

Kashmir's Screen Storytellers Fight To Save the Only Stage Left

As Doordarshan's local channels fall silent on original programming, the region's actors, writers and technicians say a proposed bidding system could finish off what decades of conflict never managed to end.

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: The meeting space filled early, and the faces told their own story before a single word was spoken.

Veteran actors sat beside young technicians who had grown up watching Kashmiri dramas on state television, and writers who once filled scripts

for DD Kashir traded silent glances with producers who now struggle to find work at all.

On August 13, this landmark gathering of professionals from Jammu and Kashmir's Film and Television industry assembled in Srinagar to confront a crisis that has been building for years and has finally reached a breaking point.

The meeting drew a wide spectrum of the region's creative community: actors, singers, writers, producers, directors, technicians and equipment owners, united by a shared sense that something essential to their livelihoods and their culture is slipping.

Among the prominent voices in the gathering were



Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan, Dr. Ayash Arif, Mushtaq Bala and Shahzad Rasool, figures whose careers trace the long history of Kashmiri television production.

For decades, DD Srinagar and DD Kashir served as training grounds, employers and cultural anchors, giving local artists a platform to tell Kashmiri stories in Kashmiri voices.

Generations of performers built careers there, and countless technicians found steady work behind the cameras.

That era, participants said, has effectively ended.

The decline has been sharp and striking.

"With commissioning and in-house productions largely discontinued, a | [More on P6](#)

Two Killed In Anantnag Lightning Strike

Rain lashes several areas; MeT forecasts heavy showers from 16-19

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two persons were killed and two others injured in a lightning strike in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday as rain and thunder-showers lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Meteorological Centre forecasting spells of heavy rain and intense showers across the region between August 16 and 19.

An official told the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that lightning struck a group of people in the Gawran Nard area of Anantnag, killing Faizan Ahmad, 18, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Chard, a resident of Gawran, and Bilal Ahmad Battana, 16, son of Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Redwani Gawran.

Sajad Ahmad Battana, 15, son of Sai Battana, and Shareef Ahmad Battana, son of Jumma, both residents of Redwani Gawran, were injured in the incident and shifted to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Larnoo for treatment.

Meanwhile, rain and thunder-showers were reported from several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Shopian, Kulgam, Reasi,



Udhampur and the Banihal-Ramban belt, besides parts of central and north Kashmir, the Meteorological Centre said.

Brief spells of intense rain were reported or were likely in Poonch, Rajouri, Budgam, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, the hilly areas of Ganderbal, Reasi, Ramban, Udhampur and Doda, it said.

A cloudburst over the higher reaches of the Zojila area also resulted in debris accumulation and blockage of the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road near Ranga Mode, disrupting traffic on the strategic route.

Teams of the Border Roads Organisation were mobilised to clear the debris and restore traffic, officials | [More on P6](#)

J&K Records 35% Rainfall Surplus In July

KO Web Desk

Jammu and Kashmir recorded a 35 per cent surplus rainfall in July, bringing an end to an eight-month spell of below-normal precipitation across the Union Territory, according to rainfall data compiled by an independent weather forecaster. J&K received 259.7 mm of rainfall in July against the normal 192.6 mm, resulting in a surplus of 35 per cent. The July rainfall | [More on P6](#)

DGP Orders Intensified Patrolling, Surveillance



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday directed security forces to intensify patrolling, checking and surveillance at vulnerable locations across the Union Territory ahead of Independence Day celebrations.

Prabhat chaired a high-level security meeting at the Police Control Room here to review security preparedness for the August 15 celebrations. The meeting was attended by senior officers of the J&K Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other security formations.

According to officials, the

meeting focused on security deployment, intelligence inputs, traffic management, route security, access control and surveillance.

The DGP stressed greater coordination among the police, CAPFs and other security agencies, calling for intelligence-based action and a swift response to any emerging threat.

Security arrangements at major Independence Day venues were also reviewed, with particular focus on Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, the main venue for the Union Territory-level celebrations.

Officials were directed to ensure adequate security and access-control measures at the stadium while regulating the movement | [More on P6](#)



WOMEN POLICE PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE in the full dress rehearsal for the Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar on Thursday. KO Photo By Abid Bhat.

Rabi-ul-Awal Moon Not Sighted

Eid Milad-un-Nabi On August 26

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The crescent moon for Rabi-ul-Awal was not sighted on Thursday, and the Islamic month will begin on Saturday, August 15, according to the office of Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Grand Mufti's office said the moon was not sighted on 29 Safar-ul-Muzaffar 1448 AH, corresponding to August 13, 2026.

Accordingly, Eid Milad-un-Nabi, observed on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awal, will fall on August 26.

The month of Rabi-ul-Awwal holds significance for Muslims as it is associated with the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The faithful | [More on P6](#)

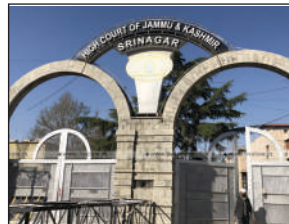
Employer, Selection Body Cannot Relax Statutory Qualifications: HC

Sets Aside CAT Order Directing Appointment Of Food Inspectors Sans Mandatory Training

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that "once a qualification for a post is statutorily prescribed, it is not open either to the employer or to the selection agency to tamper with it or relax it," the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has set aside a Central Administrative Tribunal order directing the J&K Services Selection Board (SSB) to recommend candidates for appointment as Food Inspectors despite their not possessing the mandatory three-month training in food inspection and sampling work.

A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice



Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani made the observation while allowing a petition filed by the Union Territory and others challenging the Tribunal's judgment dated July 25, 2025.

The Court further held that relaxation of an essential qualification by the Government or the selection body is ordinarily not permissible unless such relaxation

is backed by the statute prescribing the qualification.

The case concerned the selection process for Food Inspectors initiated through an SSB advertisement. The respondents had participated in the selection process and figured in the select list, but the SSB withheld their recommendations after finding that they did not possess the prescribed three-month training in food inspection and sampling.

The candidates had contended before the Tribunal that the training requirement was a condition subsequent and could be acquired after appointment. The Tribunal accepted | [More on P6](#)

1991 Jammu Blast Accused Held After 35 Yrs

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar:) After evading police for 35 years, a terrorist responsible for the 1991 Jammu railway station bomb blast was arrested in Anantnag district, police said on Thursday.

Police said accused Altaf Hussain Sheikh was brought before the TADA Court, and further legal proceedings will be initiated.

They said Sheikh had concealed his identity and been living as a businessman.

According to the police, aSheikh, along with three other accomplices, carried out the bombing at platform number 1, killing three people, including two paramilitary personnel, and injuring 18 civilians.

While one operative, Aman Ullah Khan, was arrested on the day of the blast, the other three went into hiding.

On Thursday, the Jammu Railway Police traced Sheikh to Anantnag and arrested him.

"Railway (GRP) Police Jammu arrests an absconding terrorist booked under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act. Altaf Hussain Sheikh, son of Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, resident of Marhama-Bijbehara, Anantnag, after a long chase of 35 years, initially went underground and | [More on P6](#)

SC Asks Centre To Consider AI Regulation Suggestions

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre and others to consider suggestions given by a petitioner on framing binding guidelines on ethics and transparency in AI-based surveillance and content moderation. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a petition filed by advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami.

"Tell us what can we do," the bench told the petitioner at the outset. Goswami said he was pressing one of the prayers made in the petition, which sought a direction to the Centre to file an affidavit disclosing all existing and proposed high-risk | [More on P6](#)

The AI Newsroom Is Coming to Kashmir Classrooms

IUST is updating postgraduate media education as artificial intelligence enters more parts of professional journalism.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: The agenda at the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Awantipora this week read like a snapshot of a media industry in transition.

Faculty members and outside experts gathered around a Board of Studies table to examine postgraduate programmes that place artificial intelligence closer to the centre of journalism education.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication convened the meeting on Wednesday,



chaired by Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Rabia Noor, head of the department, welcomed the Board members as they began | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir's Northern Campus Gets a New Development Push

The University of Kashmir is pairing better infrastructure with employment-focused courses as it expands its presence in the north.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: By the time Prof. Nilofer Khan reached the University of Kashmir's Kupwara Campus on Thursday, the agenda had moved well beyond classrooms and lecture halls.

Roads, land, hostels, transport and the courses students could study there were all on the table.

The university's vice chancellor met students, faculty members, civil society representatives, educationists and district officials to take stock of the campus and discuss its next



phase of growth.

Senior university officials joined the meeting, along with

representatives of the revenue, forest, roads and power departments. | [More on P6](#)



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2

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Office Of The Executive Engineer

LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

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SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

FRESH NIET NO:29 e-Tendering/2026-27 Dated: 10-August-2026

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work: -

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
01.	Development of Park at Aali Kadal Qutub Din Pora	Rs. 3.24/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6480/-	DEE	207 Dated: 23/07/2026	District Capex Budget
02.	Reconstruction Surface drain at Urdu Bazar near Post Office	Rs. 4.14/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8280/-	DEE	202 Dated: 18-07-2026	District Capex Budget
03.	Construction of surface drain along with iron mesh from house of sonu to existing drain near Mandir at housing colony chanapora	Rs. 1.88/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3760/-	DEE	178 Dated: 13-07-2026	District Capex Budget

- **Accord of Administrative Approval:**

Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	10-08-2026
2	Document download date	11-08-2026 10:00 AM To 20-08-2026 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	11-08-2026 10:00 AM To 20-08-2026 06:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	21-08-2026 11:00 AM
5.	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	22-08-2026 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. As Per the Government Circular No.01 (ADM) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08.07.2025 Endorsement No. FD-ST/75/2025-03 Dated:- 08-07-2025 issued by the J&K UT Finance Department. "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose/Upload the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder."

2. The intending tenders should attach an Online receipt/ Bank challan equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost. In compliance to the SMC circular No.SMC/PS/CAO/748-753, Dated: 05/08/2026, the EMD of 2%, Tender Fee and performance security shall be accepted only through Online Transaction pledged in favour of FA/CAO SMC which is to be deposited as per the given details below;

Name of the Account: Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Name of the Bank: -Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Branch:- Balgarden, Srinagar

IFSC code: -JAKAOGARDEN

Bank Account No: -0216010200000007

MICR CODE: 190051008

3. The bidder shall upload the payment receipt of EMD & tender Fee along with technical Bid on JK Tenders Portal. Bids without valid online payment receipt shall be rejected as Non responsive. If any bidder is found to have submitted fake, forged, manipulated or invalid payment receipt towards EMD/Tender Fee the bid of such bidder shall be rejected. In addition to rejection of bid the contractor/ firm shall automatically be treated as debarred from participating in any tenders in LRWD for a period of Six Months from the date of detection.

4. The Lowest successful bidder shall have to submit performance security guarantee in shape of Bank Challan/E-Receipt pledged to FA/CAO (SMC) after opening of tenders. The value of performance security shall be as per the Circular issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government Finance Department under endorsement No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 and amendment made by the Government Finance Department (J&K) time to time illustration (enclosed).

5. The Additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance Security and will be released after completions of defect liability period (DLP)

4. Circular issued by the Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Housing & Urban Development Department (J & k UT) vide No:- 7760278-hud-plan/106/2026-01 Dated:- 06.06.2026

5. That Pre/Post Geo-Tagged Photographic evidence of the instant work(s) shall be maintained.

6. That the work or part of the work is not reflected in State/District Sector Plan/CDF/MPLADS/AMRUT or any other program nor have the works or part of the works earlier executed by the SMC or through any other Agency.

No.SMC/EELRWD/1246-1255
DIPK-NB-1397/26 dated: 13-08-2026

Dated:10-Aug-2026.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Registrar Industrial Cooperatives, Ganderbal

Subject: Notice to Defunct/Non-Functional Cooperative Societies regarding their whereabouts and functioning.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the whereabouts and present status of the below listed Cooperatives registered with the Department under the jurisdiction of the undersigned are not known. The said Cooperatives have apparently ceased to function and have not been maintaining regular contact with the Department/office concerned.

S.No.	Name of the defunct Cooperatives	Complete Address	Regd. No. & Date
1.	The Tulip Sozni Embroidery Industrial Cooperative Ltd.	Rakhi Harran Ganderbal	RIC/KP/SRA/1618 Dated:- 10-07-2020
2.	The Womens Sozni Embroidery Industrial Cooperative Ltd.	Rakhi Harran Ganderbal	RIC/KP/SRA/1908 Dated:- 21-08-2020
3.	The Aaliza Sozni Embroidery Industrial Cooperative Ltd.	Rabitar Gundroshan Ganderbal	RIC/KP/SRA/3922 Dated:- 03-03-2022
4.	The Jehlum Sozni Embroidery Industrial Cooperative Ltd.	Fatehpura Ganderbal	RIC/KP/SRA/4167 Dated:- 13-04-2022

Accordingly, all such defunct/non-functional Cooperatives, through their existing Managing Committees, office bearers, members are hereby called upon to appear before the concerned Assistant Registrar Industrial Cooperatives office within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with all relevant records/documents, and explain the reasons for their non-functioning and failure to remain in contact with the Department.

In case no response is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that the concerned Cooperatives have completely seized their functioning and have no objection whatsoever to further action being initiated under the applicable provisions of the J&K Self-Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 and rules/regulations made there under.

ARI/GBL/29
DIPK-4534/26
Dated:- 13-08-2026.

Sd/ Assistant Registrar
Industrial Cooperatives Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Trambo, S/o Habib Ullah Trambo, resident of Awantipora, Pulwama, J&K, hereby state that my name is incorrectly recorded as "Muhi Ud Din" in PNB MetLife Insurance Policy No. 21496350. My correct name, as per my official identity documents, is "Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Trambo." Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may contact the undersigned within seven days of publication of this notice.

bko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, IMTIYAZ AHMAD TELI, S/o MOHAMMAD RAMZAN TELI, Father of ARHAM IMTIYAZ, R/o Hari Utnu, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under: That I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir since birth.

That the name and father's name of my ward are wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3288 2950 7853 as TAAMIL IMTIYAZ, C/o IMTIYAZ AHMAD TALI. That the correct name and father's name of my ward are ARHAM IMTIYAZ, C/o IMTIYAZ AHMAD TELI, as recorded in the Birth Certificate.

That I intend to get the aforesaid errors corrected in the Aadhaar Card and have the correct particulars entered as ARHAM IMTIYAZ, C/o IMTIYAZ AHMAD TELI. That the contents of this declaration are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been concealed therein.

IMTIYAZ AHMAD TELI

Father/Guardian of Arham Imtiyaz

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I GHULAM ABASS S/o Late Haji Lal Hussain R/o House No SMC 3163, Ward No 9, Street No 166, Imran Gali -B Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar Pin Code 190015, want to make small correction in the spelling of my name from ABBAS to ABASS as per academic records in my license no JK01 20060048795. Any objection in this regard may be filed before RTO Srinagar within 7 days after the publication of this notice.

iko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from ALTAF HUSSAIN LONE S/o Ali Mohd Lone R/o Tujar Sharief , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward. Namely Ajwa Jaan born on 17/04/2022 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from ALI MOHAMMAD RESHIE S/o Amber Reshi R/o Marbal Yemberzalwari , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward(s) Namely Amina Ali born on 15/05/2012, Kulsooma Ali born on 15/06/2008, Afreen Ali born on 05/06/2015, Zaid Ahmad Reshi born on 24/02/2018 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from AJAZ AHMAD SHEIKH S/o Sonjuallah Sheikh R/o Tujar Sharief , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward(s) Abu Zaid born on 27/02/2018 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from ASHIQ HUSSAIN GANIE S/o Nazir Ahmad Ganie R/o Tujar Sharief , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward(s) Iqra Ashiq born on 13/06/2018 Usman Ashiq born on 05/07/2019 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from KHURSHIED AHMAD WANI S/o Gh Rasool Wani R/o Lathishath , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward(s) Mohammad Numan Wani born on 07/08/2020 Aalia Khursheed Wani born on 28/03/2018 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from JAVID ABDULLAH DAR S/o Mohammad Abdullah Dar R/o Lathishath , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward(s) Zeenat Javid Dar born on 13/06/2019 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from SHAFAT AHMAD LONE S/o Abdul Rahim Lone R/o Tujar Sharief , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward(s) Hadiya Jaan born on 04/06/2015 Zaira Jaan born on 18/04/2019 Mohammad Shahzain born on 20/12/2022 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR BUDGAM

SUBJECT: Application of SHAKEELA BANO W/O GH MOHI -UDIN-RATHER R/O MAHWARA Tehsil BUDGAM District BUDGAM for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate in favour of deceased of GH. MOHI U DIN RATHER. As per the enclosed documents and verification report submitted by the patwari concerned reveals that the deceased has left behind the following surviving legal heirs whose details are given below.

S. NO	NAME OF LEGAL HEIRS	RELATION-SHIP WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	MARTIAL STATUS
1	SHAKEELA BANO	WIFE	49	HOUSE WIFE	WIDOW
2	ZAFFER MEHDI RATHER	SON	19	STUDENT	UN MARRIED
3	SHAFKAT MEHDI	DAUGHTER	22	STUDENT	UN MARRIED
4	AYAN MEHDI	SON	12	STUDENT	UN MARRIED

In this context, objections are invited from general public regarding the issuance of requisite certificate in favour of the applicant. If anybody has any objection, he/she may submit his/her objections in this office within 07 days during office hours. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period. mcb NAIB TEHSILDAR BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that Sh. Riyaz Ahmad Reshi, S/o Late Abdul Sattar Reshi, R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT) has applied for issuance of a Legal Heir Certificate in respect of his deceased mother Late Saja Begum, who expired on 18/06/2026.

As per the applicant's declaration, the following are the legal heirs of Late Saja Begum:

Riyaz Ahmad Reshi – Son – Married – 38 years

Bashir Ahmad Reshi – Son – Married – 46 years

Kulsooma Akhter – Daughter – Married – 33 years

Any person having any objection, claim or interest regarding the above-mentioned legal heirs or the issuance of the Legal Heir Certificate may submit the same before the Naib Tehsildar, Goigam, within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

After expiry of the stipulated period, no objection/claim shall be entertained and the matter shall be processed as per rules.

Riyaz Ahmad Reshi

S/o Late Abdul Sattar Reshi

R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Ashraf Beigh, S/o Abdul Rahman Beigh, R/o Takiya Batapora, P/S & Block Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, declare that my daughter/ward Rutba Ashraf, D/o Mohammad Ashraf Beigh & Sarwah Begum, was born on 25/09/2015.

Her Date of Birth has not been recorded in the records of Block Kunzer/ P.S. Kunzer/Village Guard. I intend to register her birth and obtain her Date of Birth Certificate from the competent authority. The delay was due to inadvertence.

I declare that the above facts are true and correct and shall be responsible for any false statement.

Mohammad Ashraf Beigh

S/o Abdul Rahman Beigh

R/o Takiya Batapora, Kunzer, Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly entered in engagement order as Muzfar Hamid instead of Muzafer Hamid, Now I want to correct the same , if any one has any objection, he/she may contact ZEO's office with in seven days. No objection will be entertained there after.

Muzafer Hamid

x

Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool and Associates

In the case of

1. Abdul Hameed Ganie s/o: Ghulam Ahmad Ganie

2. Mst Ashe D/o: Ghulam Ahmad Ganie

3. Ghulam Nabi Bhat

S/o: Ghulam Hassan Bhat

All Residents of Tantraypora Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

(Caveator)

V/s

Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko

Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID:0203010007705 registered in the name of Mohmmad Abdullah to be transferred in favour of Adil Abdullah, S/o Mohd Abdullah Ahanger R/o Gousia Colony,Bemina,Srinagar. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained. Mob:7006948031

Media Line Advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Shahida to

(new name) Shahida Mukhtar . In future i will be

known as (new name)

Shahida Mukhtar.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may

contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days.

After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advt

Srinagar to Get Designated Street Food Zones

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued Operational Guidelines for establishment of designated Street Food Cart Zones across Srinagar, marking a significant step towards bringing street food vending under a structured, transparent and sustainable framework.

The initiative, being implemented under the leadership of SMC Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb, seeks to create organised spaces for street food vendors while ensuring food safety, sanitation, pedestrian convenience, traffic management and responsible use of public spaces.

In the first phase, locations identified for designated food cart zones

include Opposite JKTD Water Sports, Dalgate Bund, Badamwari, JVC Bema, Magarmal Bagh and Rajbagh, besides an identified location along the right side of River Jhelum.

Each designated zone will have a regulated holding capacity determined on the basis of available space, pedestrian movement, accessibility, traffic conditions and fire-safety considerations.

“The objective is not merely to regulate street food vending, but to create organised, clean and dignified spaces where vendors can pursue their livelihoods while ensuring that public convenience, sanitation, pedestrian movement and the character of Srinagar’s public spaces are fully protected,” said Commissioner, SMC.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

Div Com Invites People to Bakshi Stadium

Agencies

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday invited people from across Kashmir to attend the Union Territory-level Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar and celebrate the occasion with a lot of enthusiasm.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar Garg said all arrangements for the August 15 event had been finalised, with parade contingents, schoolchildren and various departments participating in the rehearsal.

“I would like to congratulate all the people of Kashmir and the citizens of Srinagar on the occasion of Independence Day in advance. I would also like to invite everyone to come to Bakshi Stadium on August 15 and be a part of this national event,” he said, as per KNO.

He said people could attend Independence Day celebrations at their respective district or regional headquarters, while those wishing to participate in the UT-level function at Bakshi Stadium were welcome to do so.

“My appeal to all of you is that on August 15, we will celebrate this with a lot of enthusiasm,” Garg said.

On entry arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner said there would be free entry for the public at Bakshi Stadium, as in previous years.

He added that detailed arrangements had been made to facilitate visitors and ensure basic amenities, including drinking water, toilet facilities and refreshments, at the venue.

Garg said security arrangements had also been put in place in coordination with various security agencies, with regular reviews being conducted ahead of the national event.

“Coordination meetings have been held with the security agencies and at the level of IG, the reviews are constantly going on,” he said.

Srinagar Admin Felicitates Meritorious Civil & Police Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Administration Srinagar today organised a felicitation-cum-award ceremony at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to recognise and honour officers and officials of the District Administration, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and District Police for their distinguished, dedicated and meritorious services with the District Administration Srinagar’s Excellence in Public Services Award in the run up to Independence Day Celebrations.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb and Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar Sandeep Chakraborty, who presented Commenda-

tion Certificates and Mentos to the awardees in appreciation of their exemplary contribution and commitment to public service.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, besides senior officers of the District Administration, district and sectoral officers and other concerned officials.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated all the awardees and appreciated their commitment, professionalism and dedication towards their respective duties.



KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Athletes Showcase Patriotism with Tiranga Rally on Pokribal Waters

Agencies

Srinagar: : In a unique display of patriotism, water sports athletes on Thursday carried the Tricolour during a Tiranga rally at Pokribal Lake in Srinagar ahead of Independence Day.

Led by water sports coach Bilquis Mir, the athletes took to the waters carrying the national flags, creating a striking tribute to the Tricolour as the country prepares to celebrate its 80th Independence Day.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Bilquis told KNO that the Tricolour holds a special place in the lives of athletes. “Tricolour is our pride,

“Tricolour is our pride, and it unites us as athletes. Whenever an athlete or champion wins or competes, the most important thing is that our Tricolour is raised for the country

and it unites us as athletes. Whenever an athlete or champion wins or com-

petes, the most important thing is that our Tricolour is raised for the country,” she said.

The rally brought together water sports athletes in a distinctive celebration of the national flag, blending sporting spirit with the festive atmosphere ahead of August 15.

The initiative also highlighted the growing participation of local athletes in water sports and their efforts to take the sport to wider platforms. With the Tricolour fluttering across the waters of Pokribal Lake, the athletes gave a spirited sporting tribute to the national flag ahead of Independence Day.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Impaired Asset and Recovery Branch

Zonal Office Srinagar Moullana Azad Road Srinagar

Ph No 0194-2471402-2452658-2484008

Email ziarsrg@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 17.01.2026 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1) Safeena Manzoor W/O Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh R/O New Colony, Bonapora, Batamaloo, Sgr. (Borrower/Mortgagor) 2) Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh S/O Sonallah Sheikh R/O New Colony, Bonapora, Batamaloo, Sgr. (Co-Borrower) and their guarantors namely 3) Mr. Firdous Ahmad Sumji, 4) Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, 5) Farooq Ahmad Bhat and 6) Farooq Ahmad Sheikh to repay an amount of Rs. 54,39,987.54 (Rupees Fifty Four Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven and Paise Fifty Four Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.12.2025 in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon (liability of the guarantors being restricted to the amount outstanding in the particular loan accounts to which they have stood as guarantors).

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 13.08.2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to 53,03,517.05 (Rupees Fifty Three Lacs Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen and Paise Five only) together with future interest thereon from 01.08.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower’s attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Residential House along with land measuring 10 Marlas falling under Khasra No.74 min, Khata No.410/1 and Khewat No.69/1 situated at Lachmanpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar standing in the name of Safeena Manzoor W/O Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh R/O New Colony, Bonapora, Batamaloo, Sgr.

Authorized Officer



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

IAPM Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,

M. A. Road, (Opposite Women’s College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.

0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

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Authorized Officer



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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





HIJRI

CALENDAR

1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 19
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5: 24
Magrib	7: 23
ISHA	8: 51

This Day In History

- 554 - Ravenna becomes seat of Byzantine military governor in Italy
- 1183 - Taira no Munemori and Taira clan take young Emperor Antoku and 3 sacred treasures and flee to western Japan to escape Minamoto clan (Traditional Japanese date: 25th Day of the 7th Month of the 2nd Year of Juei).
- 1281 - During Kublai Khan's Second Invasion of Japan his invading Chinese fleet of 3,500 vessels disappears in a typhoon near Japan
- 1385 - Portuguese defeat Castilians at Aljubarrota, retain independence
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus landed at the mouth of the Orinoco River in what is now Venezuela
- 1551 - Turkish fleet under Dragut occupies Tripoli
- 1743 - Prussian army occupies Saksen, beginning 2nd Silezian War
- 1756 - French capture Fort Oswego, NY

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Campus Shift

Kashmir's universities are beginning to confront a problem they helped create: an education system that can produce graduates faster than the economy can absorb them.

For years, campuses have relied heavily on theoretical syllabi, inherited theorems and credential-focused learning while the job market moved toward skills, technology, entrepreneurship and applied knowledge.

The resulting mismatch has fed educated unemployment and contributed to falling interest in some academic programs.

A visible change is now taking place. University of Kashmir has increasingly highlighted startup culture, skill-based education and programs that connect students with practical opportunities. Islamic University of Science and Technology has turned its academic attention toward subjects with direct relevance to a changing economy and society, including artificial intelligence and nature-based solutions. Its recent conference on Himalayan livelihoods and climate challenges showed how universities can place local problems inside wider scientific and economic debates.

These developments need scrutiny precisely because press releases and conferences can create an impression of reform way before classrooms change. A university cannot measure its success by the number of seminars it hosts or the subjects mentioned in official handouts.

The real test lies with students after graduation: what can they build, produce, analyse or solve, and how closely do their skills match the work available around them?

That standard also gives a fairer reading of the older educational model.

Universities have long pursued character building, moral formation and intellectual development, goals that retain a legitimate place in higher education. Kashmir needs to connect them with an education that recognises how industries, technology and employment are changing.

The academic ecosystem shares responsibility for the mismatch because campuses function as incubation centres for the labour market. Industries provide the playing field, while universities prepare young people for it.

An incubation centre that trains students for an economy that has already changed leaves the next generation paying the cost. Students need campuses that teach them how to earn, create, adapt and contribute within Kashmir's evolving economic landscape today.

Kashmir's campuses therefore face a straightforward choice.

They can preserve old syllabi and continue producing graduates whose qualifications outrun their practical opportunities, or they can revise courses around skills, enterprise, technology and emerging fields while retaining the ethical purpose of education.

The second path would make universities more relevant to students and more accountable to the society that sustains them.

The growing focus on startups, skills, artificial intelligence and climate-linked research suggests that some campuses have recognised the shift. Recognition, however, is only the first step.

Kashmir's universities should now measure reform through graduate outcomes, industry links, new enterprises and practical skills.

The credibility of higher education will ultimately rest there.

The Time to Think

Kashmir universities have the talent to compete globally, but fragmented schedules and administrative demands are keeping scholars from doing their best work.



Javed Hussain Mir



Kashmir universities are not short on brilliance. They count scientists who could compete on any international stage, students eager to learn, and public money that a decade ago would have seemed unimaginable for higher education in the valley.

Still, the region's institutions keep missing the national and international recognition that this talent alone should produce.

The easy explanations don't hold up. Blaming a shortage of ability ignores the researchers already publishing internationally out of Srinagar. And blaming money ignores the investment already flowing into labs, fellowships and infrastructure.

The real question is harder and less comfortable: does the institutional model give faculty the conditions they need to turn raw ability into sustained, competitive work?

Three years of watching this system from inside it point to one stubborn conclusion: it doesn't.

Serious scholarship depends on uninterrupted time more than most professions do. A researcher analyzing data, writing a paper or designing a new experiment cannot do that work in thirty-minute gaps between classes and committee meetings.

Redesigning a course takes reading current literature, rethinking assignments, testing new methods of teaching.

The basic resource a scholar needs is time to think, and that resource is running out.

Look at the academic calendar itself. Faculty in the region get roughly a month off in winter and considerably less in summer, and even those weeks fill up with administrative meetings that refuse to thaw.

There is almost no stretch of the year when a professor can step fully away from daily operations and concentrate on research, writing or intellectual renewal.

Compare that with universities across Europe and North America, where a long summer break exists precisely so faculty can advance research,

write books, run fieldwork and build the collaborations that produce competitive scholarship.

Kashmir doesn't need to copy that calendar wholesale. Its climate, culture and institutional history are different. But the underlying principle, that protected intellectual time has to be built deliberately into the year rather than left to chance, applies just as much here as anywhere.

The calendar is only half the story. Inside the working year itself, faculty time keeps fragmenting.

A professor is expected to teach, mentor students, conduct research and sit on committees, and all four functions are legitimate on their own.

The trouble starts when administrative work stops supporting the academic mission and starts consuming it.

Many faculty move continuously between classes, exams, department meetings and committee sessions, and while any single obligation looks reasonable on a calendar, the cumulative effect leaves almost nothing for sustained reading or writing.

A two-hour gap between meetings looks like research time on record. But in practice, complex intellectual work rarely fits into two-hour windows. By the time a scholar settles into a hard problem, the next meeting is already calling.

Good universities elsewhere have already recognized this problem.

A widely used principle among research-intensive institutions is that administrative service should occupy a limited share of a faculty member's workload rather than expand without limit.

Academics internationally have raised the same complaint about rising administrative demands eating into productivity and morale.

Kashmir's institutions would benefit from a genuine review of how time gets split between teaching, research and administration, with workloads that highlight actual roles rather than treating all faculty as interchangeable.

There is another workload that formal calculations never capture at all.

Academics in Kashmir live inside dense networks of family and social obligation: weddings, funerals, care of aging parents, community responsibilities that fall outside working hours but consume real energy and time.

These bonds hold Kashmiri society together and nobody should ask scholars to abandon them. But their cost to academic output deserves honest acknowledgment, and that cost falls unevenly.

Household duties, childcare and social expectation tend to land disproportionately on women faculty, meaning a young female academic can effectively hold four overlapping jobs at once: teaching, research, administration and the bulk of domestic responsibility.

An institution serious about attracting and keeping outstanding women scholars has to treat working conditions as a performance question rather than a private one.

Flexible scheduling, predictable meeting hours and childcare support would do more for research output than another equipment grant.

None of this calls for a radical overhaul. Several modest, testable reforms

could change the picture within a single academic year.

Universities could carve out four to six protected weeks for research and course development, free of routine meetings. They could run a simple time-use survey to see where the hours actually go. They could cap administrative service for research-active faculty at a reasonable share of total workload, except for those who choose major leadership roles. They could pilot meeting-free mornings or a single meeting-free day each week, and hold every remaining meeting to a clear agenda and a firm time limit.

Over the longer term, a functioning sabbatical system, the one that lets faculty step away from routine teaching for months rather than weeks, has already proven its value at research universities around the world.

The deeper problem is one of measurement. Institutions have become skilled at counting teaching hours, attendance, exams and committee participation, and that skill has silently crowded out the conditions that produce real scholarship.

Research excellence cannot come from constant administrative motion. Discovery needs stretches when nothing visible seems to be happening, because someone somewhere is simply reading, questioning or thinking something through.

Faculty in the region work hard, and that was never in doubt. The real institutional question is whether the way that work gets organized lets the effort produce its full intellectual return.

If Kashmir universities want the recognition their scientists and scholars are capable of earning, laboratories, grants and digital infrastructure will remain necessary investments.

But one more investment, cheaper than all of them, lies within reach: protected time for people to think.

A serious look at the academic calendar, faculty workload and meeting culture would cost the university system almost nothing and could change what it produces.

The talent in Kashmir classrooms and labs was never really the question, but whether the system gives that talent room to work is.

The author is Professor of Practice in Sustainable Development at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Kashmir.

The Poison of Postmodernity

The age of the sovereign self may be reaching a turning point, with religion, tradition and political populism challenging postmodernity's dominance.



Wajahat Qazi

Among other things, Western modernity, which may be roughly dated to the West's Reformation and Renaissance, constituted the primacy of reason, and thereby the human, over anything else.

The sovereignty of the human meant that reason was fetishized. It was the ultimate yardstick against which history, human progress and so on were measured and benchmarked.

Interestingly, modernity's onward march, buttressed by absolute certainty in it, was complemented by the First Industrial Revolution. This was also the high tide of capitalism. Both modernity and capitalism came to be conjoined twins.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, modernity became the handmaiden of imperialism and colonialism.

This found an echo at the beginning of the 21st century in the hands of a salesman scribbler, a certain Francis Fukuyama. The salesman, in a bout of post-Cold War mania-induced irrationally exuberant certitude, declared the End of History.

This manic formulation, in turn, became the predicate for one forever war, the War on Iraq.

But, from the grand sweep of history, the gale of modernity and its end might be a mere footnote.

It appears that modernity is done and over with. From the perspective of historical time, the project of modernity has run its course.

What, the question is, has replaced it? The

proverbial writing is on the wall. Postmodernity is the solvent of modernity.

So, what are the contents of postmodernity?

Multiple themes, uncertainty as the dominant and default matrix of the human condition, the questioning of all truths and certainties, the negation of history, and the privileging of subjectivity, collapse in the dizzying vortex of postmodernity.

In its schemata, nothing is something, and being is nothingness. In other words, postmodernity is nihilism par excellence.

Postmodernity's practical avatar is a human and human condition where the mantra for either is: I consume and I therefore am.

It elevates consumption and consumerism into a grand fetish and the ultimate quest for humans. No bond, family, state, nation, country, is worth the proverbial candle in postmodernity's miasma.

Religion and faith in postmodernity's vortex are mere vestiges of a certain historical period when humans needed them for psychological reasons.

The postmodern mantra consigns philosophy to the bin of wasteful idleness. Elevating utilitarianism to an existential quest, with pain avoidance and pleasure maximization as the principles and locus of being, postmodernity denigrates and demeans identity.

It postulates and presents identity as a hologram effect to be donned on and off as avatars in cyberspace.

Territory is sought to be unbounded, and all attachment to it is made to be dissolved as a virtual production process and viewed as a factor of production, to be finessed by technology.

The human quest thus reduced, happiness is, in the grist and mill of postmodernity, equated with a vulgar view of desire.

Desire is weaponized and made ubiquitous. It takes the form of elevating base im-



pulses: hedonism, mere youth as the productive aspect and function of society and social progress, and the individual self as the altar to be worshipped.

Everything goes. Nothing is off limits.

But a fundamental paradox defines postmodernity. When juxtaposed with and against modernity, even though it privileges and fetishizes the self, postmodernity undermines and occludes the autonomy of the self.

In this sense, while postmodernity may be the apogee of liberalism, it is also its antithesis.

The liberal croon over postmodernity is deluded self-congratulation at best and a siren song of doom for this ideology as well, at worst.

Where does the question of the post-modern march lead? Nihilism, existential despair and a deep, dark abyss that humankind is

sleepwalking into is the answer.

What would all this lead to? Nothing, to employ post-modern formulations, can be entirely foretold with accuracy.

But it would appear that two scenarios lend themselves as plausible ones. One is the return of religion and tradition to the centre of human consciousness. The other is the crystallization of normal, grounded and reasonable economic paradigms that privilege sustainable production over wanton and licentious consumption, defined by a sense of proportion and equity.

These two scenarios may happen in isolation, at cross purposes against each other or in combination. At this point in time, we do not know.

But either way, things seem delicately poised. At the same time, undercurrents can

be discerned.

Are these potential trends good or bad? In the main and on balance, these are good.

The return of religion, divorced from superstition and other unsavoury themes and practices, can be liberatory for humans. Similarly, an economic paradigm that is sober, has some proportion and elevates man over machine is also sanguine and salutary.

These trends, again in balance, proportion and equipoise, can only be welcomed.

But have attempts been made to reverse the vulgar excesses of postmodernity? Yes, it would appear so.

the margins and from the vantage point of intersectionality, it appears that, for all its flaws and faults, Trumpism may have been the corrective to postmodern fundamentalism.

By rewinding time through instruments of political economy and disrupting international relations paradigms, and restoring America to a certain point in time, Trump may have sought to check postmodern excesses.

If this assessment holds, then Trumpism may have redemptive features.

But there have been costly distractions. The ill-thought, badly advised war on Iran, for one, and other minor themes have put back the agenda a little.

But not all is lost. With vigour, renewed focus and determination, more than a salvage job can be aimed at.

The time for rolling up the proverbial sleeves and setting back the clock is now!

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

The Governor Who Refused to Let Kashmir Starve

A Sikh officer's seven-year tenure in the 1830s still stands as the sharpest rebuke to every leader who has since managed the valley by decree instead of by delivery.



Dr. Harjeet Singh

Kashmir's chequered history keeps returning to one test: whether a ruler shows up when a crisis strikes.

Colonel Mihaan Singh passed that test in April 1834, setting a standard few administrators since have matched.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh sent him to Srinagar because reports of suffering had grown too loud to dismiss.

The valley had spent years under drought and famine, its economy gutted, its people scattered or dying.

When Mihaan Singh reached the city, he found streets without light, fields without livestock, a population undone by hunger.

Historian accounts describe him unable to eat for three days after witnessing the scene firsthand.

That detail matters as evidence: he understood, immediately, that the scale of the disaster demanded action measured in weeks rather than seasons.

He moved on food first. Twenty thousand maunds of corn came in from Punjab on his orders. He bought more grain from Muzaffarabad, Rajouri, and Kishtwar at sixteen rupees per kharwar, then sold it to starving residents at three rupees per kharwar, absorbing the loss to keep people alive.

That single decision separated him from most colonial and feudal administrators of his era, who treated famine relief as charity rather than obligation.

Mihaan Singh backed it with live-stock distribution, sending cows, sheep, poultry, and eggs out to peasants who had lost everything. He toured the valley personally, more than once, to convince farmers that sowing again was worth the risk, and he paired those visits with promises of lenient taxation that gave cultivators a reason to believe him.

The market reforms tell the same story from a different angle.

Hoarders were forced to sell what they held. Mihaan Singh appointed Pandit Ganesh Dhar to run the Revenue Department and then checked the work himself, touring the valley twice to watch tax collectors in action.

He wrote off old balances from Raja Sukh Jeewan's era, six seers per kharwar on a lakh kharwars of loans, and fixed labourers' shares at nine seers per kharwar.

Grain prices fell as low as two rupees per kharwar in places. He punished fraud without hesitation, ordering amputation for adulteration and public punishment after a shali basket turned up short-weighted. He standardized stone and iron measures so buyers and sellers worked from the same numbers.

Within two years, shali prices had dropped to one rupee per kharwar. That number, alone, argues for the seriousness of everything that came before it.

Mihaan Singh's social reforms extended the same logic outward. He abolished the marriage tax that had burdened Muslim families for years. He appointed twenty thanedars to speed up justice at the local level. He restored jagirs worth a lakh



EFFECTIVE RULE IN KASHMIR HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT INTENTION. It has been about speed, visibility, and follow-through, delivered by someone willing to walk the valley and watch the results land. Mihaan Singh did that. Almost nobody since has matched him.

kharwars to religious communities that had lost them. He rebuilt the Jhelum bridges at Khannabal, Bijbihera, and Pampore, repaired canals and river bunds, and founded

Basant Bagh. He extended interest-free loans for agricultural improvement and worked to revive commerce and craft industry, moves that lifted Muslim livelihoods specifically

and closed some of the wounds famine had left open.

But none of it saved him. The generous governor was assassinated in 1841 during a mutiny, and

the mourning that followed said something no official record could.

People grieved him as a benefactor rather than as a bureaucrat who had simply done his job. That distinction is the whole argument.

Kashmir has had plenty of administrators who followed procedure. It has had far fewer who moved with the speed and directness that a starving population actually needs.

The comparison to the present writes itself, and it should sting.

Climate stress, agricultural precariousness, and unstable supply chains still define much of Kashmir's rural life.

Farmers still need direct contact with the people who set policy instead of memos routed through layers of bureaucracy. Markets still get gamed by hoarders and middlemen, and enforcement still lags behind the offense. Infrastructure still decays faster than it gets repaired.

Mihaan Singh's tenure worked because he treated all of these as one connected problem rather than as separate departments with separate timelines.

That is the lesson worth taking from a seven-year governorship two centuries old.

Effective rule in Kashmir has never been about intention. It has been about speed, visibility, and follow-through, delivered by someone willing to walk the valley and watch the results land.

Mihaan Singh did that. Almost nobody since has matched him.

— The author is from Tral and serves as an Assistant Professor of History at Akal University, Punjab. His work engages with the Sikh Empire, historiography, and a range of social, philosophical, and cultural issues. He can be reached at aishxing@gmail.com.

The Kashmiri Lesson of Rizq

Growing up in a close-knit Kashmiri town taught me that jealousy often begins with comparison, while the idea of rizq gives a different way to understand success, friendship and our own unfinished lives.



Palveen Kour

I have often wondered why someone else's happiness can unsettle us, even when the person is someone we love.

A friend gets the job we wanted, a sibling reaches a milestone we have been waiting for, or someone our age moves abroad, buys a house or builds the life we imagined for ourselves.

We congratulate them, mean it, and still feel a small ache somewhere inside.

I have come to think that jealousy usually tells us less about the person we envy than about the life we believe we should already have.

Growing up in a close-knit hometown in Kashmir made comparison almost unavoidable.

News spreads quickly in places where people know one another's families, schools, careers and circumstances. A good examination result becomes public discourse, so does a new job, a marriage, a new house or an opportunity to move abroad.

Such closeness can bring genuine interest in other people's lives, while also creating an informal scoreboard. We begin noticing who has moved ahead, who remains where they were and where our own lives appear to stand.

Social media has made that scoreboard much larger.

We see the promotion without the years of uncertainty behind it, the beautiful home without the sacrifices that paid for it, the marriage without the disappointments that preceded it and the journey without the rejected

applications.

We compare our full, complicated lives with carefully selected pieces of someone else's. That comparison can make a person feel late even when life itself has given no such deadline.

My parents gave me a different vocabulary for this feeling.

They often spoke about rizq, the idea that what has been written for one person will find its way to that person. Their lesson sounded simple when I was young. But with age, I began to understand its deeper psychological force.

Someone else receiving a blessing does not reduce what has been written for me. Another person's opportunity does not erase mine. Their success can exist beside my unfinished ambitions without turning into evidence of my failure.

I still experience jealousy, and I think honesty begins there.

Emotions rarely consult our principles before appearing. When someone receives something I have wanted intensely, I can feel disappointment before I have found the generosity to celebrate it.

The useful question then becomes what that feeling is trying to reveal. Perhaps it points towards an ambition I neglected. Maybe it exposes a dream I have postponed because pursuing it feels frightening. And perhaps it shows me a disappointment I have carried without examining it properly.

That distinction has changed how I think about jealousy. I can either turn it into criticism of another person or use it as information about myself.

The first response makes another person's happiness feel like an offence. The second asks why their achievement has such power over me.

Sometimes the answer is simple: I want something similar, and their success has reminded me of it.

The contradiction becomes sharper when jealousy involves people we genuinely love. I can feel proud of a friend and still wish I had what they have. I can celebrate a sibling



and feel disappointed about my own circumstances.

Such feelings do not define the quality of a relationship. My response to them does. I can acknowledge my disappointment while protecting another person's happiness from it.

Our imagined timelines make this harder. We assign ages to education, careers, marriage, financial stability and success, then become anxious when our lives refuse to follow those schedules.

Someone reaches a destination before us and suddenly we call ourselves late. Life gives people different starting points, responsibilities, opportunities and obstacles.

A different timeline can simply be a different life.

I have also noticed a more generous response to success. Some people see another person's achievement and ask, "How did you do it?"

They want to know what was

studied, where an opportunity was found, how preparation happened and which mistakes proved useful.

Curiosity turns another person's achievement into a source of possibility. Jealousy can produce the opposite response, especially when people guard knowledge as though sharing it would somehow reduce their own achievement.

That habit turns envy into gatekeeping. Someone who explains how they prepared for an examination, found an opportunity, developed a skill or survived a difficult stage loses nothing by helping another person learn.

Knowledge grows when it circulates. The difference between asking, "Why did they succeed?" with resentment and asking the same question with curiosity can determine whether another person's achievement becomes a source of bitterness or instruction.

This is where my parents' lesson about rizq feels larger than material success.

Contentment, as I understand it now, means refusing to treat another person's blessing as proof that I have been forgotten. Someone will always be ahead of me in one part of life, just as someone else may look at my life and wish for something I possess.

Spending my days counting another person's blessings leaves little attention for my own.

I also think jealousy can make us forget the people themselves. A friend's success belongs first to the person I care about rather than to the private comparison I have built around it. A sibling's happiness gives me an occasion to celebrate someone who has stood beside me through difficult moments.

Life is temporary, and relationships become painfully small when we measure them through achievements.



We see the promotion without the years of uncertainty behind it, the beautiful home without the sacrifices that paid for it, the marriage without the disappointments that preceded it and the journey without the rejected applications.

Perhaps that is the deepest lesson of rizq: another person's portion does not compete with mine.

Their chapter can remain theirs while I continue writing my own.

I can admire without comparing, learn without resenting and celebrate without feeling diminished.

Someone else's success then becomes what it always was, a blessing belonging to someone else.

My task is to recognise it, cherish the person who received it and return to the life that is still mine to live.

— The author is a Srinagar-based Biotechnology postgraduate student and the writer of three books. She also volunteers with NGOs, teaching children in rural Kashmir. She can be reached at palveenkour7@gmail.com.

Red Fort Attack Officially Attributed To AQIS: UN Report

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: The Red Fort terror attack in New Delhi in November last year has been "officially attributed" to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), according to a new report from a UN Security Council body monitoring counter-terrorism sanctions.

A deadly and high-intensity explosion had rocked the Red Fort area in New Delhi, killing about 15 people and injuring many more. The explosion had ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station.

The report, published on Monday, said that "AQIS continued to evolve from a fragmented group into a regional terrorist entity.

"AQIS established logistics and financial networks, working in decentralised small, scattered cells instead of large units. The attack in November 2025 on the Red Fort in Delhi was officially attributed to AQIS," the 38th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted to the Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee concerning ISIL and

Al-Qaeda said.

The report added that there was some concern about "AQIS trying to exploit Bangladesh to establish cells there."

The report further said that Al-Qaeda and ISIL (Da'esh) have shown a sustained interest over many years in developing chemical and biological weapons, but so far have failed to overcome the associated technical challenges. Instructions on how to develop such weapons have been shared widely within on-line terrorist communities.

"For example, in February, ISIL (Da'esh)'s English-language Invade magazine included instructions on how to develop botulinum toxin and cyanide," it said.

ISIL-K has shown a "particular interest, and over the past 12 months circulated instructions on developing the toxin ricin. At the end of 2025, Indian authorities arrested three people, including a doctor, who had been tasked by an ISIL (Da'esh) cell abroad to develop ricin."

The report further said that regional tensions in South Asia remained "high" as cross-border attacks between Pakistan and Afghanistan continued.

The Taliban continued publicly to deny harbouring any terrorist groups. Member States expressed concern that the conflict could create opportunities for terrorist groups, generating additional security challenges for the region.

"The terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan remained largely unchanged. The ability of numerous terrorist groups to operate in Afghanistan constituted an enduring threat to neighbouring countries and the Central Asian region. Despite efforts by the de facto authorities to combat Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan and contain other terrorist groups, the authorities were unable to suppress the terrorist problem," it said.

The report also pointed out that on December 25 last year, following its annual rahbari shura (leadership council), Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) "announced a revised structure with two new divisions covering: (a) Balochistan and the central region; and (b) Kashmir and the division of Gilgit. The restructuring included a new division described as the TTP Air Force."

HC Dismisses Contempt Court Notice Against Shopian DC

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has set aside a contempt of court notice against Shopian's deputy commissioner, observing that the judicial magistrate exceeded jurisdictional boundaries under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On July 10, Shopian's judicial magistrate ordered Deputy Commissioner Shopian Shishir Gupta to appear at the court and explain why contempt of court charges should not be framed against him.

The contempt notice was issued to Gupta by the judicial magistrate on the grounds that the officer was not forthcoming in a report regarding immovable property owned by a man, Idris Shah, facing a maintenance suit from his estranged wife.

While hearing the contempt case, Justice Rahul Bharti on August 7 said that the judicial magistrate was found to be acting in ignorance of law after first issuing a levy warrant to the IAS officer under section 421(1)



(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and ordering another levy warrant on July 4 to Shah, for which there was no scope provided under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The judge said it meant that the judicial magistrate self-frustrated the earlier levy warrant issued to the Shopian deputy commissioner.

"When this court examines the matter in the light of the totality of facts and circumstances of the present case as obtained from the case file, this court is of the considered opinion that the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Shopian, has exceeded the jurisdictional bounds of its authority under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which renders the impugned show

cause notice dated 10.07.2026 illegal. Accordingly, the same is set aside," Justice Bharti said.

"This Court directs the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Shopian, to issue a fresh levy warrant addressed to the Collector, Shopian, to carry out its execution by referring to the mode of recovery of arrears of land revenue in terms of section 91 of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, Svt. 1996 and, in that respect, to carry out attachment and sale of the identified ownership property of the respondent No. 3 (Idrish Shah) to realise the proceeds for the purpose of being made available at the disposal of the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Shopian, to be paid to the respondents No. 1 and 2," Justice Bharti said.

Two Moderate-intensity Earthquakes Hit Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two earthquakes of moderate magnitude jolted the Union Territory of Ladakh within a span of nearly four hours on Thursday, triggering fear among residents.

According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the first and stronger tremor, measuring 5.5 magnitude, struck at 6.05 am, with its epicentre located at a latitude of 36.88 degrees north and longitude of 74.402 degrees east.

It occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres in Ladakh's Leh, it said.

Another earthquake of 4.3 magnitude occurred at 9.54 am, at latitude 36.76 degrees north and longitude of 75.326 degrees east, also at a depth of 10 kilometres in Leh, the NCS said.

Both earthquakes were recorded in the Leh region and occurred within a span of about four hours.

There were no immediate reports of loss of life or damage to property.

The back-to-back tremors triggered concern among residents in the region, which falls in a seismically active zone.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Screen

significant number of artists and technical professionals now find themselves without regular work, their skills sitting unused in an industry that once depended on them," Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan said.

"What was once a functioning ecosystem of writers, directors and crew members producing travelogues, documentaries, musicals and fiction has thinned into something far smaller and far less certain."

Participants described feeling abandoned by decision makers, both within the Union Territory and at the national level.

They pointed to decades of contribution, quality programming built by local hands for local audiences, and asked why that history seemed to count for so little now.

The frustration in the room was less about nostalgia and more about a plain sense of being overlooked at a moment when intervention could still make a difference.

Then came the announcement that sharpened the anger into resolve.

A new notification proposes a bidding process for outsourcing programme production, treating travelogues, documentaries, fiction and musical formats the same way a government office might treat a contract for office supplies.

To the assembled professionals, the idea struck at something fundamental about how creative work functions.

The fraternity's opposition was unanimous. Competitive bidding, they argued, simply does not fit the demands of creative and professional broadcasting.

"A documentary about Kashmir's orchards or a musical rooted in local tradition cannot be reduced to the lowest qualifying bid without losing what makes it worth producing in the first place," Dr. Ayash Arif said.

"Programme creation should rest on professional competence, artistic merit and established broadcasting standards, not on a tendering exercise designed for procurement rather than storytelling."

Out of the discussion came a clear resolve. The gathering agreed to formally raise these concerns with the relevant authorities and press for immediate intervention on behalf of the artists, technicians and other professionals whose futures depend on the outcome.

There was little appetite for waiting silently to see what happens next.

Underneath the policy debate lies a simpler stake. "Restoring commissioning and production work at DD Srinagar and DD Kashir would help preserve the stories, language and creative identity that Kashmir has long expressed through its screens, an identity that risks fading further with every year the current drift continues," Khan warns.

What emerged from Srinagar on a scorching summer day was a collective insistence that the region's film and television community still has something valuable to offer, if given the chance to work.

The professionals who gathered were simply asking to be allowed to do what they have always done: turn Kashmir's stories into programmes that Kashmiris recognize as their own.

Whether that appeal reaches the officials who can act on it remains uncertain, but the creative consortium made one thing clear.

For an industry built over generations, silence is no longer an option, and neither is waiting.

1991 Jammu

was living with a concealed identity for several decades," police said in a statement.

"During the investigation, one accused, Aman Ullah Khan, was arrested, while three other accused persons escaped and could not be arrested at that time and were declared absconders by the concerned court," the police said.

Police said that the Railway police intensified their manhunt over the past two years,

eventually finding him disguised as a successful businessman in the Bijbehara area.

"In the last two years, the railway police, Jammu, launched an intensive manhunt and identified the accused Altaf Hussain Sheikh, verified his identity by minutely going into details of his identity and residential particulars and discovered him living under a concealed identity, establishing himself as a successful businessman in the Bijbehara area," it said.

"Long pursuit by the police team brought results, and the accused responsible for the death of innocent persons was arrested and produced before the TADA Court on 13th August 2026 for further legal proceedings," the police said.

DGP Orders

of people and traffic around the venue.

Prabhat also ordered intensified night patrolling and naka checking, particularly at vulnerable points and along inter-district borders. Frisking and surveillance measures at important locations are also being strengthened as part of the pre-Independence Day security exercise.

The meeting further reviewed anti-sabotage measures, route security and deployment of personnel at key venues across Jammu and Kashmir.

The DGP directed officers to strictly adhere to standard operating procedures and maintain close coordination among different security formations to ensure the peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations.

Senior officers from the J&K Police, BSF, CRPF, SSB and other security formations, besides range and district police chiefs, attended the meeting.

The security review comes amid heightened security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of August 15, with security agencies intensifying checking and surveillance in the run-up to the celebrations.

Two Killed

said. Authorities were monitoring the situation and advised commuters to exercise caution while travelling through the affected stretch.

The Meteorological Centre cautioned that intense showers could trigger localised flash floods, mudslides and landslides in hilly areas, besides shooting stones at vulnerable locations.

According to the forecast, another spell of rain and thundershowers is likely at many places in the Jammu division during the early morning and morning hours on August 14, followed by a brief spell at many places across Jammu and Kashmir in the afternoon.

On August 15, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places during the late night and early morning hours, followed by another brief spell in the afternoon.

From August 16 to 19, several spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places, with heavy rain or brief intense showers likely in a few districts during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather office said heavy rain or brief intense showers could occur in a few districts of the Jammu division, while intense showers were likely in one or two districts of the Kashmir Valley during the period.

Light rain and thundershowers are likely at scattered places between August 20 and 22, it said.

The Meteorological Centre advised people to remain cautious as torrential rain and brief intense showers may trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Authorities and commuters have also been advised to remain alert in vulnerable hilly areas, particularly along roads prone to landslides and shooting stones.

J&K Records

marked a significant turnaround after a prolonged period of below-normal precipitation across the Union Territory, with the improvement particularly pronounced across most districts of the Kashmir Valley.

All districts in the Valley except Shopian recorded above-normal rainfall during the month. Baramulla recorded the highest surplus at 165 per cent, followed by Ganderbal at 110 per cent and Pulwama at 108 per cent.

Srinagar and Anantnag both recorded a 71 per cent surplus, while Kulgam registered a 51 per cent surplus. Bandipora and Kupwara recorded surpluses of 33 and 32 per cent, respectively, while Budgam recorded a six per cent surplus.

Shopian was the only Valley district to record a deficit, with rainfall 40 per cent below normal during July.

The Jammu region also witnessed above-normal rainfall in several districts. Ramban recorded the highest surplus at 125 per cent, followed by Udhampur at 108 per cent, Samba at 91 per cent and Rajouri at 88 per cent.

Poonch recorded a 47 per cent surplus, while Doda and Reasi registered surpluses of 17 and 14 per cent, respectively. Jammu district remained near normal, with a three per cent surplus.

However, Kathua recorded a 25 per cent rainfall deficit, while Kishtwar registered a 16 per cent deficit.

The widespread rainfall during July was enough to push the Union Territory into overall surplus territory, despite continued deficits in a few districts.

Rabi-ul-Awal

commemorate this day with prayers, charity, and a renewed commitment to follow the teachings of the holy prophet, whose life remains a beacon of guidance and compassion for all humanity.

Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam extended greetings to the Muslim community, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir, on the beginning of the new Islamic month.

He also prayed for Allah's blessings and spiritual well-being for humanity during the month.

Employer, Selection

the contention and directed the SSB to forward their recommendations to the Government for appointment.

The Court, however, held that the three-month training was a statutory qualification and a condition precedent to appointment under Rule 8 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The Bench noted that the training requirement had been specifically mentioned in the recruitment advertisement and that the candidates participated in the selection process despite not possessing the mandatory qualification.

"From the reading of Rule 8 (of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955), it is abundantly clear that a person, to be qualified for appointment to the post of Food Inspector, must possess inter-alia, a three-month satisfactory training in food inspection and sampling work specified by the Food Authority or in an institution approved for the purpose by the Central Government", the court said, adding, "It was, thus, a statutory qualification prescribed under Rule 8 which was taken up by the SSB and indicated in the advertisement notification dated 24th December, 2010. From the reading of advertisement notification, it is evident that amongst other essential qualifications prescribed for the post of Food Inspector, the qualification of three-month satisfactory food inspection and sampling work was specifically indicated."

The Court also rejected the Tribunal's reliance on the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011, observing that the selection process had commenced in 2010 and was therefore governed by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Rules framed thereunder.

Finding merit in the government's petition, the High Court set aside the Tribunal's judgment dated July 25, 2025.

SC Asks Centre

Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems used by

the ministries or agencies in welfare, policing, surveillance and content regulation.

"Send your writ petition as a representation," the bench said, adding that it was a comprehensive petition. "We are not the experts. It is a highly technical issue and it is in policy domain," the bench said. It observed that the issues raised in the petition needs formulation of appropriate policy or regulation.

The bench noted the petitioner had, in February this year, submitted a representation to the government on the issue. While disposing of the petition at this stage without expressing any opinion on the merits, the bench asked the authorities to consider the suggestions for taking appropriate measures.

It said the petitioner is at liberty to supplement the representation. In his PIL, Goswami has sought a direction to the Centre to constitute a high-powered expert committee to frame "binding guidelines on AI ethics, mandatory algorithmic impact assessments and bias audits, transparency in AI-based surveillance and content moderation, human-in-the-loop oversight for all high-risk governmental AI systems, and data protection safeguards..."

The plea sought a direction to the Centre and others to conduct and make public within six weeks a comprehensive algorithmic impact assessment and independent bias audit of all existing AI systems deployed in welfare allocation, predictive policing, facial recognition and content moderation, and to disclose the complete inventory of such systems.

Besides other prayers, it also sought a direction to the Centre to take steps to enact a comprehensive parliamentary legislation regulating the development and deployment of AI by the State, consistent with the guidelines framed by the apex court.

The AI Newsroom

examining two proposed programmes: a two-year postgraduate course in Mass Communication with AI and a one-year M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication.

The proposals reflect a wider shift in how journalism schools prepare students for an industry undergoing rapid technological change.

Digital media has altered newsroom routines, while artificial intelligence has entered reporting, production, research and other media practices.

The department's academic planners are now seeking to align postgraduate education with that changing professional landscape.

Board members examined the academic framework, programme structures and curriculum before making recommendations through the university's prescribed academic and statutory procedures.

Their discussions focused on updating the courses while strengthening their academic and professional relevance.

The Board brought together academics from universities and colleges in Kashmir with faculty members from IUST.

External experts included Prof. Aaliya Ahmad, head of the Media Education Research Centre at the University of Kashmir; Dr. Suhail Ahmad, head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Government College for Women, Cluster University Srinagar; and Dr. Imran Muzaffar Parray, head of the Department of Media Studies at Government Boys Degree College, Anantnag.

Internal members included Prof. Munejah Khan, head of the Department of English Language and Literature at IUST, and Dr. Muzaffar Ali Malla, head of the Department of Philosophy. DJMC faculty members Dr. Monisa Qadiri, an associate professor, and Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat, an assistant professor, also participated.

Other faculty members, including Dr. Sayar Ahmad Mir and Dr. Haifaa Mohammad, attended the meeting, along with Dr. Mohammad Jebran Khan, assistant registrar in the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs, and Rohana Khurshid, assistant registrar in the Examination Section.

The meeting marked the department's

second Board of Studies session of 2026. Its previous meeting, held on Feb. 10, focused on the department's Bachelor of Arts courses under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme.

"The sequence of the two meetings captures a broader academic transition," Dr. Rabia Noor said. "After reviewing undergraduate courses earlier this year, the department has turned to postgraduate programmes designed around a media ecosystem where artificial intelligence increasingly forms part of professional practice."

That shift places a new question inside the classroom: how should journalists learn to work with machines while preserving the reporting, verification and editorial judgment that give journalism its value?

IUST's proposed programmes suggest that the answer will increasingly begin in the curriculum itself.

Kashmir's Northern

Land emerged as one of the first practical concerns.

The University's Department of Geography & Disaster Management carried out an on-site GPS survey with the concerned forest division to help establish the campus boundaries and guide future development. Fencing the land also figured in the discussions.

Access posed another immediate question.

District officials and University representatives examined two possible routes for dedicated road connectivity to the campus. Better access would improve daily movement for students and staff while supporting future expansion.

Prof. Khan also approved two Winger-type vehicles for the campus and directed the establishment of a high-standard canteen.

Hostel facilities for girls formed another major part of the discussion, reflecting the need for basic student infrastructure alongside academic expansion.

The University intends to introduce market-driven and industry-oriented skill courses aimed at giving young people in Kupwara more direct links to employment. B.Sc. Nursing and Paramedical programmes are also being pursued for the campus.

Other professional courses could follow, including Fashion Technology and programmes in emerging fields.

The University says it will assess local educational and career aspirations while deciding which courses to introduce.

"The University is committed to developing the Kupwara Campus as a vibrant centre of quality education, skill development and academic excellence," Prof. Khan said. She added that the campus would grow in line with the educational and developmental needs of the region.

Students and faculty members had an opportunity to raise academic and campus concerns directly with the vice chancellor. Prof. Khan resolved some grievances on the spot and said other suggestions, particularly the demand for employment-focused courses, would receive priority.

Civil society representatives also put forward suggestions on strengthening the University's links with the local community. District officials pledged cooperation as the University works through the land, road and infrastructure plans.

The discussions placed particular emphasis on coordination. Prof. Khan called for the University and district administration to work through a time-bound plan for resolving developmental issues, with the concerned government departments involved where necessary.

The visit ended with a different type of campus activity. Students, faculty members and staff joined a "Har Ghar Tiranga Rally" as part of the University's Independence Day observances.

The rally gave the day a ceremonial close, while the larger work ahead remains decidedly practical: mark the land, build the roads, improve student facilities and bring courses to Kupwara that connect education with the jobs young people are seeking.

Organ Donation Awareness Vital to Bridge Demand-Supply Gap in J&K: Experts

Say Donation Rate Remains Low Despite Growing Need for Life-Saving Transplants

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Medical experts and healthcare professionals in Jammu and Kashmir have called for sustained and comprehensive awareness campaigns to promote organ donation, saying the Union Territory continues to face a significant mismatch between the growing number of patients in need of transplants and the limited availability of donated organs.

Experts said that while advances in medical science and transplant medicine have made it possible to save and significantly improve the lives of patients suffering from organ failure, the shortage of suitable organs remains one of the biggest challenges, with the situation being particularly concerning for patients requiring kidney, liver and heart transplants. They said that deceased organ donation could play a crucial role in narrowing the gap between demand and availability, while urging people to understand the



importance of organ and tissue donation and consider pledging their organs after death.

According to them, there is a very high requirement for organ donation in J&K. Deceased organ donation is crucial to bridging the gap between the demand

and availability of organs and can provide a new lease of life to patients suffering from liver, heart and kidney failure, experts said.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Sajad Ahmad, posted at SMHS Hospital, said a considerable number of patients suffering from

chronic and end-stage diseases ultimately depend on transplantation when other treatment options become limited. He said the shortage of donated organs often forces patients to remain on waiting lists for long periods, causing considerable emotional and financial stress for patients as well as their families.

According to him, improving the organ donation rate requires not only better transplant facilities but also a substantial change in public understanding and attitudes towards donation, as misconceptions, lack of reliable information and hesitation among people continue to discourage many potential donors. "There is a need to explain the process clearly and assure people that organ donation is carried out within established medical, legal and ethical frameworks," he added.

Dr Ishrat Jan of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said awareness programmes could play a major

role in educating people about the importance of organ donation and the number of lives that could potentially be saved through it. She said organ donation is legally permissible and called for understanding it as an act aimed at saving human lives and serving humanity.

Healthcare professionals said the death of a loved one is an extremely difficult moment for any family, but organ donation can potentially transform such a tragedy into an opportunity to give life to others. They said the number of patients requiring transplants is substantially higher than the number of organs available, making greater public participation essential to address the shortage.

A successful transplant can provide patients with a second chance at life, improving survival as well as overall quality of life, particularly among those suffering from irreversible organ failure caused by chronic or acute diseases, the experts said.

AMARNATH YATRA:

'Chhari Mubarak' Taken to Sharika Bhawani Temple for Special Prayers

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The Chhari Mubarak, the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva, was on Thursday taken to the ancient Sharika Bhawani Temple here for special prayers as part of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

"The Chhari Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji was taken to Sharika Bhawani Temple on Hari Parbat to pay obeisance to the goddess, popularly known as 'Tripursundari', on the occasion of 'Shravan Shukla Paksha Pratipada' as per age-old traditions," Mahant Deependra Giri, the custodian of the mace, said.

He said a sizable number of sadhus and devotees participated in the 'pujan'.

Amongst the mystics, goddess Sharika Bhawani is believed to be 'Isht Devi' (presiding deity) of Srinagar city, having manifested herself as a 'Shila' (holy rock) at Hari Parbat.

The 'Chhari Sthapana' ceremony will be performed on Saturday at the Shri Amarnath Temple Akhara building in the Budshah Chowk area of the city, and the traditional 'Chhari Pujan' will be performed on 'Nag Panchami' on August 17.



The holy mace will embark on the main course of pilgrimage on August 22.

Giri will take the holy mace to the Holy Cave Shrine of Amarnath to perform Pujan and have 'Darshan' on auspicious occasion of 'Shravan-Purnima' on August 28 after night halts at Pahalgam on August 22 and 23, Chandanwari on 24, Sheshnag on 25, and two nights at Panchtarani on August 26 and 27.

The 57-day annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir commenced on July 3 and is scheduled to conclude on August 28, 2026.

Saffron Growers Demand Stronger Corm Conservation, Say 'Red Gold' at Risk

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Concern is growing among saffron growers in south Kashmir over the continued shortage of quality saffron corms, with farmers and local stakeholders urging the authorities to strengthen measures to prevent their illegal transportation outside Jammu and Kashmir and establish dedicated nurseries for multiplying quality planting material.

The demand comes at a time when Kashmir's traditional saffron industry is already facing several challenges, including changing weather conditions, fluctuations in productivity and inadequate availability of healthy planting material.

Growers told KNO that the unchecked removal of saffron corms from the Valley could further weaken the crop by reducing the stock available for local cultivation.

"Saffron is not merely an agricultural commodity for us; it is our heritage and livelihood. If quality corms leave Kashmir illegally, there will be less planting material available for local farmers in the coming years," said Mohammad Ashraf, a saffron grower from Pampore.

Another grower said that the shortage of good-quality corms was already affecting farmers and that authorities should focus on creating a reliable system for producing and distributing certified planting material.

"Farmers should not be forced to depend on whatever planting materi-

al is available in the market. The government needs to ensure that healthy and quality corms are produced locally and made available to growers at reasonable rates," he said.

Farmers have welcomed the Agriculture Department's plan to establish Saffron Seed Multiplication Nurseries in the Pampore area, saying the initiative could play a crucial role in addressing the shortage of quality corms.

The proposed nurseries are expected to multiply healthy planting material and create a dependable source of quality corms for growers.

Farmers believe that expanding such facilities across major saffron-growing areas could reduce pressure on existing corm stocks and help revive fields where cultivation has declined.

Agriculture officials said that they have already restricted the transportation and export of saffron corms outside Kashmir, warning that violations could invite action under the Saffron Act, 2007 and the Seed Act, 1966.

An official said conserving saffron planting material was essential for protecting the crop's future in Kashmir. "Restricting the transportation of saffron corms outside the Valley is an important step towards conserving the planting material available in Kashmir," he said, adding that the department is also working towards establishing Saffron Seed Multiplication Nurseries in Pampore.

Baramulla Witnesses Series of Tiranaga Rallies

Agencies

SRINAGAR: From the high-altitude slopes of Affarwat in Gulmarg to the waters of Wular Lake, Baramulla district witnessed a series of Tiranaga rallies and patriotic activities on Thursday ahead of Independence Day.

The programmes, as per KNO were organised as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, youth, local stakeholders and residents.

At Affarwat in Gulmarg, situated at an altitude of around 14,000 feet, the Tricolour was unfurled during a special programme ahead of the August 15 celebrations.

A pony rally was also organised in Gulmarg, with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S F Hamid, SSP Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority Tariq Hussain Naik and other officials participating in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC Baramulla said the participation of youth and local stakeholders in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign reflected the deep patriotic spirit of Baramulla.

Parliamentary Panel Seeks Timely Finding for JJM in J&K

SRINAGAR: The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended adequate and timely financial support for the expeditious completion of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Jammu and Kashmir.

In its report, tabled in Parliament on August 7, 2026, the panel noted that the pace of implementation of JJM in the Union Territory has been hit by funding constraints.

"While acknowledging these achievements, the Committee notes that the pace of implementation has been affected by funding constraints, resulting in some delays in completion of infrastructure and coverage of the remaining rural households. The Committee, therefore, recommends that adequate and timely financial support be ensured for expeditious completion of all pending Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, with particular emphasis on providing functional household tap connections to the remaining uncovered households, upgrading older water supply systems, strengthening water quality monitoring, and completing Har Ghar Jal certification," the report stated.

The administration of J&K informed the committee that constrained release of funds under JJM during the last two to three years had significantly affected the pace of implementation. "It was stated that work-done claims exceeding Rs 1360 crore remain pending for payment to contractors, resulting in the slowing down of works across the Union Territory. The Administration expressed the view that timely release of funds would have enabled the completion of almost all Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in Jammu & Kashmir by March 2026," the report added.—(KNO)

Kulgam Artisan Crafts National Flag through Traditional Needlework

KULGAM: A Union Territory-level award-winning artisan from south Kashmir's Kulgam district has crafted the National Flag through traditional needlework, showcasing the region's rich handicraft heritage ahead of Independence Day.

Shaheena Akhter, a resident of Hariwath area of Kulgam, has created the Tricolour featuring the words "Har Ghar Tiranga" and "Independence Day" in the colours of the National Flag.

Speaking to KNO, Akhter said it took her around 15 days to complete the flag using traditional needlework techniques. "It took me around 15 days to make this Tricolour. It was my love for the country that inspired me to craft the National Flag through my traditional art," she said. Akhter said handicrafts have given her identity and recognition, urging young people, particularly women, to take advantage of government schemes aimed at promoting the sector.

"Handicraft is my identity. I have received recognition because of this industry. I appeal to the youth to come forward and take benefit from the schemes being provided by the government," she said.—(KNO)

FATIHA KHANI

Fatiha Khani for the Isaal-e-Sawaab of

Ghulam Mohuidin Bhat

Father of Parveez Ahmad Bhat and Ajaz Ahmad Bhat



will be held on
FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST
at 2:30 PM

VENUE:
Bahauddin Sahab graveyard, Nowhatta

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to kindly join and offer Fatiha

FOR MORE INFO: 7006431346

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHEEP BREEDING FARM KRALPATHRI

Tender Notice no:-ADSBFK/Agri./Harvesting/2026-27/611-18 Dated:- 13.08.2026

Subject: - Tender Notice for Harvesting of perennial fodder crop for the year 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, Tenders are invited through Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri from interested/experience parties for (Harvesting/Drying/Binding/Stacking/Collecting/Loading/Unloading/Storage etc) of fodder crop(perennial) (242 Kanals) at SBF Kralpathri for the year 2026-27.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.08.2026
2	Bid submission start date	13.08.2026
3	Bid submission end date	19-08-2026 (4.00pm)
4	Date and time of opening of technical bids (online)	20.08.2026 (2.00pm)

(A) General Instructions/Terms and conditions.

- No refreshment / food will be provided by this office.
- Expenditure on account of travel to & fro to the working site will not be provided.
- Clarifications if any will be entertained from 13.08.2026 (10:00 a.m) to 14.08.2026 (4:00PM).
- The received tenders will be opened on 20.08.2026 at 2:00 PM in the office chamber of Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri in presence of bidders who wish to be present. In case, the said date is declared as holiday the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time.
- The above schedule regarding date and time is tentatively fixed, however, the Assistant Director reserves the right to change the date and time of activities in case of any exigency through a notice in print media.
- All the original documents should be produced at the time of scrutiny, in the event of failure to produce the required documents the bid may be disqualified.
- The Assistant Director SBF Kralpathri reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or any part of the tender before, during or after the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- No conditional tender will be accepted entertained.
- The bidder has to submit a tender fee of Rs 500/- in form of a demand draft (hard copy) in favour of Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri.
- The tenders without tender fee shall be out rightly rejected. Firms that are eligible for exemption for the payment have to submit and upload the scanned document in support of such exemption.
- Before submitting the tender and quoting rates per Quintal interested bidders can inspect the whole Fodder area, Topography and distance from Fodder Land to storage sites in order to avoid any dispute /problem post harvesting. The operation must be completed in a time bound manner after issuance of work order as the weather conditions at farm often remains erratic and unpredictable.
- After opening the bid (Tenders), the successful bidder(L-1) has to deposit a sum of Rs.5000 only as security deposit.
- After opening the bid, the successful bidder (L-1) will start the Harvesting process within 3 days positively.

(B).TECHNICAL BID: Documents to be submitted for Bid.

- PAN CARD:- (i) PAN Card issued by the competent authority.
- ADHAR CARD (i) Adhar Card issued by the competent authority
- Application format of the tender are to be filled and submitted in sealed envelope (Available at AD Kralpathri Office)
- Filled Bidders formats (Available at AD Kralpathri Office)

(C). FINANCIAL BID:-

- Rates quoted by the interested bidder should be below Rs.674/=Per quintal (Rupees six hundred and seventy four per quintal)
- The offered rates in the bid should be per quintal (From Harvesting to Storage).
- The rates offered in the tender per quintal involve all sub activities as follows Harvesting , Drying , Binding , Stacking , Collecting , Loading , Unloading , Storage etc

(D). PAYMENT:-

- The payment shall be made after the completion of the work. No advance payment shall be made under any circumstances.

BIDDERS FORMAT

TENDER I.D:-ADSBFK/AGRI/HARVESTING/2026-27/ 611-18 DATED:- 13.08.2026

Bidders Name and parentage	Address	Adhar No.	Phone No.	RATE OFFER PER QUINTAL	Remarks

DIPK-4507-26
DT: 13/08/2026

DIPK-4507-26
DT: 13/08/2026

-sd-
Assistant Director
Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Mr. Anoop Kumar Sharma, S/o Mr. Sumer Nath Sharma,

R/o 263/A, Amphalla Jail Road, Opp. Astha Nursing Home, Jammu.

Subject: Appointment as Associate Professor, Architecture, School of Architecture, Higher Education Department-issuance of notice thereof.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission has vide Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP-Associate Prof/2023 Dated 09-01-2026 recommended you for the post of Associate Professor (Architecture) under O.M Category in School of Architecture in the Higher Education Department; and

Whereas, vide this Department's Notice Dated 28-01- 2026, you were advised to furnish your Bio-data including E-mail Id and Contact Number for conducting of the CID verification report about the Character and Antecedents from the concerned agency; and

Whereas, after receipt of the CID Verification Report vide Government Order No. 151-JK (HE) of 2026 Dated 01-06-2026, formal appointment orders were issued in your favour as Associate Professor (Architecture) under the O.M Category in the School of Architecture, Jammu; and

Whereas, the Principal, School of Architecture, Jammu vide office Letter Dated 02-07-2026 has intimated that Mr. Anoop Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Sumer Nath Sharma R/o 263/A, Amphalla Jail Road, Opposite Astha Nursing Home, has not reported to the Institution for joining within a stipulated joining period of 21 days i.e, upto 22-06-2026 from the date of issuance of the Government Order, instead the appointee has submitted an Email dated 17-06-2026 to the Higher Education Department, requesting the extension of the joining period upto 05-07-2026, copy thereof also endorsed to the said Institution; and

Whereas, vide this Departmental Notice dated 21.07.2026, you were afforded a last and final opportunity to submit your joining report in the office of the Principal, School of Architecture, Jammu, within a period of seven (7) days positively failing which it will be presumed that you are not interested in joining the said post, and your appointment made on the recommendations of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission vide Government Order No. 151-JK(HE) of 2026 dated 01.06.2026 as Assistant Professor (Architecture) in the SoA, Jammu shall stand cancelled ab- initio, without any further notice in this regard; and

Whereas, vide email dated 28.07.2026 you have submitted that you have not been relieved by your current employer from current services and a formal decision in this regard is yet to be received by you against the request for relieving cum intimation letter of the appointment, communicated on 12th June, 2026 and in view of the limitations at your end and beyond your control, you requested the Department to allow you to join GCET-Jammu for the aforesaid appointment by or before 29th December, 2026; and

Whereas, upholding the Principles of Natural Justice, it has been decided to provide you a final opportunity to submit your joining report.

Now, therefore, consequent upon the above, through the medium of this Notice, you are being afforded a last and final opportunity to submit your joining in the office of Principal, School of Architecture, Jammu within a period of Ten (10) days positively, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to join on the said post and your appointment made on the recommendations of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission vide Government Order No. 151-JK (HE) of 2026 dated 01-06-2026 as Associate Professor (Architecture) in the Department shall and shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

No: HED-GAZ/25/2026-04 (7721018)

Dated: -08-2026

DIPK-4521-26

DT: 13/08/2026

(Sanjay Kumar Tickoo), JKAS

Deputy Secretary to the Government



18 Monuments Delisted from Central Protection Since 2021: Govt

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Bara Khamba Cemetery in Delhi and a banyan grove of "great antiquity" containing traces of ancient buildings are among the 18 sites which have been delisted by the Centre from the list of protected monuments since 2021, according to data shared by the government in Parliament on Thursday.

Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat shared the data in his written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

He was asked the number of centrally protected monuments de-notified under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, since 2021.

"The central government has delisted 18 monuments from the list of protected monuments since 2021 as they were found to have ceased to be of national importance as per the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958," he said.

In response to another query, Shekhawat said there are "3,688 centrally protected monuments/sites under the care and maintenance of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). ASI undertakes the conservation, maintenance and development works on these monuments/sites as per the requirement and availability of resources and it is continuous process."

In response to another query, he said the central government has retrieved 662 artefacts from the US (589), Australia (51), the UK (21), and the Netherlands (1), till June 2026.

In a separate query, Shekhawat was asked whether the government has conducted any audit during the last twelve years to assess compliance by ministries, departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies and statutory institutions with the Public Records Act, 1993.

"No such audit has been conducted during the last twelve years, as the Public Records Act, 1993 does not provide for such audit," the Union minister said.

Norwegian FM Backs Iran's Right to Self-Defence in Pakistan

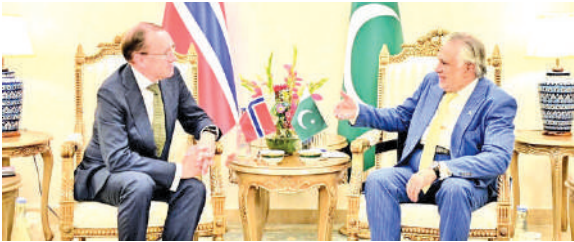
Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide on Thursday backed Iran's right to protect itself as a state and expressed support for Pakistan's mediatory role in the ongoing US-Iran war as he held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and discussed bilateral co-operation and international developments.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the whole gamut of bilateral cooperation in various fields, including trade, investment, climate change, maritime affairs and education, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The two sides also held in depth discussions on regional and international developments of mutual interest, it said.

"I also really want to reiterate our strong support for the very important role that Pakistan has taken in this dramatic war that started on February 28 with the US-Israel attack on Iran," Eide, who is on a two-



day visit to Pakistan, said while talking to the media after delegation-level talks with Dar.

He said that while Norway had "significant disagreements with Iran on other issues, they also have the right to be protected as a state".

"I know what a massive task you were taking on when you offered Islamabad not only as the venue but also as the facilitator of these talks," he said, referring to Pakistan's efforts to end the US-Iran war and bring peace to the volatile region.

"What you have been doing is really a service to the world, and hence, also to us," he said, adding that Norway was one of the Western countries that was "clearest and earliest" in

briefed the Norwegian foreign minister on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and talked about the abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty.

He said Pakistan greatly values its relations with Norway and looks forward to further strengthening them.

Dar said both sides agreed that their bilateral trade is below the potential of the two economies and there is a need to enhance it through effective measures.

He said Pakistan offers enormous investment opportunities to Norwegian companies. "Our technology partnership with Norway is a success story," he said, highlighting a five-fold increase in Pakistan's IT exports to Norway.

Dar said the two sides have agreed on the expeditious finalisation of various agreements and MOUs between the two countries.

"We are grateful to Norway's maritime authorities for their support in capacity building and providing technical training for Pakistan's shipbreaking industry," he said.

Amaravati to Be Developed as Poll-Free, Tech City: CM

Press Trust of India

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday said Amaravati would be developed as a world-class state capital based on five principles, making it a poles-free, blue city with abundant water bodies, green, green-energy and deep-tech knowledge city with the emerging Quantum Valley.

Addressing a public meeting here after inaugurating the Seed Access Road and steel bridge, the chief minister said Amaravati would be developed as a completely pollution-free city and a deep-tech capital, with plans to transform it into an AI and Quantum Computing Valley.

"Amaravati will be developed as a world-class capital based on five principles -- poles-free, a blue city with abundant water bodies, a green city with extensive greenery, a green-energy city and a deep-tech knowledge city with the emerging Quantum Valley," he said.

The government had

planned development not only for Amaravati but also for all regions of the state through decentralised growth.

Naidu said Amaravati, Mangalagiri, Tadepalli, Guntur and Vijayawada corporations would remain within the capital region.

Built at a cost of Rs 1,520 crore, the 22 km road stretches from Dondapadu village in Amaravati through Rayapudi, Venkatapalem, Penumaka, Undavalli and Tadepalli villages before connecting with National Highway Number 16 (NH 16).

With a width of 60 metres, the road with nine lanes is being developed in three phases, which will also include a special Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) corridor and service roads.

Infrastructure such as drainage, drinking water supply, gas and power is being integrated along with the construction of the road.

The project features a cycle track, footpaths and a green belt.

To link the road with the Vijayawada-Mangala-

giri highway, a four-lane and 478-metre-long steel bridge was built over the Buckingham Canal in Undavalli village.

With the construction of the bridge and the road and their inauguration, connectivity from Vijayawada to the greenfield capital city will improve and ease traffic congestion on the existing narrow Karakatta road near the banks of the Krishna River.

In Amaravati, the government is building 34 roads stretching up to 350 km in a grid pattern from N1 Road to N17 Road, all of which will be linked by the E3 road.

Obviating unnecessary curves and enabling easy access to the greenfield capital city, the government is building the road network, mindful of the incremental future traffic.

Recalling the farmers' movement between 2019 and 2024, Naidu said history would not forget their struggle and that he and his party had supported the farmers during the movement.

He said water and soil had been brought from sa-

cred rivers and important regions across the country and mixed in Amaravati as a symbol of blessings for the capital.

The Seed Access Road had now become the "royal road" to Amaravati, he said and described its completion as only the beginning of the city's development.

In its third phase, the road would be connected to the national highway at Tadepalli, he said.

The Centre had sanctioned a 190-km Outer Ring Road and a 96-km Inner Ring Road, he said, adding that the fully developed Amaravati capital, admired by India, would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2028.

He said road infrastructure in Amaravati was being developed on the lines of planned access roads of ancient civilisations such as the Indus Valley civilisation.

"Amaravati is now unstoppable," Naidu said, asserting that attempts by some individuals (referring to YSRCP leaders) to obstruct its development would not succeed.

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30	18.0L

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15	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
20	₹51.8L	₹12.0L	6.5x
25	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x

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