this notification.

No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained, and no claim shall be considered without supporting documentary evidence.

The 2nd Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of the Directorate, www.dhsk.gov.in, and published in two leading newspapers of the Kashmir Valley for wider circulation.

S. No.	Name of the Official	Date of Birth	Date of 1st Appointment	Date of Promotion as Sr. Pharmacist	Place of Posting	Category, if any (Valid Certificate as on date)
1	Amit Kumar Bhat	25-12-1981	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	CMO Srinagar	
2	Sandeep Raina	16-01-1981	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	Block Budgam	
3	Kuldeep Singh	15-12-1981	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	Block DH Pora	
4	Anil Pandita	15-07-1982	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	Block Kulgam	
5	Ajay Misri	26-06-1983	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	Block Budgam	
6	Vijay Kumar	25-12-1978	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	Block Kalaroos	
7	Rakesh Kumar Bhat	20-04-1981	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	BMO Qazigund	
8	Jeetender Raina	06-03-1975	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	BMO Qazigund	
9	Supriya Razdan	18-12-1981	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	CMO Sgr	
10	Dilip Dhar	01-04-1980	24-12-2010	01-07-2022	Block Kalaroos	
11	Liyaqaat Ah. Bhat	18-06-1986	02-02-2011	01-07-2022	DH Ganderbal	
12	Virpal Singh	07-02-1984	22-03-2011	01-07-2022	BMO Magam	
13	Rakesh Pandita	01-04-1973	08-12-2016	01-07-2022	Block Mattan	
14	Kulwant Singh	12-08-1987	08-12-2016	01-07-2022	CMO Srinagar	
15	Ravneet Singh	22-03-1988	08-12-2016	01-07-2022	SDH Tangmarg	
16	Vikrant Pandit	15-07-1990	08-12-2016	13-12-2022	BMO Mattan	
17	Sonia Parihar	17-06-1993	15-09-2020	24-07-2025	Block Mattan	
18	Veney Partap Singh	11-11-1993	12-09-2020	24-07-2025	Block Hajin	
19	Ashwani	13-04-1984	15-09-2020	24-07-2025	EH Qazigund	

No: DHSK/Est-II/NG/7929703/3633-68
Dated: 11/08/2026

DIPK-4482-26
DT: 12/08/2026

Sd/-
Director Health Services
Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE, THINDIM, KREERI

Website: gdctk.edu.in | gdc-kreeri@jk.gov.in | Phone No: 9469512452

GDCTK/2026-27/249

Dated: 10/08/2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF BOOKSELLERS/PUBLISHERS/SUPPLIERS FOR THE FY 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, Expression of Interest is invited from the reputed Booksellers/Publishers, registered with Book Federation of India 'Book Association of India 'Book Association of India for supply of books and references, as per the BoQ, quoting their maximum discount for empanelment process for the year 2026-27. The Highest discount percentage quoted in the bid shall be the benchmark for empanelment of the book suppliers for the year 2026-27. However minimum acceptable discount on the publisher's price for the empanelment of books and periodicals for the FY 2026-2027 shall be 20 percent. Any bid quoting discount lower than 20% shall be summarily rejected. The allied documents along with terms and conditions of the EOI can be downloaded from the official website of the college <http://gdctk.edu.in> or from www.jktenders.gov.in.

The Empanelment shall remain in force for the Financial Year 2026-27. The undersigned reserve the right to accept or reject any or all offers or cancel the EOI at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

The institution reserves right to empanel more than one eligible and technically qualified vendors for the Financial year 2026-2027 to avoid vendor monopoly and to ensure fair and uninterrupted supply of books and periodicals. For this, the vendors will be given an opportunity to match highest quoted discount rate (H1 rate) and if any of them fails to submit their consent within the stipulated time, it shall be deemed that the vendor is no longer interested in matching H1 rate and their offer will stand cancelled without further notice. The undersigned reserves the right to distribute the supply orders among the empanelled vendors as per institutional requirements and discretion.

Complete details for submission and opening of e-Tender are as detailed below: -

Date of issue of E-NIT	10-08-2026
Date of Publication of E-NIT	12-08-2026
Downloading of Documents/Offer submission Start Date	12-08-2026 (10:00 AM)
Last Date for Submission of Offer	27-08-2026 (06:00 PM)
Technical Opening (Online)	29-08-2026 (11:30 AM)
Financial Opening (Online)	31-08-2026 (11:30 AM)

For further information/download required documents, kindly visit <http://gdctk.edu.in> or from www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIPK-4469-26
DT: 12/08/2026

Principal
Govt. Degree College
Thindim Kreeri

SC Asks States, UTs to Consider Uniform Policy on Unauthorised Constructions

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked all states and Union territories to consider a representation seeking framing of uniform policy for regularisation and demolition of long-standing unauthorised constructions across the country.

The order was passed by the top court while declining to entertain a PIL filed by Centre for Law and Good Governance seeking directions to the Centre and all the states for framing such a policy to save unauthorised dwelling units of poor persons, saying that this issue largely falls within the policy domain of state governments and local authorities.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana said that circumstances and ground realities vary from state to state, making it neither feasible nor

prudent for the court to pre-scribe a single policy framework for the entire country.

"It would be difficult and may not be prudent for this court to lay down a uniform policy framework to be applied across various states," the bench said.

The court, however, said states and Union territories could consider the issues raised in the petition while formulating new policies or revisiting their existing frameworks.

"We are hopeful that due consideration shall be given to all such issues by the competent authorities," the bench said in its order.

The petition pointed out that settlement and regularisation schemes have been introduced in states such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as well as in Delhi.

It, however, alleged that in several instances, unauthorised colonies and structures were de-



molished suddenly, sometimes without adequate notice and without any rehabilitation or welfare mechanism for affected families.

The PIL said that demolition is an extreme and irreversible measure and therefore cannot be undertaken without a policy that balances enforcement of planning and land-use laws with the constitutional rights to shelter, livelihood and dignity under Article 21.

The counsel for the petitioner said that state governments follow inconsistent approaches towards unauthorised constructions.

According to the plea, demolitions are at times carried out in a hurried, erratic and unsystematic manner.

The counsel said that authorities sometimes assure residents

that unauthorised structures would be regularised, while simultaneously collecting municipal and property taxes and permitting access to civic amenities such as electricity.

After 40-50 years, residents may be told that their structures are illegal and face demolition without any assessment of whether alternative accommodation is available.

The plea urged the bench to examine the issue from a human-rights perspective, particularly in cases involving families who have remained in possession of properties or colonies for decades.

The CJL pointed out that the Supreme Court had already laid down comprehensive safeguards against illegal and unauthorised demolitions.

The counsel said that the existing judicial directions were inconsistent.

He referred to an earlier three-

judge bench ruling recognising the right to shelter as part of the right to live with human dignity, while citing a July 14 judgement holding that the long-standing existence of a colony by itself does not create a legal right and that mere passage of time or administrative inaction does not cure an illegality.

The bench said a court-appointed committee could not substitute the powers vested in state governments and municipalities to enforce the law.

It also reiterated that the Supreme Court had already issued safeguards aimed at preventing sudden and arbitrary demolitions.

"This court's humanist jurisprudence, beginning with Olga Tellis, recognises that a person in settled possession cannot be dispossessed without due process. This court has also directed that even a rank unauthorized occupant must ordinarily be given at least 15 days' notice before de-

molition," the CJL said.

Justice Bagchi said the issues raised in the plea would have to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and could not necessarily be resolved through a single policy framed by the court.

Justice Bagchi said the prayers in the petition were framed too broadly and could result in the court entering the executive's policy domain.

The bench also noted that unauthorised construction does not always involve economically vulnerable residents, with some structures being raised for commercial or profit-making purposes.

"There are also situations where large numbers of economically marginalised people occupy tracts of land and require alternative accommodation... This calls for a policy decision. We cannot prevent the state from adopting a particular policy," the bench said.

United Elegant FC Joins Kashmir Super League 2026 as Sixth Franchise

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League (KSL) 2026, powered by Athwas Retail and Athwas Hyundai, has officially welcomed United Elegant FC, the champions of the inaugural season, as the sixth and final franchise for the upcoming edition.

The return of the Season 1 champions marks a significant milestone in the growth and development of the Kashmir Super League, with all six franchise slots for KSL 2026 now officially filled.

United Elegant FC created history by lifting the inaugural Kashmir Super League title and will now return to defend their crown in what promises to be a bigger, stronger, and more competitive second season.

Their inclusion brings both continuity and added excitement to KSL 2026, as the defending champions prepare to face five other



ambitious franchises in the battle for the coveted Kashmir Super League title.

The KSL management warmly welcomes United Elegant FC back to the competition and congratulates the club on becoming the sixth and final franchise for Season 2.

With six franchises now confirmed, preparations are gathering momentum for KSL 2026, which aims to provide an even bigger platform for

India Set for Afghanistan T20s; Bangladesh Hopes Fade

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Bangladesh's hopes of hosting India for a long-pending white-ball rubber in September seem all but over with the BCCI announcing that Shreyas Iyer and his men will face Afghanistan in a three-match T20I series in Delhi from September 13 to 17.

The BCCI and the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced the series in a joint statement on Wednesday, the window for which clashes with the plans that Bangladesh had proposed.

The Indo-Bangla bilateral series had to be postponed last year due to the political unrest in that country.

The games against Afghanistan are a part of ACB's Future Tours Programme. They are being treated as a home assignment for the ACB, which has made India a base for conducting games in recent years due to the volatile political situation in Afghanistan.



The series will get underway on September 13, with the second T20I scheduled for September 15 and the third on September 17. All the three matches will be played at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium here.

Afghanistan most recently toured India for a three-match ODI series in June, and the two sides also played a three-match T20I series in January 2024.

India hosted Afghanistan for their historic first Test in 2018, and the two teams have since continued to engage regularly across formats.

Ronaldo, Georgina Tie the Knot After 10 Years

Agencies

LISBON- Cristiano Ronaldo and Georgina Rodriguez are husband and wife.

They married Tuesday in a civil ceremony described by the public relations team that represents the Portuguese soccer star as "a private and

nouncement.

The couple posted a picture on their Instagram accounts showing their rings.

They have been together for the past decade after meeting in Madrid.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo, a five-time world player of the year and one of the



intimate moment attended by their five children."

The ceremony took place in Cascais, a coastal town in western Portugal near the capital Lisbon, the Brunswick Group said in the an-

most high-profile sports stars, is coming off playing in his record-tying sixth World Cup for Portugal.

His Saudi team, Al Nassr, starts its domestic season on Saturday. (AP)

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