

J&K Gears Up For First Int'l Film Festival

Four-day festival to be held across Srinagar, Jammu from Sept 7 to 10

CM stresses showcasing J&K's culture, heritage and local filmmaking talent



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is gearing up to host its first International Film Festival, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reviewing preparations for the four-day event scheduled to be held across Srinagar and Jammu from September 7 to 10.

The inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026 is being envisioned as an international platform for cinematic excellence, cultural exchange, creative collaboration and emerging filmmaking talent.

The festival will bring together filmmakers, artists, storytellers, industry leaders, policymakers, academicians, students and audiences from across the country and abroad, while providing opportunities for dialogue, networking and collaboration through cinema.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the final preparations, Omar stressed the need to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural and cinematic heritage and provide a wider platform for local filmmakers and emerging talent.

He called for prominently showcasing the region's heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, traditional art forms and iconic tourist destinations during the festival.

The festival will feature screenings across categories including International Competition, Cinema of the World, Bharat Panorama, J&K Select, Best Debut Film, Documentary/Hybrid and Short Films.

The programme will also feature masterclasses, panel discussions, in-conversation sessions, round tables and workshops involving filmmakers, actors, critics, scholars and other prominent personalities | More on P10

At Lok Bhavan, Kashmir's Tourism Industry Sounds An Environmental Alarm

Tourism stakeholders flag glacier loss, plastic pollution and unplanned construction as threats to Kashmir's tourism economy.

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: Tourism representatives reached Lok Bhavan on Tuesday with figures, concerns and a direct request for Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha: protect the landscapes that keep Kashmir's tourism economy running.

Kashmir has seen a sharp rise in tourist numbers in recent years.

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1.13 crore domestic tourist visits in 2021. By 2024, the figure had crossed 2.3 crore. Kashmir alone recorded nearly 35 lakh visitors that year.



The tourism boom has also created jobs. The industry now supports an estimated 10.78 lakh livelihoods,

ranging from houseboat keepers on Dal Lake to hotel workers in Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

Tourism representatives say the same growth has also increased pressure on the environment.

A University of Kashmir study led by glaciologist Shakil Ahmad Romshoo found that glaciers in the Kashmir Himalayas lost nearly 17 percent of their total area over three decades.

Mountain temperatures have also risen faster than temperatures in the cities below, speeding up ice loss.

Kolahoi Glacier, the largest glacier in the valley, shows the change clearly.

It feeds the Lidder and Sind rivers, which | More on P10

J&K Eateries Told To Specify Meat Type

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities have directed hotels, restaurants, cafes, dhabas, sweet shops, bakeries, caterers and other food business operators to clearly disclose the type of meat used in food preparations.

In an advisory, Commissioner Food & Drugs Administration J&K, Khalid Jahangir said establishments serving meat or meat products should clearly mention whether a preparation contains mutton, beef, chicken, fish or any other type of meat.

"Such information should be displayed on menu cards, Food Safety Information Boards and display counters or menu displays, wherever applicable, and should be accurate, legible, visible and updated," Jahangir said.

The administration has also directed food business operators to | More on P10

Fake Antiques to Garlic Fraud

How A Kashmir 'Conman' Landed Under PSA

Police say the Anantnag man was linked to a ₹55 lakh wild-garlic fraud and a wider string of alleged financial scams.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: A senior police official in Anantnag described it as a particularly curious case of a con in Kashmir: a man who allegedly sold fake antiques, moved into a 55 lakh wild-garlic deal and then pursued property transactions as part of what investigators describe as a wider fraud operation.

That run has now led



Tasaduq Hussain Dar, also known as Tas Dar, to detention under the Public Safety Act.

Police detained Dar, a resident of Sadoora in Anantnag, after the district magistrate issued a PSA warrant against him. After completing the required legal procedures, officers lodged him in District Jail, Bhaderwah.

The police allegations span several types of business. Officers said | More on P10

Committed To Welfare Of Veterans, Their Families: LG

Reviews welfare, healthcare measures for veterans, Veer Naris, widows and dependents

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the welfare of veterans and their families, assuring that every step would be taken to honour their sacrifices and ensure they lead a life of dignity.

Sinha made the remarks while chairing the 81st meeting of the Jammu Kashmir Rajya



Sainik Board at Lok Bhavan, where key issues concerning veterans, Veer | More on P10

gaudium® IVF
Delivering Motherhood Dreams

INDIA'S
AI-POWERED IVF REVOLUTION



SID

AI Driven Sperm Assessment
Helps improve IVF success rate

ERICA

AI Driven Embryo Assessment
Helps reduce treatment cycles and cost

Good News For Childless Couples

FREE IVF CONSULTATION CAMP

MEET DR. MANIKA KHANNA

&
OUR FERTILITY EXPERT TEAM FROM DELHI

e - 📅

22, 23 & 24 - August 2026

TIME - 🕒

10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

BOOK YOUR

W

+91- 8527858585

Address- M A Plaza: Ground Floor, IG Road Main Chowk, Hyderpora, Opp Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir 190014

Abass Advt. +91 70064 44730



**J&K
SCIENCE
CONGRESS
2026**

Supported by JK Science, Technology & Innovations Council

*"Science, Innovations and
Emerging Technologies for
Sustainable and VIKSIT
J&K"*

**REGISTER
NOW!**

DIPK-NB-1431/26 | Dated: 18-08-2026

Research Innovation Technology Sustainability Development

**SEPTEMBER 29TH -
OCTOBER 01ST, 2026**

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY,
KASHMIR**

IMPORTANT DATES

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
01/08/2026**

**LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION
30/08/2026**

**DATE OF ACCEPTANCE
05/09/2026**

CONFERENCE FEE

Local Participant

Ph.D. Scholars
Rs. 750/

Post Doc/ Research Fellows
Rs. 1,500/

Academia/Industry or Research
Professionals/ Government Officials
Rs. 2,000/

Overseas Participant

Academician/ Researcher
USD 100

BEST POSTER AWARD BEST ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD PAINTING COMPETITION QUIZ COMPETITION

FOR REGISTRATIONS:
Scan or Click on link

<https://forms.gle/1szJNqKNIKY6mx7>



VISIT US AT:

<https://jksciencecongress2026.iust.ac.in/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: jksciencecongress2026@iust.ac.in
Phone Nos: +917006186069, +91 9622472097



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Wednesday | 19-08-2026

2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Health & Medical Education Department

Civil Secretariat, J&K.

Subject:- Compassionate appointment of Mr. Fayaz Ahmed S/o Sh. Mohd Ramzan Sheikh and Late Hajra Begum, Ex-Sweeper, R/o Nai-basti Devgol, Tehsil Banihal, District Ramban, J&K, Government Medical College, Udhampur under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

Reference:- i. Minutes of the meeting of Evaluation Designated Committee held on 13.12.2024 in Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar;

ii. Form No. 159233 dated 18.07.2026 received from Criminal Investigation Department, J&K.

iii. General Administration Department U.O No. GAD-SRO/90/2026 (7747816) dated 12.05.2026.

Government Order No. 616 -JK(HME) of 2026.

Dated:- 10 .08.2026

In exercise of the powers conferred under Clause-3 of Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 notified vide S.O. 429 dated 6th September, 2022 read with S.O. 397 dated 16th of August, 2024, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of Mr. Fayaz Ahmed S/o Sh. Mohd Ramzan Sheikh and Late Hajra Begum, Ex-Sweeper, R/o Devgole, Tehsil Banihal, District Ramban, J&K, in Government Medical College, Udhampur as MTS in the Pay Level SL-I (14800-47100).

The appointee shall report to the Principal, Government Medical College, Udhampur within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this Government Order, failing which he shall forfeit his right to appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:-

a) Academic Qualification Certificates.

b) Date of Birth Certificate.

c) Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.

d) Domicile Certificate.

e) All other relevant documents as are required under the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

The appointment of the appointee shall further be subject to completion of all codal formalities under the relevant rules and regulations and fulfillment of following conditions:-

i. The applicant shall give an undertaking in writing as per format prescribed in the Scheme that he shall maintain properly the other family members who

were dependent on the deceased and in case, it is proved subsequently, at any time that the family members are being neglected or are not being maintained properly by him, appointee shall be terminated forthwith.

ii. Any claim for transfer of appointment to any other family member shall invariably be rejected.

iii. The appointee shall be adjusted against appropriate category to which he belongs. In case the appointee fails to produce any valid category certificate, he shall be adjusted against General category.

iv. That he shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit to the effect that if on verification, his Qualification/Date of Birth/Cat-gory Certificates, if any, from the concerned issuing authority are found to be fake/forged, the claim of the appointee for appointment as Class- IV/Multitasking Staff (MTS) shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab- initio and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him.

v. That he shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, to the effect that the applicant is unemployed as on date and none of the family members other than the applicant has taken benefit of compassionate appointment under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022. In case, it turns out that the

applicant has taken benefit of compassionate appointment under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022. In case, it turns out that the applicant is already appointed or the benefit of compassionate appointment under the Scheme has already been extended to the family of the deceased, then the instant appointment shall be deemed to have been withdrawn ab-initio without any further notice.

vi. That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from District Industries Centre (DIC) / Employment Department, to be ascertained from the DIC and District Employment & Counselling Centre of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. The DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

vii. The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him unless a satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificate, if any, is received from the concerned authorities.

viii. The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.

ix. The appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.

x. The appointment of the appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before competent Court of Law.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/-

(M. Raju) IAS,

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
Health & Medical Education Department.

No: HD-NG-J/201/2023-02 (CC. No. 7232505)
DIPK-4704/26 Dated:- 18.08.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohammad Yatoo, F/o Hafsa Mohammad, R/o Roshan Abad Pinroo, Tehsil Karwahama, District Baramulla, Kashmir, do hereby solemnly declare that the date of birth of my ward Hafsa Mohammad has been wrongly recorded in the school records as 11-03-2014, whereas her actual and correct date of birth is 03-11-2014, as per her Aadhaar Card. I shall be responsible for any incorrect information furnished herein and shall abide by all rules and regulations of the concerned authority.

Any person having any objection may contact the Govt middle school pinjoora within the prescribed period.

Ghulam Mohammad Yatoo
F/o Hafsa Mohammad

R/o Roshan Abad Pinroo, Tehsil Karwahama

FKO_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Misbah manzoor D/o . Manzoor Ah bhat intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Tripbound Routes. Situated at Haft-Chinar Magam

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

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

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for D Class Contractor if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may Contact ACD office Baramulla or Block Development officer Wagoor within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Mohammad Aslam Bhat
S/O Mohammad Abdullah Bhat

R/O Sultanpora Kandil

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tazayun Zaffar, D/o Zaffar Ahmed Zargar, R/o Iqbal Colony, Soura, Srinagar – 190011, hereby inform the general public that my 12th Class Certificate has been lost/misplaced.

Details:

Name: Tazayun Zaffar

Father's Name: Zaffar Ahmed Zargar

12th Roll No.: 8137243

Registration No.: NI4302080067

School: Crescent Public School, Professor Colony Road, Omer Colony B, Nasim Bagh, Srinagar

Despite diligent efforts, the original certificate could not be traced. If anyone finds the said certificate or has any objection regarding its re-issuance, they are requested to contact the undersigned/concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

After the expiry of the stipulated period, no claim or objection shall be entertained.

Tazayun Zaffar

R/o Iqbal Colony, Soura, Srinagar

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I,Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohd Sultan BhatR/o Shiraz Colony Soura Srinagar hereby inform that my father Mohd Sultan Bhat who is the Registered Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer no.0204040014211 intended to transfer the said electric connection in my name ""Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat". My mother has no objection in this process as she too is physically weak to go outside frequently or visit any office. If any person or party has any objection in this transfer.They may file their objection in writing in the office of the AEE Sub Division Hawal within 7 (seven) days from the Date of Publication.No objection shall be entertained after stipulated Time Period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Hassan Shah S/o Mohammad Sultan Shah, R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), do hereby solemnly declare that the name and date of birth of my ward Wasiya Jan has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6748-2037-0272 as "Wasia Hassan" and DOB: 10/04/2014, instead of her correct name "Wasiya Jan" and correct date of birth 28/10/2014.

The said entries are inadvertent and require necessary correction in the official records. I intend to get the name and date of birth of my ward corrected in her Aadhaar Card. The above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ghulam Hassan Shah

S/o Mohammad Sultan Shah
R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kowarhama,

District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Hassan Shah S/o Mohammad Sultan Shah, R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), do hereby solemnly declare that the name of my ward Sania Jan has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card as "Saniya" instead of her correct name "Sania Jan."

The said mistake is inadvertent and requires necessary correction in the official records. I intend to get the name of my ward corrected in her Aadhaar Card as Sania Jan and submit this notice/ affidavit before the concerned authority for necessary action. The above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ghulam Hassan Shah S/o Mohammad Sultan Shah
R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kowarhama,

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Hassan Shah S/o Mohammad Sultan Shah, R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), do hereby solemnly declare that my ward Anaam Hassan has her name wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card as "Anaam" instead of her correct and full name "Anaam Hassan."

The said mistake is inadvertent. I intend to get the name of my ward corrected in her Aadhaar Card as Anaam Hassan and submit this notice/affidavit before the concerned authority for necessary action. The above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ghulam Hassan Shah
S/o Mohammad Sultan Shah

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

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Haseena Begum W/o Abdul Ahad Ahanger, R/o Wahi Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), do hereby solemnly declare that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4428-3378-5839 as "Bakhti Begum" instead of my correct name "Haseena Begum."

I intend to get my name corrected in my Aadhaar Card as Haseena Begum, as per my Voter ID Card record. I further declare that the above statements are true and correct, and I shall be personally responsible if any statement is found false.

Haseena Begum

W/o Abdul Ahad Ahanger

R/o Wahi Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg,
District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Serva Begum W/o Mohammad Akbar Malik, R/o Hurdu Madam, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), do hereby solemnly declare that my name and my husband's name have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as "Sarva Bano W/o Mohd Akbar Malik" instead of my correct name and husband's name, "Serva Begum W/o Mohammad Akbar Malik."

I intend to get the said details corrected in my Aadhaar Card as per my Service Pension Book Record. I further declare that the above statements are true and correct, and I shall be personally responsible if any statement is found false.

Serva Begum

W/o Mohammad Akbar Malik

R/o Hurdu Madam, Tehsil Tangmarg,
District Baramulla, J&K (UT)

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Correction of Name in Bank Accountt is hereby notified for information of the general public that HALEEMA BANO W/O GHULAM QADIR WAZA, R/o CHOON BUDGAM, is maintaining Account No. 0078040100767665 with J&K Bank, Budgam Branch. My name has inadvertently been recorded in the bank account as "HALEEMA BEGUM", W/O GHULAM QADIR WAZAH whereas My correct and actual name as per her Aadhaar Card is "HALEEMA BANO W/O GHULAM QADIR WAZA."The concerned bank authorities are requested to make the necessary correction in the bank records accordingly.Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may submit the same to the concerned branch/bank authorities within the stipulated period. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

HALEEMA BANO

W/O GHULAM QADIR WAZA

R/o CHOON BUDGAM

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK04 20210002820 issued in favour of ISHFAQ AHMAD SHEIKH Parentage GULZAR AHMAD SHEIKH

Whereas an application has been recieved by one ISHFAQ AHMAD SHEIKH Parentage GULZAR AHMAD SHEIKH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as ISHAFQ AHMAD SHEIKH Which needs to be changed as ISHFAQ AHMAD SHEIKH.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

SHARAZ HUSSAIN S/O BARKAT HUSSAIN

R/O ARIGAM LORAN TEHSIL MANDI DISTRICT POONCH.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MUKHTAR AHMED S/O BASHIR AHMED

R/O LORAN TEHSIL MANDI DISTRICT POONCH.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MOHD FAROOQ S/O MANIR HUSSAIN

R/O LORAN TEHSIL MANDI DISTRICT POONCH.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohammad Yatoo, F/o Hafsa Mohammad, R/o Roshan Abad Pinroo, Tehsil Karwahama, District Baramulla, Kashmir, do hereby solemnly declare that the date of birth of my ward Hafsa Mohammad has been wrongly recorded in the school records as 11-03-2014, whereas her actual and correct date of birth is 03-11-2014, as per her Aadhaar Card.

I shall be responsible for any incorrect information furnished herein and shall abide by all rules and regulations of the concerned authority.

Any person having any objection may contact the undersigned within the prescribed period.

Ghulam Mohammad Yatoo

F/o Hafsa Mohammad

R/o Roshan Abad Pinroo, Tehsil Karwahama,

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sameera Akhter D/o Gh Mohmad Wani, R/o Chandera Seer, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Kreeri, District Baramulla, J&K, do hereby solemnly declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Tabasum Gul" in my Aadhaar Card, which is incorrect. My actual and correct name is "Sameera Akhter."

I intend to get the said name corrected and request publication of the notice in the Government Gazette for further necessary process.

Any person having any objection may contact the undersigned within the prescribed period.

Sameera Akhter

D/o Gh Mohmad Wani

R/o Chandera Seer, Tehsil Pattan,
P.O. Kreeri, District Baramulla, J&K

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Umer Gulzar Tell To new name Umer Gulzar in future I will be known as Umar Gulzar....If anybody is having any objection her or she may contact passport office srinagar within 07 days after 07 days no objection will be accepted.

FKO_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Qamar Ud Din Shah S/o Gh Nabi Shah, R/o Managam, hereby notify that my name is wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Syed Qamar Ud Din, whereas my correct name is Qamar Ud Din Shah. My date of birth is also wrongly recorded as 04/03/1960, whereas the correct DOB is 27/03/1956 as per my Service Record Book.

I have applied for correction of my name and date of birth in Aadhaar and for issuance of the necessary Gazette notification. Any person having objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Qamar Ud Din Shah

S/o Gh Nabi Shah R/o MANAGAM

FKO-R

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as FATIMA BEGUM in my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No..5547 3596 7314 while my correct name is KHATI BEGUM W/O GH HASSAN DAR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his /her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar Authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...KHATI BEGUM

W/O ..GH HASSAN DAR

R/O. KHISIPORA KREERI

fko_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hamid Malla, F/o Arooja Hamid, R/o Reshipora, Hermain, Shopian, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my ward Arooja Hamid D/o Abdul Hamid Malla, who is enrolled at Rainbow International Educational Institute, Shopian, has her name wrongly recorded as "Urooja Hamid" in Aadhaar Records. Her correct name, as per school records, is "Arooja Hamid."

I have submitted this affidavit before the concerned department for recording the correct name of my ward as Arooja Hamid. The above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I shall be personally responsible if any statement is found false.

Abdul Hamid Malla

F/o Arooja Hamid

R/o Reshipora, Hermain, Shopian, J&K

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Syed Akhtar Hussain Razive R/O Syed Ali Razive R/O Gund Khawaja Qasim hereby declare that my first name has been wrongly mentioned as AKHTER in my Aadhar card whereas my correct first name is "AKHTAR"and henceforth, shall be known and recognized by my correct name, Syed Akhtar Hussain Razive for all purposes.

Anybody having any objection in this regard may raise the same with Principal Govt HSS Ahmadpora within 7 days from the publication of this notice.No objection will be entertained after the expiry of the scheduled time.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Feroza D/o Ab Rehman Wani while my correct name as per school records is Fairzoa Bano D/o Abdul Rehman Wani . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fairoza Bano

D/o Ab Rehman Wani

D/o Abdul Rehman Wani
R/o Matipora Baramulla Pattan

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Hafeeza Akhter while my correct name is Hafiza Bano . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hafiza Bano. D/o Abdul Rahim Dar

R/o Kripal Pora Balla

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SNOWBER SEHAR SARDAR to (New name) SARDAR SNOBER SEHAR. In future i will be known as (new Name) SARDAR SNOBER SEHAR.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

mcb

از نیابت گو بیگام با اجلاس نذیر احمد لونائب تحسید ارگو بیگام
اشتهار بر مراد گاهی برخاض وعام بسبت اجرائی و پیمنٹ سرفقیٹ

معامله مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت دفتر حذایش ایک مثل سہانتا کیہ دہان دفتر عمیل انفی
چوپان سا کیہ موضوع اوگمہ تحصیل کار ہامینط بار بومولہ کے طرف سے پیش ہوئی ہے جس میں
محمد ہلاک ڈیلو پینٹ ایئر کنٹرر کے اجڑہ کردہ ڈیھہ سرفقیٹ کے مطابق سا ناکا والہ

عمیل انفی چوپان ولد غلام محمد چوپان مومرہ 23-05-2026 کوڈت ہو چکا ہے ستونی
جوں و کشیر گر این بنگ براچ اوگمہ میں کام کرتا تھا۔ ستونی کا کیہ مندر ذیل افراد پر مشتمل
ہے

تا کیہ دن ان 21 سال دفتر

رفع جان 28 سال --

سارغنی 23 سال -

زینہ بیگم 51 سال زوجہ

عرفان غنی چوپان 30 سال پسر

غلام محمد چوپان 66 سال والدہ

ذونی بیگم 64 سال والدہ

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کیہ نہیں ہے سرفقیٹ زیر بحث اجڑا کر نے میں اگر کسی شخص کو
کوئی عزریا اعتراض ہووے بعد مشتر اجناسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت
حذا او دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں

Paras Health to Organise Free Multispeciality Health Camp on August 23

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Paras Health Srinagar will organise a free multispeciality health camp on August 23, offering residents complimentary consultations with specialists across more than 14 medical disciplines.

The camp will be held from 10 am to 3 pm at Paras Health, Durganag, Dalgate Bridge, Munshi Bagh, Srinagar. The initiative aims to promote preventive health-care, facilitate early diagnosis and provide timely access to specialist medical advice.

Free consultations will be available in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Orthopaedics, Medical and Surgical Oncology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Gastro Sciences, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Pulmonology, Nephrology, Urology and Paediatrics, among other specialities.

Participants will also be offered complimentary blood pressure and blood sugar tests, besides a 20 per cent discount on laboratory and radiology services.

Speaking about the initiative, Facility Director Paras

Health Srinagar Dr Murtuza Haibib said the camp would provide people an opportunity to consult specialists, undergo basic health screenings and understand the importance of early diagnosis and preventive care.

Dr Shafat Ahmad Kenu said the camp would bring a wide range of specialist expertise closer to the community, covering cardiac, orthopaedic, neurological, gastrointestinal, respiratory, renal, urological, oncological, women's and children's health concerns.

The specialist panel includes Dr Mohsin Raj Mantoo, Dr Yawar Haider, Dr Naeem Firdous Dar, Saqib Ahmad Shah, Dr Shabnam Bashir, Dr Hamza Wani, Dr Misba Hui Bashir Masoodi, Dr Rahil Rafiq, Dr Irfan Hussain Bhat, Dr Toufeeq Ahmad Mir, Dr Rouf Hussain Tak, Dr Sadia Lanker, Dr Sarafaraz Ahmad Kasana, Dr Muzzamil A. Andrabi and Dr Younis Mushtaq.

Residents have been advised to register in advance at 9103273278 or 9103272750 and make use of the free consultations and health screenings.

Police Carry Out Cannabis Eradication Drive in Blochipora

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Soura Police Station on Tuesday conducted a cannabis eradication drive in the Blochipora area here, officials said.

An official told KNO that the drive was carried out to remove cannabis plants growing in the area and prevent their spread in the locality. "The initiative was aimed

at keeping the locality free from the menace of cannabis and creating awareness among residents about its harmful effects," the official said.

Locals from the area appreciated the police for conducting the drive, saying such initiatives would help curb the spread of cannabis plants and promote a safer environment in the area.

Man Killed After Scooty Collides with Truck

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 50-year-old man was killed after the scooty he was riding collided with a truck at Fruit Mandi in Parimpora area of Srinagar on Tuesday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the accident occurred at Fruit Mandi, Parimpora, when the man's scooty collided with

a truck bearing registration number JK13C-9806.

He said the man sustained injuries and was shifted to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The man was later identified as Mohd Anwar Magray (50), son of Mohd Abdullah Magray, a resident of Kilwar Tangmarg. Police have taken cognisance of the incident.

DC Inaugurates ICT Labs in Five Govt Schools



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday inaugurated state-of-the-art ICT Labs established in five Government Schools across the District under a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative funded by NTT DATA and implemented by ELFA International, marking a significant step towards strengthening digital education and expanding equitable access to technology-enabled learning opportunities.

The inauguration ceremony was held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Nawakadal, where Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the ICT Labs established in five educational institutions including Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Nawakadal, Government Boys High School, Dara, Government Boys High School, Panzinara, Government Boys High School, Bakshipora and Government Girls High School, Balhama.

The initiative, supported by NTT DATA and ELFA International, under its CSR

programme was aimed to foster stronger collaboration among the Administration, Corporate sector and Community, thereby contributing to the overall welfare and development of the society.

Following the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner interacted virtually with the faculty members and students of the other four beneficiary schools. He urged the students to make optimum use of the newly established ICT facilities and leverage digital resources to enhance their learning, skills and exposure to technology.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that access to digital tools can significantly enhance student motivation, strengthen foundational competencies and broaden learning opportunities, particularly for students studying in schools located in remote areas of the district. He appreciated NTT DATA for supporting the initiative through its CSR programme and ELFA International for effectively implementing the project, stating that such interventions demonstrate the positive impact that responsible corporate participation can have in strengthening public education infrastructure.

FSSAI Chief Calls for Stronger Food Safety Surveillance, Compliance in J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: : Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Rajit Punhani chaired an interactive session with the representatives of Food Business Operators (FBOs), trade and industry associations and other stakeholders at the SKICC, Srinagar.

They discussed issues related to food safety, regulatory compliance, testing infrastructure, training and ease of doing business in Jammu and Kashmir.

The session was attended by Devesh Kumar Mahla, Director, Northern Region, FSSAI; Khalid Jahangir, Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K; Joint Commissioner Food Safety, Deputy Commissioners Food Safety, Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officers of the Department.

Representatives of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Hotels and Restaurants Associations, Confederation of All India Traders, All Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association, Kashmir Bakers and Confectioners Association, Federation of Trade and Industry, Spices Industries Kashmir

besides other trade bodies and Food Business Operators participated in the interaction. They shared their concerns and suggestions regarding the licensing, food testing, training, regulatory compliance and other matters concerning the food business sector.

The interaction also focused on licensing, registration, training and capacity building of Food Business Operators and other issues relating to food safety regulations.

The CEO encouraged the FBOs to participate in FSSAI training programmes and comply with the prescribed food safety standards and regulatory requirements.

While appreciating the role of the FDA, J&K, in streamlining the licensing and registration process and facilitating ease of doing business, the representatives of various trade bodies informed that the Food Business Operators are increasingly adopting the prescribed food safety and quality standards and working towards achieving conformity with the applicable requirements. They requested FDA, J&K, to continue its supportive, facilitative and handholding approach, with greater emphasis on guidance and compliance

while taking necessary enforcement action wherever required. The participating associations and FBOs assured their full cooperation with FDA, J&K and FSSAI in strengthening food safety compliance. They also appreciated the Department's efforts in conducting training and awareness programmes and providing handholding support, particularly to hotels, restaurants and bakery establishments. The stakeholders stated that these initiatives have contributed to improved awareness and better compliance with the food safety requirements.

The participants were also sensitized about the provisions related to foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) in and around school premises and encouraged to promote healthier food choices.

The CEO emphasized the importance of consumer awareness regarding food quality and responsible selection of food products. He advised the FBOs and trade associations to regularly follow the official digital platforms of FSSAI and FDA, J&K, for regulatory updates, advisories, guidelines and other information relating the food safety and compliance.

KU's Urdu Dept Begins Conference on Environmental Literature

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir (KU) began a two-day international conference on "Environmental Literature and Criticism in Urdu" at the Main Campus.

The conference aims to bring together faculty members, researchers, students and literature enthusiasts from various across the globe to deliberate on the emerging field of environmental literature and its critical dimensions in Urdu.

Presiding over the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan described the conference theme as one of the significant academic concerns of the contemporary era.

"Literary and research activities centred on environment and nature are important in the contemporary context. Such academic initiatives help broaden the scope of research and critical inquiry in Urdu literature," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the interrelationship between nature, environment and human life as reflected in Urdu literature. He emphasised



the need for sustained academic and research engagement with environmental literature and criticism.

Delivering the keynote address, former Head, Department of Urdu, University of Delhi, Prof. Irtiza Karim, noted the significance of environmental literature and criticism and drew attention to contemporary environmental challenges and their impact on human life and civilisation.

Head, Department of Urdu, University of Jammu, Prof. Shahab Inayat Ahmad Malik, and former Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education KU, Prof. Shafiq Parveen, also shared their views on the theme. They described environmental literature and criticism as highly relevant to contemporary academic discourse and highlighted various dimensions of the subject and its importance for the

advancement of Urdu literary studies. Former Head, Department of Urdu, and Dean Faculty of Arts, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Malik, emphasised the importance of promoting environmental consciousness through Urdu literature.

Earlier, in his welcome address Head, Department of Urdu, KU, Prof. Irfan Ahmad, highlighted the significance of the conference theme, observing that environmental and ecological concerns have increasingly affected human life in the contemporary era.

The two-day conference will continue with academic deliberations on various literary and critical dimensions of environmental concerns in Urdu literature. The proceedings of the session were conducted by Dr. Mushtaq Haider, and vote of thanks was proposed by

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
BIJHERA: 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
5 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS
FAJR 4:24
ZUHR 12:35
ASR 5:20
Magrib 7:18
ISHA 8:44

This Day In History

- 627 - Prince Frederik Henry conquerors fort Groenlo
- 1757 - Battle at Gross Jagerndorf: Russian army beats Prussia [NS=Aug 30]
- 1772 -Gustav III seizes effective control of Swedish government & restores full power of monarchy, which had been subordinate to parliament since 1720
- 1791 - Benjamin Banneker sends a copy of his Almanac and writes a letter to Thomas Jefferson criticizing his pro-slavery stance and requesting justice for African Americans
- using language from the Declaration of Independence
- 1796 - Spain & France sign anti-British alliance
- 1812 - US warship Constitution defeats British warship Guerriere
- 1816 - Java again in Dutch hands
- 1839 - Details of Louis Daguerre's 1st practical photographic process are released in Paris
- 1887 - Dmitri Mendeleev makes a solo ascent by balloon to an altitude of 11,500 feet (3.5 km) above Klin, Russia to observe an eclipse
- 1891 - William Huggins describes astronomical application of spectrum
- 1914 - German fleet bombs English coast
- 1915 - World War I: the Battle of Van begins
- 1919 - Afghanistan declares independence from UK
- 1942 - WWI: Over 4,000 Canadian & British soldiers killed, wounded or captured raiding Dieppe, France
- 1944 - Last Japanese troops driven out of India
- 1944 - Nazis give parts of Paris to Resistance
- 1953 - The democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran Mohammad Mosaddegh is overthrown in a coup orchestrated by the United Kingdom (under the name 'Operation Boot') and the United States (under the name TPAJAX Project)

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

HABIB ULLAH BHAT
S/o Late Sona Ullah Bhat
R/o Zero Bridge Rajbagh

HAS LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON
August 17, 2026
| 03, Rabi' al-Awwal, 1448

FATEH KHAWANI
Shall be held on
Friday, 21 August, 2026 at 2:30 PM
at our ancestral graveyard
Zero Bridge, Rajbagh.

DUA-E-MAJLIS
Will be held afterwards at our residence
Khawaja Bagh,
Near Farhad Guest House.

May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give sabr to the bereaved family.
Ameen

BHAT FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of **FATIMA w/o Mohammad Afzal Bhat R/o Baghat Rawatpora Srinagar**, who passed away on **Tuesday 18th August 2026 (04, Rabi' al-Awwal, 1448)** Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un.

Her congregational **Fateha Khawani** will be held on **Friday, 21st August 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** at their graveyard in Baghat Rawatpora, Srinagar.

Ladies are kindly requested not to bring any kind of eatable items with them.

BEREAVED:
BHAT FAMILY | 9796113666

Trump Boils Over, Threatens to Bomb Oman

By SAMY MAGDY

Cairo, Aug 18 (AP) US President Donald Trump threatened to bomb Oman because he is unhappy the country is close to a deal with Iran to manage ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, two regional officials said Tuesday, a day after Trump levelled the threat.

The officials said the Trump administration has told Oman it is opposed to parts of the yet-to-be-announced deal, including the joint Iranian and Omani management of the exit route out of the passage that's critical to global supplies of oil and natural gas. The officials were briefed on the US position and how the administration views Oman's position.

Meanwhile, a projectile hit a ship as it sailed out of the strait, according to the British military's maritime monitoring agency, and an Iranian official said the waterway would not reopen until the United States meets Iran's conditions.

US believes Oman has not been tough enough with Iran

The US believes Oman has not been tough enough in its negotiations with Iran and is unhappy with Oman's agreement to collect voluntary fees from vessels, even if the charges are related to security and mari-

time environmental protection, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to journalists.

Trump on Monday threatened to bomb Oman as it works with Iran on a deal to open the strait and pave the way for the US and Iran to resume negotiations to end the war.

posted a map on social media Tuesday depicting the strait as a US territory. The president first mentioned the idea in an offhand comment last week. On Monday, he told reporters in the Oval Office, "I like the idea of declaring it a territory," without providing details.

The White House on Tuesday referred to Trump's remarks in the Oval Office and declined to comment further about Oman.

Iran refers to Trump's delusion' about the strait

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi appeared to respond to Trump's post on social media depicting the strait as American territory.

"Just as Trump correctly wrote the name of the eternal Persian Gulf, his delusion regarding the Strait of Hormuz will soon either be corrected, or we will correct this deluded man's delusions for him," Gharibabadi wrote on X.

Trump's comment on Mon-



day was not the first time he has threatened Oman. In May, he told reporters during a Cabinet meeting that Oman "will behave just like everybody else, or we will have to blow them up."

Iran reiterated Tuesday that Tehran plans to maintain its grip on shipping traffic until Wash-

ington meets its conditions.

"Until the United States fulfills its commitments under the agreement, including lifting the blockade, releasing frozen assets, lifting oil sanctions, ending threats and military operations on all fronts, and implementing the other conditions to which it committed, the Strait of Hormuz will not reopen," said Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Iran's parliamentary speaker and negotiator in previous talks with the US.

The Egyptian Foreign Min-

istry said Tuesday that the Iranian-Omani deal could pave the way for Washington and Tehran to return to negotiations for a "comprehensive and permanent deal that addresses all concerns and enhances regional security and stability."

The statement came after a meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Omani counterpart Badr al-Busaidi. But it did not address Trump's latest threat against Oman. President insists strait is open as more attacks are reported

President insists strait is open as more attacks are reported

Trump said Tuesday the US has no planned talks with Iran but insisted the strait is "open and operating," despite limited traffic, the reported boat strike

and the end on Monday of the 60-day negotiating period between the countries.

Trump wrote on social media that a US blockade of the strait remains "in full force and effect," adding that all water mines have been removed.

As the talks between Iran and Oman continue, more attacks were reported in the region.

An unidentified projectile hit a ship early Tuesday in the strait off the coast of Oman, damaging the engine room and causing a casualty, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations centre.

The monitoring agency did not release any details about the ship or its cargo, and it was unclear whether the crew member was killed or wounded. The agency said the Omani Coast Guard was assisting other crew members and that authorities were investigating.

And Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed they fired drones at an oil refinery in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the latest attack that threatened to reignite Yemen's civil war and open another front in the Middle East.

The attack targeted a facility run by Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company, according to a report by the Houthi-run SABA news agency. There were no immediate reports of damage or comment from Saudi Arabia.

NCB Launches Crackdown on Overstaying Foreigners

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, : The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday said it will launch a nationwide campaign named 'Trinetra' in September to identify illegally overstaying foreign nationals in India suspected of being involved in drug crimes.

The fortnight-long drive will begin in the first week of next month and will involve other anti-narcotics agencies from the Centre and the states, besides immigration authorities and state and Union Territory police forces.

"The campaign will focus on intelligence-based identification and verification of such persons, examination of their immigration status and linkages with drug trafficking networks, and appropriate legal action in coordination with the concerned authorities," the NCB said in a statement.

The federal agency said past cases involving the identification and arrest of overstaying foreign nationals engaged in the illegal narcotics trade has necessitated the requirement of such a drive.

There is a need for greater vigilance regarding foreign nationals who continue to stay in India after their visas expire, it said.

The NCB will also seek cooperation from hotels, guesthouses, landlords and other accommodation providers asking them to comply with the legal provisions governing the accommodation of foreign nationals, including timely furnishing of prescribed information regarding their stay

to the concerned authorities as per the Immigration and Foreigners Act 2025.

"Such reporting is important not merely for immigration regulation but also for enabling law enforcement agencies to identify illegally overstaying foreign nationals and prevent their involvement in organised criminal activities," it said.

To support this point, the agency cited a case where four overstaying Nigerian nationals were arrested in an operation spanning over a month.

The operation began with the NCB and the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) jointly raiding a location in Delhi's Khanpur area and arresting Nigerian national Obase Prosper Ogboronor.

The Nigerian had been overstaying in India after his medical visa expired in June 2023, the NCB said, adding he was wanted by the UP STF in a cyber fraud case involving about Rs 68 lakh.

Further investigation in this case led the agencies to Gurugram (Haryana), where another overstaying Nigerian national was arrested.

Leads in this case took the sleuths to Mehrauli in Delhi, where two more Nigerians were arrested along with drugs in early August. Both these foreigners had been "illegally" staying in India for over 13 years, the NCB said.

This operation has so far resulted in seizure of 14.78 kg Amphetamine, 67.84 kg Pseudoephedrine, 318 grams cocaine and six grams of heroin collectively valued at Rs 15 crore, the NCB said.

ED Asks SC: Can CBI Probe a Sitting CM?



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi.: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to decide whether the CBI can investigate or not if an offence is committed by a sitting chief minister.

A bench of justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N V Anjaria was hearing a plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleging obstruction by the then West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and other state authorities during its January 8 search of the office of political consultancy firm I-PAC in Kolkata.

At the outset, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, submitted that now that the government has changed, the prayer for sanction and transfer to local police can be done by the state government and nothing remains in the matter.

At this juncture, Justice Mishra remarked that pursuant to the subsequent changes (in regime), nothing remains and the matter can be disposed of by allowing the ED's prayer for the transfer of investigation to the CBI.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, requested the court that the larger issue must be decided.

"We don't want to face any

allegations that the state government, because of political reasons, has done it. Either we are right or wrong; I want the court to decide. I don't wish to fall in the death trap that, subsequent to the changes in the government, the state transferred it to the CBI," Mehta said.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju contended that the court must decide whether the CBI can investigate a sitting chief minister if an offence is committed.

"The issue is whether a sitting chief minister, who happens to be the Home Minister, if she commits a crime, is it an appropriate case for the CBI to investigate or not?" Raju said.

The top court has posted the matter for hearing on September 2.

In the recently-concluded West Bengal elections, the BJP secured a historic win with 207 seats in the 294-member house, ending the 15-year rule of the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC.

Alleging complete breakdown of law and order in West Bengal, the ED on April 23 claimed in the apex court that Banerjee used the state machinery to obstruct its money laundering probe against I-PAC.

The ED alleged that Banerjee, accompanied by a large police contingent, personally intervened to halt the search and seize evidence collected by federal agency officers.

Pentagon Probes Foreign Ties of 30 Universities

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH

Washington, Aug 18 (AP) The Department of Defence has ordered 30 US universities to audit their partnerships with mostly Chinese universities and military training institutions as the Trump administration scrutinizes the country's growing global influence.

If the schools don't complete a review and terminate any arrangements deemed problematic within the next two weeks, they face losing funding. The goal is to protect taxpayer-funded research from theft and exploitation, the Pentagon said Monday.

"The Department of War has zero tolerance for academic partnerships that compromise our national security," Emil Michael, the Pentagon's chief technology officer, said in a news release.

The release didn't name the schools, but a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters said they include Harvard Univer-

sity, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Johns Hopkins University.

The schools didn't immediately respond to emails from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Sarah Spreitzer, vice president at the American Council on Education, which represents college and university presidents, raised concerns that the announcement suggests, without any evidence, that the schools are engaged in wrongdoing.

The order comes after the Pentagon last month released an updated list of 130 foreign institutions it accused of engaging in "activities that increase the likelihood of US government-funded research and development efforts being misappropriated."

While the vast majority were Chinese, such as the University of Science and Technology of China and the country's Academy of Military Medical Sciences, several Iranian and Russian institutions also appeared on the list.

The first version of the list

was developed during Trump's first term, with the help of the American Council on Education, Spreitzer said.

She said most of the council's member institutions moved away from research partnerships with those institutions in the years that followed. She said she worries US schools will be held liable for partnerships that predate the creation of the list.

"We don't appreciate the implication that we are not good partners on research security, given that we helped create this list, and given that we've always partnered with the federal government when there has been national security concerns," she said.

The audit comes as the Trump administration continues to express deep concern about China's activities in the Americas, pushing back on Chinese ownership of ports at either end of the Panama Canal, infrastructure projects funded by China's Belt and Road initiative in the region and Chinese investment in the telecommunications sector.

Modern Air Combat Hinges on Information, Speed: DCAS

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Tejpal Singh on Tuesday said that while the importance of weapons and platforms will never go away, today's battlefields and battle airspace are defined by "information superiority", network-centric operations, and most importantly, split-second decision making.

In his address at a seminar hosted here, he also said success in multi-domain operations can come only if "we can reduce and shorten our OODA (observe, orient, decide and act) loop".

The event hosted by think-tank Centre for Aerospace Power & Strategic Studies (CAPSS) and Indian Military Review (IMR) at the Subroto Park is themed on use and integration of surveillance systems, C4I2

(Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, and Information), and electro-optics.

Air Marshal Singh, who on August 1 took charge as the new Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS), said the objective today in the battlefield is to "sense better, understand faster, decide with confidence, engage precisely and assess continuously".



In the US, more than 70 per cent of teens are turning to AI chatbots for companionship and half use AI companions regularly, according to a 2025 study from Common Sense Media, a group that studies and advocates for using digital me-

OpenAI Unveils 'Teen-Friendly' ChatGPT

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

San Francisco, Aug 18 (AP) OpenAI is launching a version of ChatGPT designed for teenagers — the first generation to grow up with artificial intelligence — who are already using it for schoolwork, questions about daily life and even companionship.

The San Francisco-based company says ChatGPT for Teens, which launches Tuesday, is tailored for kids aged 13 to 17 with stronger protections including content restrictions around things like suicide, self-harm and romantic or sexual chats. It also provides homework and study support designed to help students learn rather than spit out answers and school essays.

The idea is to guide teens toward healthy AI use in an age-appropriate environment, the company said.

"We want to treat teens like teens, which means that we have to make sure that we're showing up with the right developmental stage when we're not either talking down to them or treating them like kids, but we're also making sure that they're not exposed to material that they shouldn't be exposed to," said Ann O'Leary, vice president of global policy at OpenAI.

Risks abound in widespread teen usage of AI chatbots

Parents, educators and child development experts have been sounding alarms over children's use of AI chatbots, which have been

blamed for facilitating cheating on schoolwork and even suicide. And while even adults can fall victim to anthropomorphizing AI and developing unhealthy relationships with it, teenagers' brains are not yet fully developed and they can be particularly vulnerable.

Last year, research from a watchdog group found that ChatGPT would tell 13-year-olds how to get drunk and high, instruct them on how to conceal eating disorders and even compose a heartbreaking suicide letter to their parents if asked. In interactions with researchers posing as vulnerable teens, ChatGPT typically warned against risky activity but went on to deliver startlingly detailed and personalised plans for drug use, calorie-restricted diets or self-injury.

dia sensibly.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has said that the company is trying to study "emotional overreliance" on the technology, describing it last year as a "really common thing" with young people.

For users of ChatGPT for Teens, the chatbot is prevented from suggesting it has personal feelings toward the user or implying that it is conscious or experiences emotions, according to OpenAI. That's in addition to blocking romantic or sexual chats.

"We went through and identified what are the hypothetical cues that a model could give that might make a teenager kind of develop a relationship to it," said Allison Mishkin, head of child development at OpenAI.

Emergency Hospitals to Come Up in Uri, Poonch

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government is set to establish dedicated emergency and accident hospitals in Uri and Poonch, with the facilities expected to strengthen healthcare access for residents living in the border areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

The proposed hospitals, according to KNO are expected to cater to residents of LoC villages, where access to immediate medical treatment remains a challenge, particularly during shelling and other emergencies.

During his Independence Day speech at Baramulla, Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmad Dar said,



"The dedicated hospitals are part of the government's broader focus on strengthening healthcare

infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir." Speaking to KNO, MLA Uri Saj-

jad Shafi while welcoming the initiative said the facility would cater to LoC villages where residents often struggle to receive timely treatment. "The hospital will cater to LoC villages. We often witness shelling in these areas, and people were not getting immediate treatment. It is a welcome step," he said.

Shafi said funds for the Uri hospital have already been allocated, while land has been identified at Mohra and transferred to the Health Department.

He said the Detailed Project Report for the hospital has also been framed, indicating that key preparatory work for the project stands completed.

The MLA said the proposed facility would provide residents of remote and shelling-prone areas with quicker access to emergency medical care and reduce their dependence on distant hospitals.

The government has also proposed a dedicated emergency and accident hospital in Poonch, another border district with a substantial population living close to the LoC.

The two facilities are expected to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the border belt and improve access to timely treatment for accident victims and people requiring urgent medical intervention—(KNO)

Sopore Fruit Mandi Caught in Dispute between Two Traders Bodies

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Asia's second-largest Fruit Mandi has become the centre of a dispute between two rival fruit traders' bodies, with mandi president Fayaz Ahmed Malik urging authorities to act against those allegedly attempting to disrupt its functioning. He said the livelihood of thousands is linked to the mandi's uninterrupted operations.

President of the Fruit Mandi Sopore (Kashmir Fruit Growers and Dealers Association), Fayaz Ahmed Malik @ Kaka Ji, told KNO that the Association, registered in 1979, had been working for the welfare of the Fruit Mandi and its associates.

Malik's remarks came after a general council meeting of the association was allegedly disrupted by some individuals.

He urged SSP Sopore to take cognisance of the

incident and register an FIR against those allegedly involved. He also sought verification of their past records.

"Those who disturb the Mandi operations should think 100 times before doing so," Malik said, adding that any disruption could have a wider impact on the functioning of the Mandi and the livelihood of thousands associated with it.

He said the Association was ready to provide any details sought by the administration in the interest of the Fruit Mandi. At the same time, he urged authorities to act swiftly against elements attempting to disturb peace and disrupt operations.

Sopore Fruit Mandi is a major horticulture trading centre in Jammu and Kashmir and serves as an important link between fruit growers and the wider market. Its functioning supports thousands of growers, traders, com-

mission agents, transporters, labourers, packers and other people directly and indirectly associated with the fruit trade.

Meanwhile, Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, president of a newly formed body functioning parallel to the Kashmir Fruit Growers and Dealers Association, said he had no personal grudge against Malik.

Bhat called for accountability and fair means in the functioning of the Mandi body, saying that if Malik could prove himself right, they would stand by him.

He also urged mandi associates not to be misled amid the ongoing dispute.

The rival positions have brought the functioning and representation of the Sopore Fruit Mandi into focus, with both sides calling for accountability while urging that the dispute should not affect the normal functioning of the mandi and the livelihoods linked to it—(KNO)

Employees of Five New GMCs Begin Indefinite Strike over Pending Recruitment Rules

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The employees of five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir have started an indefinite strike over the prolonged delay in finalising Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs), with the protesting staff warning that the agitation will continue until the rules are formally notified.

The strike, which began on Monday at GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda and GMC Kathua, spread to GMC Anantnag and GMC Baramulla on Tuesday, bringing employees of all five new medical colleges under the banner of the ongoing agitation.

The employees, associated with the All India Registered Nurses Federation (AIRNF), J&K UT Committee, are demanding immediate finalisation of service rules governing non-gazetted employees recruited for the five new GMCs established in 2019.

The protesting employees, as per KNO, said the prolonged absence of a formal service framework has left thousands of workers without regular promotional avenues despite several years of service.

More than 3,300 non-gazetted employees, including nursing, paramedical, clerical and multitasking staff, are reportedly affected by the issue. Employees said many of them have completed the required years of service but have not been considered for regular promotions due to the non-finalisation of the rules and the absence of functioning Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs).

AIRNF J&K UT Committee State President Vishav Sharma said employees had repeatedly raised the matter with the concerned authorities but were compelled to resort to an indefinite strike after failing to receive a concrete resolution.

He said their principal demand is the immediate



framing, finalisation and notification of SRRs, followed by constitution of DPCs for all eligible cadres so that promotion cases can be processed in accordance with established government norms.

"The absence of DPCs has effectively blocked their career progression, with several employees continuing in the same posts for years despite gaining experience and fulfilling the required period of service," Sharma said.

The protesters also highlighted what they describe as a disparity between employees of the new GMCs and staff working in older institutions such as GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu, where established service rules provide defined promotional avenues.

According to the employees, they are performing duties similar to their counterparts in established medical colleges but lack a comparable mechanism for career advancement.

The issue has also assumed significance amid the continued expansion of healthcare infrastructure at the five new GMCs.

"New departments, units, laboratories and other facilities have been added over the years, but the staff remains the same. The workload is increasing while employees continue to face uncertainty about their own career progression," Sharma said.

The employees said the

delay in finalising service rules has implications beyond promotions, alleging that it has also created uncertainty over seniority, pay fixation and other service-related benefits linked to career progression.

They have demanded that the government establish a time-bound mechanism for completing the process and initiate promotion exercises immediately after notification of the rules.

The protesting staff has also sought consideration of retrospective promotional benefits, wherever legally permissible, along with consequential benefits arising from the delay in conducting promotion exercises.

The employees have appealed to Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo and senior officials of the department to intervene and resolve the issue at the earliest.

The finalisation of the SRRs, they said, would not only address their immediate concerns but also establish a transparent framework for recruitment, seniority, promotions and other service conditions in the five newly established GMCs.

The protesting employees have made it clear that the strike will continue until the Service Recruitment Rules are finalised and the process for regular promotions is set in motion—(KNO)

Police Books BJP Leader for Cheating, Criminal Intimidation

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police has registered a case of cheating and criminal intimidation against a BJP Kisan Morcha leader in Pulwama district, officials said on Tuesday.

The case has been registered against Aijaz Ahmad Shah at the Tral police station under sections 420 (cheating and dishonesty inducing someone to deliver property, money or valuables) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, they said.

The officials said since the alleged crime took place in 2022, the case has been registered under the IPC, which was replaced by the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) in July 2024.

The complaint has alleged that Shah took money from him on the pretext of getting him help from police in a matter.

Shah, who was appointed vice president of the Pulwama Kisan Morcha last November, faces eight similar cases registered in at least four police stations in the district since 2016.

This was the third case registered against Shah this year.

The development follows the registration of an FIR against BJP's Pulwama district president Showkat Gayoor on August 11 for alleged extortion and threats. The BJP has suspended Gayoor from all positions pending party disciplinary proceedings against him. BJP leader Altaf Thakur, who also hails from the Tral area, refused to comment on the latest FIR against Shah. (Press Trust of India)

EOW Chargesheets Man for Allegedly Trying to Bribe Officer

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch has filed a chargesheet against a man for allegedly attempting to influence an investigation by bribing an officer, officials said on Tuesday.

The chargesheet was filed before the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, in FIR No. 28/2026, against Ghulam Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Mirgund area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, they said.

The chargesheet pertains to cognisable offences punishable under Section 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Sections 228 and 229 of the BNS, officials said.

The investigation was initiated on the basis of a written complaint alleging that Ganie, who is also an accused in the ongoing investigation of FIR No. 11/2021 of the Crime Branch Kashmir -- now EOW Kashmir -- transferred Rs 10,000 to the bank account of an investigating officer with the alleged intention of bribing and influencing the probe, they said. Following receipt of the complaint, a probe was ordered, officials said.

During the investigation, the allegations were examined and relevant evidence was collected, they said.

The probe established the involvement of the accused in the alleged act, following which the chargesheet was prepared and presented before the court for judicial determination in accordance with law, officials said. (Press Trust of India)

US Envoy to Visit Kashmir Today

SRINAGAR: Sergio Gor, United States Ambassador to India, will arrive in Srinagar on Wednesday on his maiden visit to Kashmir after assuming office.

Official sources said that Ambassador Gor is scheduled to meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during his stay in Srinagar.

Gor, who also serves as the U.S. Special Envoy for South Asia and Central Asia, is expected to travel to Ladakh as part of his visit.

U.S. diplomats have also been visiting Kashmir in the past, interacting with different political and non-political groups. In 2024, just ahead of the assembly polls, a U.S. diplomatic delegation met various political leaders during their Kashmir visit—(KNO)

Three Killed as Vehicle Rolls Down Hill in Reasi

REASI: At least three persons were killed after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down a hill in the Thub area of Reasi district on Tuesday evening, officials said.

An official said that the vehicle, bearing registration number JK14B-1284, was travelling from Reasi towards Thub when it met with an accident near Thub this evening. He said the vehicle rolled down the hill following the accident, resulting in the death of three persons. The deceased were identified as Prem Singh (50), son of Omkar Singh, a resident of Thub; Santosh Devi (48), wife of Prem Singh, a resident of Thub; and Durgi Devi (75), wife of Sarwan, a resident of Jij Bagli.

An investigation has been taken up, while the bodies have been kept at PHC Panassa and will be handed over to the families after completion of medico-legal formalities, he said.—(KNO)

5 CRPF Personnel Injured in Qazigund Road Accident

Agencies

QAZIGUND: At least five CRPF personnel were injured after a truck collided with a CRPF bunker vehicle at Levдора area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the accident occurred at Levдора, Qazigund, involving a truck



bearing registration number JK02DU-4386 and a CRPF

bunker vehicle bearing registration number JK02CG-5795.

Following the collision, the CRPF bunker vehicle turned turtle, leaving five personnel with minor injuries. They were shifted to the MI Room of 163 Battalion CRPF, Qazigund, for treatment.

Police have reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident—(KNO)



DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, J&K

SDA Colony Bemina Srinagar/Ashok Vihar Janipur Jammu

Fax(K) 2493376, (J) 2531731, (K) 25389807, (J) E-mail: jandk-des@jk.gov.in

Subject: - Final Seniority list of Section Officers, Head Assistants and Senior Assistants of J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service as on 01.07.2026.

**ORDER NO. 250- DES OF 2026
DATED: 17-08-2026**

Whereas, Rule-11 of SRO 252 J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 1989 read with SRO 03 of 2005, provides for maintenance of updated and Final Seniority of members of the service strictly as per J&K Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules 1956;

Whereas, the Directorate of Economics & Statistics has notified the Tentative Seniority List of Section Officers, Head Assistants and Senior Assistants of J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service as on 01.01.2026 vide Circular No. 02-DES of 2026 dated 10.02.2026 for inviting objection(s), if any, from the members of the service within the stipulated time period from the date of the issuance of the Circular with documentary proof in support of their claim;

Whereas, no representation/ objection has been received by the Directorate against the Tentative Seniority List of Section Officers, Head Assistants and Senior Assistants; and

Whereas, during the intervening period 01 Head Assistant namely Sh. Nazir Ahmad Bhat has attained superannuation on 31.03.2026 and 02 more Senior Assistants namely Sh. Parshotam Kumar (SC) and Sh. Ab. Hamid Pandit attained superannuation on 30.04.2026 and 31.03.2026 respectively and accordingly their entries have been deleted from the Final Seniority List.

Now, therefore, without prejudice and subject to the outcome of writ petition, if any, pending in the Court of Law, the Final Seniority List of Section Officers, Head Assistants and Senior Assistants of J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service as on 01.07.2026 is hereby issued forming Annexure-I, II & III to this Order.

The Final Seniority List is also available on the official website of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K i.e. www.ecostatjtk.nic.in for information of concerned members of the service..

No. DES-HRM/28/2025-08/31
Dated: 17.08.2026

DIPK-4692-26
DT: 18/08/2026

(Ashu Gupta)
Director General,
Economics & Statistics, J&K



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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

ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SKIMS, SOURA SRINAGAR-190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Plot No. 240 size 30*50 and Plot No. 241 size 30*50 i.e. 1500 Sf situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar has been allotted in favour of Mohammad Ilyas Qureshi and Mohammad Yaqoob Qureshi Sons of Mohammad Asim R/o Makhdoomi Kocha Srinagar vide allotment letter No. LR/Plot/3949-57 Dated: 21-09-1991 by the Executive Engineer Erstwhile (R&B) LRRC Division Srinagar on conditions as contained in the allotment order and lease deed; and

Whereas, as per the terms and conditions of the allotment the Plot has been allotted on Lease for a period of 20 years and thereafter ownership rights will be transferred to the allottees; and

Whereas, in light of the allotment letter dated 21-09-1991, the 20 years lease period of the Plot No. 240 and Plot No. 241 stands already completed on 21-09-2011.

Now therefore, it is hereby notified that in case any person/persons has any objection with respect to the transfer of ownership rights i.e. from lease hold rights to proprietary ship of Plot No. 240 and 241 situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar, they may submit their objections, with reasons thereof within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice in the local newspapers.

No: EE/R&B/Soura/ 3094
Dated: 14-8-2026

DIPK-4682-26
DT: 18/08/2026

(Er. Sheikh Suhail Rashid)
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division, Soura

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

The Price of Popularity

Kashmir's environmental crisis has finally knocked at the power corridor, and the messenger makes the moment harder to dismiss. Tourism players have gone to Lok Bhavan to speak about the damage gathering around the lakes, forests, glaciers and mountain slopes that sustain their own livelihoods. Their intervention says something important about the mood on the ground: the pressure has become too visible to ignore. Kashmir has spent years celebrating rising visitor numbers as a sign of economic recovery. The same success has brought heavier traffic to fragile landscapes, more plastic along trekking routes, more construction on hillsides and greater pressure on water and waste systems. The tourism boom has begun to expose a contradiction at the heart of the industry. The more intensely Kashmir sells its scenery, the harder it becomes to protect that scenery. The plastic problem shows how this contradiction works. Hill stations can carry No-Polythene Zone labels while discarded packaging still gathers beside lakes and trekking routes. Rules exist on paper, while enforcement struggles on the ground. A tourist economy that can bring thousands of visitors into sensitive areas should also possess the systems to manage what those visitors leave behind. Construction presents another deeper concern. Hotels, roads and other projects continue to expand in places where slopes, water sources and waste systems have limited capacity. Development can proceed quickly while monitoring remains weak. The result is an ecological burden that communities eventually have to absorb. The glaciers tell a longer story. Kashmir's ice fields have already lost a significant share of their area, with Kolahoi Glacier retreating hundreds of metres over the decades. Some smaller glaciers have lost more than 40 percent of their coverage. Their meltwater feeds rivers, orchards, saffron fields, drinking-water systems and hydropower projects. Tourism may bring visitors to the mountains, but the mountains perform far more important work before a tourist ever reaches them. That makes the appeal from tourism players especially significant. Their intervention places environmental protection inside the economic dialogue rather than leaving it confined to conservation departments and scientific reports. They are seeing the consequences on the ground. The government therefore faces a larger task than announcing another campaign or declaring another sensitive zone. Enforcement must become visible, construction must face stronger ecological scrutiny, plastic controls must work beyond official notifications, and tourism planning must account for the carrying capacity of places already under intense pressure. A security crisis can empty Kashmir's hotels within months, but ecological damage works differently. It accumulates through plastic, concrete, shrinking ice and stressed water systems until the landscape itself begins to change. Kashmir cannot build a tourism economy by consuming the attraction that sustains it. The environmental intervention at Lok Bhavan should therefore become a starting point for a collective response involving government, tourism businesses, visitors and local communities. The question now is no longer how many people Kashmir can bring in. It is how much pressure Kashmir's landscapes can absorb before the destination itself begins to disappear.



Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

A young woman walked into a clinic this year asking for tirzepatide, the injectable drug that has turned weight loss into a global obsession. She was overweight and anxious and was already being monitored for a thyroid condition. After watching her sister struggle with diabetes, she hoped the injection would help her avoid the same fate. The physician assessed her blood sugar, medical history and risk factors, then told her no, those reasons alone did not justify the drug. She left disappointed. Days later, she sent a message that captured a frustration many doctors now encounter: she felt the physician had failed to satisfy her. That single sentence explains why tirzepatide and its cousin semaglutide have become the most consequential popular medicines on the market today. These drugs lower blood sugar, curb appetite and produce genuine weight loss for patients who need them clinically. But their success has convinced millions of people that a prescription is optional, that a body-mass-index calculation or a doctor's full assessment amounts to a formality standing between them and a slimmer future. That confusion is proving lethal. Two documented cases show exactly how. A 19-year-old European student, who did not meet the clinical threshold for obesity, was prescribed tirzepatide regardless. She developed nausea and vomiting, then was later found collapsed in her bathroom. An inquest concluded that an electrolyte imbalance linked to the drug triggered a fatal cardiac arrhythmia in someone who already carried an undiagnosed heart abnormality. Separately, a 39-year-old man self-administering tirzepatide raised his own dose without medical oversight, restarting at a substantially higher level after a break. He was later found confused and barely conscious, suffering severe metabolic and electrolyte disturbances that put him in intensive care. Neither case involved a freak allergic accident. Both involved people treating a hormone-altering prescription drug as though it were a lifestyle product they could dose by instinct. The instinct itself is the real hazard. Popularity has gotten confused with suitability. A medicine trending among friends, on social media or inside a group chat says nothing about whether it suits a particular person's biology. Prescribing decisions should rest on body mass index, waist circumference, blood sugar or HbA1c levels, blood pressure, cholesterol, liver function, current medications, nutritional status and a patient's demonstrated ability to attend regular follow-up visits. Those factors do not fit inside a friend's recommendation, and they cannot be assessed by a gym trainer or an influencer.



“The lesson from the clinic, and from the inquest records now sitting in medical literature, is not complicated. Self-medication with a powerful hormone-altering drug is never a private choice made in isolation.

Counterfeiting compounds the danger further. As demand has outpaced legitimate supply, unauthorized sellers have moved into the gap, selling injectable products of uncertain origin, storage and dosage. A discounted vial from an unverified source is a gamble with unknown contents injected straight into the bloodstream. Buyers are often desperate, focused on the number on the scale rather than on their underlying health, and that desperation makes them easy targets for a supply chain nobody regulates. None of this indicts the molecule itself. Patients who genuinely meet the clinical criteria stand to gain one of the real therapeutic advances of the past decade: better glycemic control, reduced cardiovascular risk and meaningful, sustained weight loss. The failure lies in how casually these drugs get dispensed, marketed and self-administered outside a doctor's supervision. A prescription-only medicine has effectively become an over-the-counter purchase for anyone willing to pay, and the body pays the price when the science behind that prescription gets skipped. Fixing this does not mean restricting access out of fear. It implies insisting on the funda-

mentals that got lost somewhere between a viral video and a pharmacy counter: informed consent grounded in a full medical workup, ongoing monitoring, nutrition guidance, a physical-activity plan and an honest conversation about what happens once the injections stop. Lasting results depend on preserved muscle mass and durable habits, rather than on a number that creeps back the moment treatment ends. Sustainable health, not a smaller scale reading, has to be the measure of success. Anyone considering these drugs owes themselves harder questions before reaching for the prescription pad: Is this medically indicated for my case? What are the contraindications given my history? Who will monitor the treatment over time? Is the product I am buying genuine? What happens to my body once I stop? Those questions belong in an exam room, worked through with a qualified professional, rather than settled on social media or borrowed from a friend's experience. There is an old Kashmiri comparison worth borrowing here. Nadur Monje, the fried lotus-stem fritters served at shrines and festivals across the valley, are tempting and familiar, the type of snack people reach for simply because so many others are eating it too. A prescription drug is not a fritter, and nobody should reach for one on the strength of a friend's results. The body cannot distinguish a legitimate prescription from a counterfeit vial bought online. It only registers the physical consequences afterward. The lesson from the clinic, and from the inquest records now sitting in medical literature, is not complicated. Self-medication with a powerful hormone-altering drug is never a private choice made in isolation. It is a decision with measurable, sometimes fatal, physical consequences that a scale can never show in advance. Ask for the full assessment, insist on genuine medicine and real supervision, and treat the injection as medicine, not as a beauty product, because that is precisely what it is.

The author is a senior consultant surgeon, who writes frequently on healthcare reforms. He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com.

One Video, Thousands of Verdicts

A viral accusation against Kashmiri women studying medicine abroad has already convicted an entire generation without a single fact established in court.



Ashfaq Ahmed Zehgeer

A video crossed two hundred thirty thousand views last week, and by the time anyone thought to check whether its claims held up, the damage was done. The clip made sweeping, corrosive insinuations about young women from Jammu and Kashmir who study medicine abroad. Doctors and former students who watched it describe something specific: alleged individual incidents stretched into a verdict on an entire category of women. That distinction, between one act and a whole population, is the only thing worth arguing about here, and it has been lost. I have spent more than three decades counselling students and their families through MBBS admissions abroad. I have travelled with them to

Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Russia and China. I have watched them wrestle with unfamiliar food, foreign languages, brutal academic schedules and homesickness thousands of miles from home. I have watched parents sell property and drain savings to make a daughter's medical degree possible. Silence, given what I have seen, is not an option. Start with the basic logic that has gone missing. If a student anywhere commits an immoral or illegal act, that student answers for it, and credible evidence belongs in front of the appropriate authorities. What one person allegedly did cannot become a character reference for thousands of others. A woman studying abroad does not surrender her values by crossing a border, and the country she studies in does not determine who she is. Good people and bad people exist in any population. A few exceptions never justify condemning the overwhelming majority, and that basic principle has collapsed under the weight of a single clip. In my professional experience, the proportion of students behaving with discipline and care for their family's

reputation runs above 99.99 percent. That figure comes from years of direct contact instead of a formal survey, and the difference matters more than it might seem. Answering one unsupported claim with another unsupported number would be its own failure. The stronger point stands regardless: no credible basis exists for branding thousands of young women because of allegations tied to a handful of individuals. Consider the specific claim circulating about female students supposedly making deliberate overnight stops in Delhi after flights from Bangladesh. Several doctors who spent six or seven years studying there have pushed back, explaining that flight schedules and onward connections to Kashmir often make an overnight stay in Delhi unavoidable. Whether a particular traveller stayed somewhere, and for what reason, can only be established through evidence. Travel arrangements are not proof of misconduct. A hotel booking does not establish an affair, just as a photograph does not prove a relationship. An allegation is not proof of guilt,

and a viral clip is not a court judgment. The testimony of women who actually lived through the experience being discussed secondhand carries real weight. One doctor who spent six years in Bangladesh says she never witnessed the widespread conduct the video implies. Another has directly challenged the claim about students loitering near airports for improper reasons, pointing instead to the mundane reality of connecting flights. Their accounts do not prove misconduct never happens, because nothing could prove that. They demonstrate why a sweeping social-media narrative should not be mistaken for established fact. None of this denies a deviant behaviour. Students are human, and some make poor decisions, break rules, or worse. The correct response identifies individual conduct and deals with it. Malpractice by one doctor does not indict the profession, while fraud by one businessman does not malign every merchant. The same logic has to hold when the accused population happens to be young women studying medicine. Behind any foreign medical student stands a family that borrowed

money, sold assets, or exhausted savings for years to fund that education. When a daughter finally comes home as a licensed physician, a stranger's video can cast suspicion over everything that family sacrificed to build. The student bears the consequences, along with her parents and siblings. Marriage prospects can suffer, along with professional standing. A handful of minutes of viral content can produce years of social fallout for people who did nothing wrong. Genuine wrongdoing deserves genuine accountability: evidence placed before authorities, specific allegations investigated, due process allowed to run. But reckless generalization is something else entirely, and freedom of expression should never function as freedom from consequence. The bigger question concerns what this teaches the next generation. If a young woman completes six years of demanding study abroad and returns as a qualified doctor, that achievement earns recognition, rather than interrogation of her character based on rumour. Parents should teach daughters to guard their reputations carefully, and

teach sons and daughters alike never to judge another person's character without proof. Students should stay focused on the work in front of them and refuse to feel shame over accusations that belong to somebody else. The professional community should respond with demands for evidence and verification, never with another campaign of abuse. If a grain of sand turns up in a bowl of rice, the answer is to remove the grain, not throw out the rice. Investigate what can be proven, protect real victims, and verify real allegations, but thousands of innocent students, and the families who sacrificed everything for them, do not belong on trial because of a handful of unverified claims and one algorithm rewarding outrage over truth. A society that lets accusation stand in for verdict without evidence is not protecting morality. It is abandoning justice.

The author is a career advisor and specialist in MBBS education abroad. He can be reached at ashfaqzehgeer@gmail.com.

Ask a Kashmiri About Congress

Kashmir's political memory gives a hard test for the Congress claim that a return to power in New Delhi would automatically restore trust, autonomy and democratic norms.



Raqif Makhdoomi

There is a growing belief in Kashmir that the political weather will change once Congress returns to power in New Delhi. The argument usually rests on a simple contrast: the BJP dismantled Kashmir's special status, weakened its political institutions and imposed a new constitutional order, while Congress presents itself as the party that can repair the damage. Kashmiris have reason to examine that promise closely. Their history with Congress reaches much further back than August 2019, and it contains episodes that complicate the comforting idea of Congress as Kashmir's natural political ally.

The first lesson comes from 1947. When tribal forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh sought military assistance from India. The accession to India followed, giving New Delhi the constitutional basis for sending troops. The politics surrounding that decision remain fiercely contested, and several claims about who planned the tribal invasion have circulated over the decades. Claims that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan secretly planned the attack, however, need evidence that the historical record does not establish.

The more important point lies elsewhere. Kashmir's relationship with India was constructed through a set of political and constitutional arrangements that acknowledged the state's distinctive position. Article 370 became the central constitutional bridge between Srinagar and New Delhi. Article 35A, introduced through a presidential order in 1954, protected the state's laws concerning permanent residents and their associated rights.

Those arrangements eventually became casualties of a long political erosion. That history matters because the erosion began decades before the BJP took office.

Sheikh Abdullah's arrest in August 1953 remains one of the defining wounds in Kashmir's political memory. Abdullah had been appointed



KASHMIRIS HAVE WATCHED CONGRESS-RULED Delhi promise autonomy, withdraw it, restore relationships, break governments and later return with fresh assurances. Political parties change, so do governments, but the memory of those decisions remains.

ed head of the emergency administration after the Maharaja's accession and had emerged as the dominant popular leader in the valley. His removal and imprisonment marked a dramatic rupture between Kashmir's elected leadership and New Delhi. He remained imprisoned or under political restriction for years, before returning to power through the 1975 Indira-Sheikh Accord.

The 1975 accord needs particular attention because it exposes the complicated bargain at the heart of Kashmir's modern political history.

Sheikh Abdullah returned as chief minister after reaching an understanding with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The accord retained Article 370 while accepting the constitutional changes already made since 1953 and expanding Parliament's reach in several areas.

Calling 1975 the moment Article 370 was abolished would be historically wrong. The provision remained in the Constitution until 2019.

The more accurate argument is that decades of constitutional erosion reduced the practical autonomy associated with it and created a political landscape in which the 2019 decision became easier to execute.

That distinction strengthens the case against historical amnesia. Kashmir's autonomy did not disappear in one afternoon.

Congress's record becomes harder to explain when the story moves into the 1980s.

Farooq Abdullah's National Conference won a clear majority in the 1983 Assembly elections. Relations with Indira Gandhi had already deteriorated, and the confrontation culminated in July 1984, when Governor Jag-

mohan dismissed Farooq's government after a group of National Conference legislators withdrew support. Ghulam Mohammad Shah then formed a government with Congress backing.

Contemporary reporting described the episode as a central-government-backed political operation, while Farooq Abdullah called it "constitutional fraud."

That episode should lie at the centre of any serious dialogue about Congress and Kashmir. A government chosen through an election was replaced after defections, with the new administration relying on Congress support.

The precise constitutional arguments surrounding the dismissal remain debated, but the political consequence is clear: New Delhi intervened decisively in the state's democratic process.

Jagmohan's role also became part of Kashmir's political memory.

His appointment as governor preceded the dismissal, and his name later became deeply associated with the harshest years of central intervention in the valley.

Reducing that history to a simple Congress-versus-BJP argument misses how deeply institutional habits had already taken root.

The same problem appears when Kashmiris hear Congress leaders condemn excessive force today.

Kashmir has its own memory of management under successive governments. Certain instruments became synonymous with the post-2010 era and were later condemned nationally when their use drew widespread attention.

Such memories make national speeches about civil liberties sound different in Srinagar than they do in Delhi.

This history does not make Congress identical to the BJP. The parties differ sharply on institutions, federalism, minorities, civil liberties and the constitutional settlement that followed August 2019. Congress leaders have also publicly opposed the manner in which Jammu and Kashmir's special status was removed.

The larger question is whether Kashmir should exchange one political memory for another.

A Congress government could restore statehood, reopen constitutional questions, strengthen elected institutions, and also choose a different course from the BJP.

Those possibilities deserve serious consideration, but they should never become a reason to erase what Congress governments themselves did in Kashmir.

Kashmiris have watched Congress-ruled Delhi promise autonomy, withdraw it, restore relationships, break governments and later return with fresh assurances. Political parties change, so do governments, but the memory of those decisions remains.

That is why the most useful advice for anyone trying to understand Congress in Kashmir is remarkably simple: sit with a Kashmiri and listen to the history before making the promise. The conversation may produce a far less comfortable picture of India's oldest political party.

It may also produce the one thing Kashmir has repeatedly been denied: a political debate based on memory, evidence and accountability rather than slogans.

— The author is a law student and a human rights activist. He can be reached at raqifmakhdoomi818@gmail.com.

Beyond the Last Road

Dagan Top has almost everything a mountain destination could want except the infrastructure built for tourists. Its forests, meadows and pastoral culture make it a compelling case for a slower, locally led model of tourism.



Sadaket Ali Malik

There are no road signs for Dagan Top. No ticket counters, souvenir shops, or well-lit trails.

To reach it, you leave behind Doda town in Jammu and Kashmir and head toward Thathri, a small settlement perched in the Chenab Valley.

From there, the road grows narrower, less certain, more generous in its silences. It leads you toward a landscape that feels like a held breath: green, immense, and remarkably untouched.

Tucked in the Gandoh tehsil of Doda, high up in the Bhalessa hills, Dagan Top is a place that lives in the stories of shepherds and summer wanderers.

Known only to locals and nomadic families who climb these slopes each year with their herds, Dagan remains a mystery to most maps and all mainstream tourist itineraries. And perhaps that's its greatest gift.

The journey ends long before the experience begins.

After Bonencha village, the asphalt disappears. You either walk or hire a horse, threading through pine corridors that open like curtains onto meadows. Gingota is the last point of panchayat governance here, but it feels more like the beginning of something old and elemental.

What greets you at Dagan Top isn't a monument or resort. It's a vast, undulating canvas: the Rohari meadows spilling across ridgelines, snow-tipped mountains like sentinels standing far and high, and wind sweeping through canopies of deodar and kail as if rehearsing an old hymn.



The air feels thinner, sharper. So does your awareness.

This is cattle country, home in summer to the Gujjars, Bakkerwals, and ethnic Pahari communities who've followed the rhythm of transhumance, seasonal migration, for centuries. They arrive with livestock in May, set up tents on slopes, and disappear with the autumn chill.

Their stories are woven into the terrain: women milking cows at dawn, children chasing goats across wild grass, men returning with bundles of dried herbs and moss.

And this is the heart of what makes Dagan Top different from other so-called "offbeat" travel spots. This place isn't being curated for tourists. It lives for itself.

Its villages, like Alni Gingota, Kota, Ghati, Kakoti, lie folded around the hills like wrinkles in an old map. From any vantage, you see Mandral, Jawali, and beyond that, the green shadows of Talaie and Gamgul, places that sound mythical and remain mostly unseen.

The lack of formal infrastructure is both a challenge and a charm. There's no approach road to Dagan Top itself. Local guides and

horsemen navigate the route, using ancestral knowledge of the terrain.

For now, the government schemes for tourism haven't reached here. It's bereft of reception centers, signage, and homestays. That absence forces you to engage with the place rather than consume it.

Even in winter, when the top is white carpeted, snow trekking has started to gain interest. The landscape changes texture. What was lush in July turns stark and poetic by December. Snow muffles sound. The mountains turn pale, monumental.

For photographers, it's a canvas of contrasts. For trekkers, an invitation.

Yet all of this rests on a fragile ecological balance. The coniferous forests - home to rare flora, medicinal herbs, and native birds - face pressure from unregulated grazing and climate shifts. With no waste management or trail maintenance, even a trickle of careless tourism could rupture this ecosystem.

That's why the future of Dagan Top depends not on development but on deliberation. Sustainable tourism here must mean walking slower, looking deeper, and leaving lighter.

The place needs simple, locally made trails, eco-cabins modeled after Gujjar shelters, and a visitor cap during grazing season.

Most importantly, a revenue model that pays local families to be custodians, not casualties, of tourism.

The potential is real. Doda district, according to government data, has over 20 identified tourism sites, most of them barely functional.

Yet what Dagan offers is rarer: a chance to rethink the relationship between visitor and visited. You don't arrive here to be served. You come to witness, listen, and slow down.

So when you stand atop Dagan, with nothing but wind in your ears and valleys in your gaze, you begin to understand the proposition. This is not leisure. This is a lesson.

A lesson in how the land remembers. How people endure without internet towers or tarmac. How beauty doesn't have to announce itself to matter. And how maybe, just maybe, the best places left are the ones that ask you to earn the view.

To reach Dagan, start early from Doda. Take the Kilhotran-Changa Road toward Thathri. Ask locals in Kota Bonencha for help with the final stretch. Bring your own food. Carry your waste out. Speak less, and walk more.

And once you arrive, try not to document everything. Some places are better left as stories told around fires, or dreams that smell faintly of pine and milk and moss.

— The author can be reached at sadaket-jammu@gmail.com.

Diabetes, Hearing Loss Linked To Dementia Risk In India: Study

Press Trust Of India

An earlier onset of diabetes, hearing loss, physical inactivity and undernourishment are among the critical and modifiable risk factors for dementia in India, according to a study that reviewed 25 years of data on dementia prevalence and risk factors. Researchers, led by those at the US' Rutgers University, reviewed research conducted in the Indian population between 2000 and 2025 to assess the status of current research on dementia in India. The researchers found that, as in Western countries, dementia is more common among women in India.

Prevalence in India was also higher among people in rural areas, most likely because of underdiagnosis of the risk factors contributing to dementia, they said.

Findings from the studies were weighed against 14 modifiable risk factors for dementia listed by the 2024 Lan-

cet Commission.

Addressing these risk factors could prevent or delay the onset of dementia in nearly half the cases, the commission had said.

The study, published in the journal Alzheimer's and Dementia, found that metabolic and vascular risk factors play a key role in midlife dementia risk in Indians.

Diabetes, which South Asians tend to develop earlier in life and often at a normal body weight, can double or even triple the risk of dementia, the researchers said.

India ranks third in the world in absolute diabetes cases, alongside China and Pakistan.

Hearing loss, which affects 41 per cent of adults in India, was found to be linked to a 59 per cent higher risk for dementia and roughly double the risk for Alzheimer's disease.

On physical activity, despite the observation that as little as 35 minutes of physical activity a week is linked to a 41 per cent lower dementia risk, more than half of Indian adults (57 per cent) fall short of recommended activity lev-



els, the team said.

They added that unlike Western nations, where excess weight drives much of the risk, in India, being underweight and undernourished also appears to increase the risk of developing dementia.

Limited education and vision impairment were other risk factors identified in the Indian population.

Limited education accounts for 22 per cent of modifiable dementia risk in India versus 8 per cent worldwide. While untreated vision loss accounts for an estimated 14 per cent of dementia cases in India.

The findings pave the way for the South Asian Middle Age Risk Tracking for Brain Health (SAMARTH) study at Rutgers University, the first research initiative in the US dedicated to tracking the brain health of South Asian Americans and identifying modifiable risks and protective factors for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.

The researchers said longitudinal studies are urgently needed to identify modifiable risk and protective factors for dementia in the Indian population.

Researchers Identify Mechanism In Brain That Explains Why Learning Plateaus Over Time

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have identified a physical mechanism in the brain that could help explain why one makes rapid progress while learning a new skill but then hits a plateau.

A scaffold-like structure surrounding brain cells, called the extracellular matrix, loosens and rebuilds within about a day during the initial stages of picking up a new skill -- the rebuilding cycle fades as the skill is mastered and eventually stops -- researchers, including those from the University of Maryland, said.

It is as if the brain has decided that learning is finished and it's time to protect what's been gained, they said.

"For the first time, we've been able to see that the remodelling process changes as you gain experience. It happens early in learning, declines and then gradually stops," said Melissa Caras, an assistant professor of biology at the University of Maryland and senior author of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"This tells us that the brain isn't just



passively storing what you learn; it's also actively regulating when learning can happen and when it should stop, so that the skills you've built are protected rather than overwritten," Caras said.

The extracellular matrix helps control when the brain can change during learning. In the auditory cortex, the matrix loosens within hours of a practice session and rebuilds itself within about a day -- a cycle that lets the learning from a session take hold be-

fore the next one, the researchers said.

They added that for decades, the matrix in adult brains was viewed as a rigid barrier, a scaffold that holds the brain wiring in place and makes learning harder as people age.

While previous studies caught glimpses of the matrix changing during learning as well, scientists sampled the matrix occasionally -- often over days or weeks -- and concluded that it rebuilt slowly over long periods.

Caras's team tracked the matrix rebuilding cycle over much shorter intervals, resulting in findings that suggest that the adult matrix is far more dynamic.

Rather than sitting fixed in place, the matrix was seen to shift on a rapid rhythm tied to training -- loosening after practising a skill to acquire it and then knitting back together by the next day.

The team used an enzyme to break down the matrix, which slowed learning. The more the matrix was disrupted, the greater the impairment -- learning a skill and mastering it became more difficult.

Further, when the matrix was broken down after a skill was successfully mastered, performance began to slip.

the team's research is still in the early stages and far from a direct human application, they believe the results open intriguing possibilities, especially for how we currently approach learning and retention.

Based on the findings, Caras theorised that plateaus in language learning could result from the brain regions involved flipping from a "ready to learn" state into a more stable one, with the matrix sealing the gains in place.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my father's Name from (old name) Gh Hassan Alaqband to (New Name) Gh Hassan Alaqaband . In future My father's name would be known as Gh Hassan Alaqaband . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the passport office srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tariq Hassan Alaqaband
S/O Gh Hassan Alaqaband
R/o Hergam Shopian
Passport No: N 9860247
fko



Skill India
असतो मा सद्गमय



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



श्रम, कौशल और उद्यमिता विभाग
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT
& ENTREPRENEURSHIP
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP)
Tender Ref No: NSTICHN/TN/ PMSETU-II/2026
Tender ID: 2026.DGT.921280.1

Request for Proposal for Selection of Lead Industry Partner (LIP) for Capacity Augmentation of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) and Setting up of National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) located at Chennai under PM-SETU

The Regional Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (RDSDE), Tamilnadu invites online applications from eligible organizations for Selection of Lead Industry Partner (LIP) for Capacity Augmentation of National Skill Training Institute and Setting up of National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) located at Chennai under Component II of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) through <https://eprocure.gov.in>. The RFP document is also available on <https://pm-setu.skillindia.digital.gov.in> . The last date & time for submission of online applications is 25.09.2026 up to 06:00 PM.

Regional Director
Regional Directorate Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Tamilnadu
DGT, MSDE, Government of India

CBC 63101/11/0011/2627

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of bids through E-Procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N Rly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited bids through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Bid No.	Description	Quantity	Due date
1.	GEM/2026/B/7904583	Digital Radiography System	02 Nos.	14.09.2026

Note:- Above bid with detailed terms & conditions is uploaded on GeM website i.e. gem.gov.in. Interested participants may participate in the bid on gem portal through online mode. GeM Bid Notice No. 07/2026-27
Date:- 18/08/2026 2864/2026



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION HANDWARA

RAJWAR ROAD, HANDWARA – 193221

EMAIL: exenifcdhandwara@ifckashmir.com

Subject: Corrigendum.

Kindly read the description of the work published under Tender ID 2026 JFC_320857_3, in respect of e-NIT No. 10-IFCD/HND/2026-27 dated 13/08/2026, issued under Endorsement No. IFCD/HND/Camp/2441-50 dated 13/08/2026, as "Anti-Erosion work by way of Gabion crate revertment at RD 16600 m for length of 86.4 mtrs on R/S at Gundmomin" instead of "Anti-Erosion work by way of Gabion crate revertment at RD 16600 m 4200 for length of 86.4 mtrs on R/S at Sultanpora, Gundmomin." All others terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in original e-NIT.
No: IFCD/HND/2504-13.
Dated: 18/08/2026.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & F C Division
Handwara.

DIPK-4664/26
dated: 18-08-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

Email: xen-pwdmrbananatnag@jk.gov.in Phone and Fax: 01932-222221

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Extension in Critical Dates

Ref: NIT 64 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/5387-96, DATED 08-08-2026

Kindly find below the updated Critical Dates for the above referred NIT.

Please Read	Instead of
Bid Submission End Date: 22.08.2026 (04:00PM)	Bid Submission End Date: 18.08.2026 (04:00PM)
Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 24.08.2026 Time 10:30 AM	Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 19.08.2026 Time 10:30 AM

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. 5927-32
DIPK-4712/26 Dated: 18-08-2026

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

No. DHSK/NG/Est-4th/NG/ 3905-36
DIPK-4669/26
Dated: 18.08.2026

Sd/-
Director Health Services
Kashmir.

J&K Bank Expands Corporate Salary Portfolio With Two New MoUs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Further strengthening its institutional partnerships through customised employee-banking solutions, J&K Bank signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) under its Corporate Salary Package with FIL Industries Private Limited in Srinagar and Brahmishi Bawra Shanti Vidya Peeth Higher Secondary School in Udhampur.

In Srinagar, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar signed the agreement on behalf of J&K Bank, while Managing Director FIL Industries Junaid Altaf Bukhari represented the company. The agreement was signed in the presence of Cluster Head Syed Tasaduq Madni, Branch Head (SSI) Ubaid Ashraf and other senior officials from both organisations.

The MoU will bring nearly 600 employees of FIL Industries – one of the leading business groups in the Union Territory – within the ambit of the Bank's Corporate Salary Package.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar said, "This MoU reflects our continued endeavour to deepen the Bank's longstanding institutional relationship with FIL Industries while extending a comprehensive suite of customised banking benefits to its employees. Through preferential products, enhanced

digital convenience and need-based financial solutions, we aim to add value to their overall banking experience."

Cluster Head Syed Tasaduq Madni briefed the participants about the salient features and benefits available under the package, including specialised salary-account variants, preferential loan facilities, insurance coverage, and digital banking services.

Meanwhile, in the Jammu division, the Bank entered a similar arrangement with Brahmishi Bawra Shanti Vidya Peeth Higher Secondary School, Udhampur, which has a staff strength of more than 165 employees. During a ceremony held in Udhampur, Zonal Head (Udhampur) Arjun Singh Rathore signed the MoU on behalf of J&K Bank, while Chairperson Chinmay Jyoti (Didi Ji) signed it on behalf of the school.

On the occasion, Zonal Head Arjun Singh Rathore said, "The partnership represents our commitment to building meaningful institutional relationships through customer-centric banking solutions. By combining preferential financial benefits with convenient, technology-driven services, the Corporate Salary Package seeks to provide the school's employees with a seamless and rewarding banking experience aligned with their evolving professional and personal needs."

Suspicious Foreign Remittances Under I-T Deptt Scanner

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The income tax department has launched a drive to verify "suspicious" foreign remittances by entities with little or no reported business activity, the persons behind them, and the chartered accountants who issued tax determination certificates.

Entities located in districts along India's land borders and remitting significant amounts of money abroad have also been covered in the exercise.

The exercise has covered approximately 394 entities (including 117 entities located in land-border states), and 36 professionals, the department said in a post on X.

"On August 18, the Department launched a nationwide detailed verification exercise to verify these (suspicious) foreign remittances, focusing on shell entities, the persons behind them, and the professionals who have issued Form 15CB certificates," the tax department said.

The verification of suspicious foreign remittances follows data analysis and ground intelligence indicating significant overseas



remittances by entities with little or no reported business activity. The Department cautioned CAs against issuing certificates in Form 15CB/Form 146 and said they should exercise due care, diligence and professional judgment.

"They should properly examine the underlying transactions and relevant facts before certifying the remittances, as these certifications play an important role in maintaining trust in the system," the I-T department said in a statement.

Form 15CB or Form 146 is a tax determination certificate issued by CAs for foreign remittances from India. It is mandatory when making taxable payments exceeding Rs 5 lakh in a financial year to a non-resident or foreign company, validating the tax deduction at source (TDS) and DTAA compliance.

Banks Need To Address Emerging Gaps In Priority Sector Lending: FM Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asked public sector banks to address the gaps in Priority Sector Lending (PSL) and work towards improving the quality of such lending, as they play a very important role in the country's development.

Banks are required to allocate 40 per cent of their total loans towards priority sectors, which include agriculture, MSMEs and housing.

Stressing that credit to farmers, MSMEs, MUDRA beneficiaries and weaker sections remains a top priority of this government, Sitharaman said, "Our objective must be to expand credit while also improving the quality of PSL. Its success should be assessed not merely by numerical targets, but by whether the credit is timely, whether it is adequate and whether it is productive."

In her concluding remarks at the two-day PSB Confluence 2026, she said banks must substantially expand credit to farmers growing pulses and oilseeds, which will reduce India's dependence on imports and help improve soil health and bring Atmanirbharta.

This effort should be closely aligned with the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, particularly in the districts covered under the scheme, she said.

Sitharaman told the senior executives of state-owned banks attending the event that "your approach to dealing with priority sector lending should be a lot more robust".

Observing that agricultural lending cannot become concentrated among larger farmers



merely because they are easier to finance, she said, banks must widen their reach and ensure that institutional credit enables small and marginal farmers to raise productivity, diversify cultivation, adopt better technology and connect with remunerative markets.

The objective should ultimately be to ensure genuine and productive credit flow to the intended beneficiaries, she said, adding that PSL should be seen as an opportunity to deepen formal credit, expand the customer base, create stronger enterprises and support broad-based economic growth.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) were encouraged to maintain their strong focus on PSL through granular monitoring, early identification of emerging gaps and appropriate business strategies, with the objective of minimising shortfalls through genuine and productive credit flow to intended beneficiaries.

She called upon PSBs and Public Financial Institutions (PFIs) to build on their institutional strength, anticipate emerging opportunities and develop capabilities to support

India's evolving economic requirements. During the event, Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Lohia emphasised that the Confluence has enabled sharper identification of priorities and clearer action across the seven themes.

PSBs and PFIs would now need to translate these into implementation with clear ownership and realistic timelines, while successful institutional models could be examined for wider adoption, he said.

PSB Confluence 2026 brought together the collective experience and capabilities of PSBs, PFIs, Government and domain experts across areas critical to the future of banking.

The actionable strategies emerging from the Confluence will now be taken forward by the concerned institutions through appropriate follow-up and implementation.

As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, PSBs and PFIs will continue to play an important role in deepening financial inclusion, financing emerging opportunities and supporting the country's next phase of growth, he said.

Calls On PSBs To Translate Strength Into Competitiveness, Leadership

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have demonstrated their ability to transform, and the next phase should be about converting this institutional strength into greater ambition, competitiveness and leadership, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

"Our Banks and Financial Institutions should help shape, finance and enable the vision of Viksit Bharat," she said in her concluding remark at the two-day PSB Confluence here.

PSBs today have advantages that few institutions can replicate: a vast customer base, extensive branch network, presence across geographies, strong institutional experience and growing digital capabilities, she said.

These strengths should translate into stronger competitive positions in businesses and customer segments where PSBs have the potential to lead, she said.

At the same time, every bank

need not pursue every opportunity in exactly the same manner, she said, adding that each institution should identify its distinctive strengths, whether arising from geography, customer relationships, sectoral expertise, technology capabilities or international presence, and build upon them.

"Our public sector banks should therefore be strong collectively while also developing distinct areas of excellence and leadership individually. This will create a strong and more competitive public sector banking system as a whole," she said.

Stressing that state-owned banks have a vast customer base, an extensive branch network, a presence across geographies, strong institutional experience, and growing digital capabilities, she said, "these trends should translate into stronger competitive positions in businesses and customer segments where our banks have the potential to lead."

She also noted that public sector banks today are operating from a position of considerable strength and the task is to use that strength with greater ambition to identify opportunities early, to build capabilities ahead of demand, and also to ensure that institutions remain at the forefront of India's next phase of economic growth.

Her remarks come days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that at least one Indian bank should feature among the top five global banks as India is progressing towards a developed nation.

The PSB Confluence brought together approximately 125 participants, including Chairmen, Managing Directors and Executive Directors of public sector banks and PFIs, such as NABARD, EXIM Bank, SIDBI, NHB, IIFCL, IFCI and NaBFID, alongside senior officials from the Indian Banks' Association and the Department of Financial Services.

Gold Surges ₹2,000 To ₹1.58 Lakh/10g; Silver Rises ₹730 In Delhi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold price climbed Rs 2,000 to Rs 1.58 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, extending gains for a second straight session as retailers and stockists stepped up buying.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,58,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Monday's closing level of Rs 1,56,800 per 10 grams.

Silver also advanced Rs 730 to Rs 2,40,730 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), after remaining flat at Rs 2,40,000 per kg for two sessions, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Globally, spot gold traded 0.5 per cent lower to USD 4,394.57 per ounce, and silver dropped a little over 1 per cent to USD 65.08 per ounce.

Gold was hovering around USD 4,392 per ounce as crude oil rebounded on supply concerns emanating from West Asia, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Oil prices gained after the 60-day US-Iran ceasefire expired on Monday. While the period can be extended, neither side is willing to do so, he said.

US President Donald Trump said Washington had an edge over Tehran as the naval blockade continued, while Iran had asked its military to remain steady.



The global investment story, however, continues to provide a cushion. Total known gold-backed exchange-traded fund holdings rose again on Monday to 97.39 million ounces, Singh added.

Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said spot silver eased towards USD 65 per ounce, weighed down by a firm US Treasury yields and some profit-taking.

Despite the pullback, Chainwala said the broader backdrop remained constructive for bullion, supported by softer Fed rate expectations, sustained central bank buying led by China and steady investment demand.

The focus shifts to the minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's July meeting for fresh insights on the US monetary policy outlook.

"With the Fed's policy path yet to be clarified at Jackson Hole Symposium, gold and silver may see continued two-way volatility in the near term," Chainwala added.

Amendment To Taxation Act, Payment And Settlement Systems Act Get President's Assent

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026, and another law to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.

The bills were passed by Parliament on August 10.

The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026, and an Act to further amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, have received the assent of the President on the August 17, 2026, the Ministry of Law said in a gazette notification.

Through the taxation Act, the government seeks to attract more foreign capital, promote domestic electronics manufacturing and make it easier for foreign cloud companies to use Indian data centres by providing "process certainty".

The amendment to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, gives a legal backing to the government to modify the zero-MDR framework on UPI and RuPay card transactions. The government can now decide, via notification, which electronic payment modes or transactions would remain free from MDR charges.

At present, banks and payment-system providers can-



not charge users for payment made through UPI and RuPay debit cards.

The UPI and Services Steering Committee headed by NPCI, will now decide on the MDR charges.

While replying to the discussion of the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said UPI payments will remain free for consumers, and any future merchant discount rate (MDR) will apply only to certain categories of merchant transactions.

The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, replaces the June 5 ordinance that provided I-T exemption to interest income and capital gains made by FPIs from investments in G-Secs.

The Act makes it easier for fund managers to relocate to India by cutting down on the list of conditions that these funds will have to satisfy to ensure that their global income does not get taxed in India.

Sensex Tanks 493 Points; Nifty Falls For 6th Day

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Market benchmark indices ended lower on Tuesday, with the Sensex falling 493 points and the Nifty dropping to 24,154.90 level, as elevated crude oil prices and fading hopes of a diplomatic breakthrough in West Asia weighed heavily on investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex was down 492.70 points, or 0.63 per cent, to settle at 77,235.46, registering its third day of decline. During the lag-end of trade, it tanked 493.8 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 77,234.36.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined for the sixth day, sliding 132.75 points, or 0.55 per cent, to end at 24,154.90. From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Infosys, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, and Hindustan Unilever were among the major laggards. Axis Bank, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Bajaj Finance were among the winners. The BSE MidCap Select index declined 0.46 per cent, while SmallCap Select index was up 0.24 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Focused IT tanked 1.84 per cent, IT Technology Realty (1.28 per cent), PSU Bank (1.04 per cent), Consumer Durables (0.81 per cent), FMCG (0.67 per cent), Metal (0.47 per cent), and Capital Goods (0.47 per cent). MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt, MidSmall Private Banks, Hospitals and Healthcare were the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, went up 0.17 per cent to USD 91.02 per barrel.

"Crude oil remained the primary drag on market sentiment, while rising US bond yields and weak global cues prolonged the risk-off trend in Indian equities. Investor anxiety increased as hopes for a Middle East resolution faded following the expiration of the temporary US-Iran ceasefire, heightening concerns about renewed inflation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

I-T Deptt Officials Discuss Roadmap For Improving Services For Taxpayers

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR- Improving taxpayer services, reducing litigation, strengthening infrastructure and preparing an actionable roadmap for the Income Tax Department's future functioning were among key issues discussed at a two-day conclave of senior IT department officials that concluded here on Tuesday.

The conclave of Principal Chief Commissioners of Income Tax and Principal Directors General of Income Tax was chaired by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Ravi Agrawal.

Agrawal held interactive discussions with senior officers on the future direction of the department and stressed the need to translate suggestions emerging from the deliberations into an actionable roadmap, according to an official statement.

The conclave also extensively discussed e-HRMS, service matters, reservation policy, future projects, the Systems Directorate, capacity building, expenditure budget, TDS administration, and inter-agency coordination. Infrastructure requirements and essential facilities at Income Tax offices across the country also figured in the deliberations.

Officials shared their views on challenges facing the department and identified priorities for its future functioning.

CBDT members Pankaj Kumar Mishra, Sanjay Bahadur, Prasenjit Singh, G. Aparna Rao, Pallavi Agrawal and Sunil Kumar Singh attended the conclave along with principal chief commissioners, principal directors general, commissioners of Income Tax (Administration) and other senior officers from across the country.

Domestic Donations To PM CARES Down By 30% To ₹479 Crore In FY25

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Domestic donations to the PM CARES Fund fell by 30 per cent to nearly Rs 479 crore during the fiscal year 2024-2025 while foreign donations also declined by 18 per cent to Rs 92.8 lakh, according to its latest audit report. The total balance in PM CARES Fund stood at Rs 8,452 crore as on March 31, 2025, up from Rs 7,173 crore a year ago.

Of this, Rs 7,846 crore was parked in fixed deposits and Rs 605 crore in savings bank accounts, the report said.

The domestic donations received by the PM CARES in fiscal year 2023-24 stood at Rs 681.8 crore, while it had got foreign donations totalling Rs 1.13 crore.

The fund spent Rs 87.8 lakh on PM CARES for Children Scheme during 2024-25, sharply down from Rs 15.37 crore in the previous year.

Total payments made during the year 2024-25 was Rs 87.85 lakh, as against Rs 15.6 crore in the previous fiscal.

A study of the audited statements on the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund website shows that the voluntary domestic contribution peaked at Rs 7,184 crore in 2020-21 and then fell to Rs 1,896 crore in 2021-22, before declining further to Rs 909 crore in 2022-23.

Foreign contribution has seen a sharper decline, registering a high of Rs 495 crore in 2020-21, before falling to Rs 40 crore and Rs 2.57 crore in the next two years. The foreign contribution now stands at Rs 92.8 lakh, the second lowest since Rs 39.7 lakh in the first year of 2019-20.

SC Asks CBI To Probe All Six Indiabulls Transaction Allegations

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the CBI to examine all the six allegations flagged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) related to alleged dubious transactions involving Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IHFL) and related entities.

On July 28, the top court had pulled up the CBI and Delhi Police's Economic Offence Wing (EoW) for being silent on allegations of dubious transactions involving IHFL, terming their conduct "shocking" and saying it appeared to be a "case of quid pro quo".

On Tuesday, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymyalya Bagchi and V. Mohana took note of the submissions of Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the probe agencies, that the ED referred to six allegations, and five aspects are being probed by the EoW.

The law officer said so far as the sixth issue, pertaining to alleged routing of Rs 1,575 crore, is concerned, the CBI has filed an application before a special PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court in Mumbai seeking nod to probe.

The bench directed the special judge in Mumbai to decide the CBI's application for further investigation within two weeks after it takes up the plea on August 24.

"The CBI shall thereafter submit a progress/status report to the Supreme Court," the bench directed.

The court also noted that so far as the EoW probe was concerned, it has given clean chit in all the five allegations probed by the Delhi Police agency.

J&K Government Notifies New Land Pooling Policy 2026

Policy seeks planned urban development through participation of landowners and developers

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has notified the Jammu and Kashmir Land Pooling Policy, 2026, aimed at facilitating planned urban development by bringing together landowners, developers and public agencies for coordinated development of land.

The policy, notified by the Housing and Urban Development Department through Government Order No. 172-JK(HUD) of 2026 dated August 17, seeks to address the growing demand for planned urban spaces, infrastructure and housing while ensuring greater participation of landowners in the development process.

According to the policy, land pooling is intended to provide a framework for consolidating land parcels for planned development, with landowners contributing their land to a common pool and subsequently receiving reconstituted plots or other benefits in accordance with the approved development plan.

The policy states that its objective is to facilitate planned urban development, infrastructure development and equitable land use while ensuring the participation of landowners interested in becoming partners in the development process.

It will apply to areas notified under the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970, as well as areas notified by the appropriate Development Authority.

The policy also covers certain categories of land that may otherwise be difficult to develop, including land under unauthorised colonies that are yet to be

regularised and land under litigation, including land under acquisition proceedings, until the relevant cases are settled.

However, land under forests, grazing areas, natural drains, natural water bodies, heritage sites, flood and irrigation departments, as well as land expressly ordered by the government to remain unavailable for pooling, will not be covered.

Under the policy, a Developer Entity intending to undertake a land pooling scheme will be required to formulate and implement the scheme in accordance with the policy and obtain necessary authorisation from the concerned Development Authority.

The policy provides for formation of a consortium of landowners and requires the Developer Entity to be registered with the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA).

A land pooling scheme can be proposed when landowners holding at least 70 per cent of the contiguous area agree to participate in the scheme, according to the notified framework.

The participating land is to be utilised for planned residential, commercial, institutional and infrastructure development, including public and semi-public facilities and neighbourhood-level facilities.

The policy provides for the preparation of a Land Pooling Scheme or layout plan in accordance with the Master Plan or Zonal Development Plan and other applicable planning norms.

Under the framework, the Development Authority will be responsible for ensuring smooth and fair implementation of the

policy, approving the land pooling scheme, facilitating the process of planning and development, and monitoring implementation.

It will also facilitate a single-window system for applications, verification and approvals, besides coordinating the provision of essential infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, power, transportation and other services.

The policy provides for a grievance redressal mechanism to resolve disputes and anomalies arising during implementation. A two-stage grievance mechanism will be established, beginning with a Grievance Redressal Committee constituted by the designated Planning Officer of the Development Authority. Appeals can subsequently be made before a Second Grievance Redressal Committee constituted by the Development Authority.

The policy also sets timelines for different stages of a land pooling scheme.

The formation of a consortium is to take 60 days, extendable by up to 30 days, while submission of the Land Pooling Scheme to the Development Authority for approval is to take six months from the date of formation of the consortium.

The process of handing over possession of pooled land parcels is also prescribed, with the policy providing a timeline of six months from approval of the land pooling scheme.

Creation of infrastructure and development of the area is to be completed within three years from the date of handing over possession of the pooled land, subject to extension as permitted under the policy.

The policy further provides that

possession of the reconstituted plots is to be handed over to the legitimate landowners within three months of completion of the infrastructure creation period.

The government has said the policy is intended to create a more transparent and participatory framework for urban development, bringing together government agencies, landowners, developers, planners, environmentalists and private stakeholders.

The policy also emphasises environmental considerations and sustainable development, with the government seeking to balance infrastructure and housing requirements with protection of ecological resources.

Under the land pooling mechanism, landowners are to receive reconstituted plots based on the agreed terms, while the developer entity will be responsible for development of infrastructure and other works prescribed under the approved scheme.

The policy also provides for revenue records to be maintained for land falling under the pooling scheme and requires the developer entity to submit relevant records to the concerned Development Authority and Revenue Department.

The Housing and Urban Development Department has said the framework is intended to provide a structured mechanism for planned urban expansion while ensuring that landowners are made partners in the development process rather than merely being treated as land providers.

The policy will be known as the "Jammu and Kashmir Land Pooling Policy, 2026."

J&K Govt Forms District Highway Safety Task Forces

Forces to monitor road safety, encroachments, accident-prone spots and Supreme Court directions

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted District Highway Safety Task Forces across the Union Territory to strengthen road safety measures and monitor compliance with directions issued by the Supreme Court.

The constitution of the task forces has been approved through Government Order No. 1412-JK(GAD) of 2026, dated August 18, 2026, in compliance with the Supreme Court's order of April 13, 2026, in WP(C) No. 9 of 2025, titled In Re: Phalodi Accident vs NHAI & Ors.

The District Magistrate of each district will chair the task force, which will include the Senior Superintendent of Police, a nominated Additional Deputy Commissioner or Sub-Divisional Magistrate, the concerned Assistant Regional Transport Officer, a representative of the executing agency concerned, a Traffic Police representative not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and a representative of the concerned Urban Local Body.

The Chairperson has also been empowered to co-opt any other member considered necessary for the effective discharge of the task force's mandate.

According to the terms of reference, the task forces will monitor implementation of

the directions issued by the Supreme Court in the case and oversee road safety measures across their respective districts.

A key responsibility will be to monitor the removal of encroachments and unauthorised access points on National Highways and other major roads, wherever applicable.

The task forces will also review regulation of land use adjoining highways and recommend corrective measures in coordination with the concerned agencies.

They will oversee highway surveillance, enforcement activities, traffic management measures and other road safety initiatives.

The task forces will identify accident-prone locations and recommend engineering, enforcement and awareness interventions aimed at mitigating road accidents.

They will also ensure coordination among stakeholder departments and agencies for effective implementation of road safety measures.

The government order further directs the task forces to submit periodic reports to the government through the concerned Administrative Department regarding compliance and progress achieved.

The bodies will also perform such other functions relating to highway safety and implementation of the Supreme Court's directions as

may be assigned by the government from time to time.

Significantly, the task forces have been directed to hold meetings at least once every fortnight to review the status of compliance with road safety measures within their respective districts.

The move brings district administration, police, transport authorities, executing agencies and urban local bodies under a common mechanism for monitoring highway safety and addressing issues such as encroachments, unauthorised access points, traffic management and accident-prone stretches.

The order has been circulated to senior officials including the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Public Works Department; Principal Secretary, Home Department; Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs; Commissioner/Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, Transport Department; all Deputy Commissioners; and the Director, National Highway Authority of India, among others.

The Director Information, J&K, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums and other concerned officers have also been provided copies of the order.

SC To Set Up High-Powered Panel To Probe Allegations Of Police Excesses During NEET Protest

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would constitute a high-powered committee comprising retired judges, a former DGP, an ex-CBI director and others to examine allegations of police excesses against student protesters in Delhi.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said an order for constituting the committee would be released on

Wednesday after it receives suggestions from different parties on other members to be included in the panel.

The top court further said that it would direct the handing over of video footage and CCTV recordings of the violence during the July 20 Parliament march in Delhi to the high-powered committee for examination.

The panel would also examine complaints and allegations made by female protesters who were reportedly targeted during

the protest march in Delhi and other areas.

The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to furnish details of FIRs implicating the student protesters, which are to be quashed, indicating that the court may exercise its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

"It is the life of students, which is at stake. We have to consider this. They have a future ahead. They have the right to protest under Article 19," the



bench told a counsel, opposing quashing of cases against student protesters without them tendering an apology.

Mehta said police had identified more than 2,800 "anti-social elements", who had been involved in heinous offences in the past, as responsible for the violence during the July 20 protest.

On August 3, the top court clarified that the expression "criminal antecedents" in its order on releasing student

protesters referred only to those involved in grave and heinous offences, and said states could close or withdraw FIRs against the remaining students in accordance with law.

The clarification came after the Centre submitted that it was "serious" about not pursuing FIRs against students who participated in the NEET examination paper leak protests, including the July 20 Parliament march in Delhi, provided they did not have criminal antecedents.

The Apex Court had earlier observed that police excesses or a 'lathi charge' cannot be justified merely because there is an agitation and underlined that the right to peaceful protest was "absolutely guaranteed".

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led march on July 20 in Delhi saw clashes between protesters and security personnel, who used lathis and tear-gas shells to disperse crowds attempting to move towards Parliament.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Gears Up

from the film industry.

Commissioner Secretary Information R Alice Vaz briefed the Chief Minister on the festival programme and preparations being made for its conduct.

The meeting reviewed arrangements at the principal festival venues, including Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) and INOX Shiypora in Srinagar, and Waves Cinema in Jammu. Plans for a floating cinema at Lal Ghat were also discussed.

Preparations for a Gulmarg excursion for a select group of filmmakers were also reviewed, including proposed visits to the Gondola, Golf Course, Gulmarg Club and other prominent attractions.

Omar directed all concerned departments and agencies to ensure close coordination and timely completion of arrangements ahead of the festival.

He stressed that meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all stakeholders would be essential to establish IFFJK as a premier annual event on the global film calendar.

The meeting also reviewed security and traffic arrangements, airport facilitation, hospitality and protocol, accommodation, transportation, medical facilities, power supply, sanitation, beautification, venue preparedness and other logistical requirements.

Dedicated liaison and nodal officers are being put in place to facilitate coordination with the Information Department and visiting guests.

The Information Department was tasked with maintaining a consolidated action matrix covering departmental responsibilities, timelines, progress and pending issues, besides co-ordinating invitations, participant facilitation and media arrangements.

Plans for extensive publicity and branding of IFFJK at regional and national levels through print, electronic, digital and outdoor media were also discussed.

The Chief Minister stressed that the festival should emerge as a flagship international event that showcases Jammu and Kashmir's cultural richness and creative potential to the wider world, while creating meaningful opportunities for local filmmakers and emerging talent.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta,

ACS Finance, ACS Tourism, Commissioner Secretary Information, Secretary Education, Secretary Culture, Secretary Transport, Secretary Hospitality and Protocol, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, IGP Security, Director Information, heads of line departments and senior officers of concerned departments and agencies.

The officers briefed the Chief Minister on the status of preparations and the action being taken to ensure the successful conduct of the festival. Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

At Lok Bhavan

flow into the Jhelum. Its front has receded 784 metres since 1973, while its total area has fallen by nearly a quarter since 1962.

Smaller glaciers make up most of Kashmir's ice field, and some have lost more than 40 per cent of their coverage.

That loss affects communities far below the mountains.

Glacial water supports apple orchards and saffron fields, feeds drinking-water systems and supplies hydropower stations.

Researchers studying the Jhelum basin expect river flows to rise for some time as faster melting releases more water. Later, flows could decline as the remaining ice reserves shrink, putting pressure on agriculture, tourism and household water supplies.

Plastic waste, the delegates told LG, presents a more visible problem.

"Several popular hill stations have official No-Polythene Zone status, designed to keep plastic bags and packaging away from sensitive tourist areas," said Sameer Baktoo, president of the Ecotourism Association of Kashmir and the delegation's leader.

"Enforcement has struggled to keep pace with the rise in visitors in the valley, as plastic waste continues to show up along trekking routes and beside lakes."

He said Kashmir's mountains, forests and water bodies form the foundation of its tourism economy. They provide more than scenery for visitors, he said, since thousands of livelihoods depend on their health.

The delegation called for stricter enforcement of No-Polythene Zone rules, tighter controls on activities in ecologically sensitive areas and stronger awareness campaigns for tourists, tour operators and local communities.

The delegates also raised concerns about

construction in hill stations. Hotels and roads have expanded faster than the infrastructure needed to manage waste, water and slope stability, they told LG Sinha.

"New hotels and roads can place additional pressure on the same landscapes that attract visitors when development proceeds without adequate safeguards," Baktoo said.

The concerns come after a difficult year for Kashmir's tourism industry.

Visitor numbers had risen for four consecutive years before the Pahalgam attack in 2025 dealt the sector a severe blow. Domestic visits fell by about 23 percent, while foreign visits dropped by nearly 45 percent.

Tourism can lose visitors within months after a security crisis, the delegates said, but environmental change works over a longer period, affecting the glaciers, rivers and forests that support the industry itself.

Baktoo and his delegation left Lok Bhavan without a formal policy announcement, but with a clear message: Kashmir's tourism economy depends on protecting the landscapes that bring visitors here.

J&K Eateries

display Food Safety Information Boards at prominent places in their establishments, containing details including the FSSAI licence number and customer care number.

It further advised establishments to avoid generic descriptions such as "Meat Curry", "Meat Biryani", "Meat Kebab" or "Non-Vegetarian" without specifying the type of meat used.

All Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers have been directed to disseminate the advisory among food business operators and verify compliance during inspections.

The advisory stated that non-compliance with applicable provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and rules and regulations made thereunder would attract appropriate action in accordance with law.(KNO)

Committed To

Naris, widows and dependents were discussed.

The meeting reviewed welfare delivery, grievance redressal, healthcare access and institutional strengthening, including the establishment of a Zonal Sainik Welfare Office at Kishtwar and improved coordination on pension-related matters.

Healthcare facilities for veterans also came under discussion, with the Board considering

the empanelment of government hospitals, including AIIMS Jammu, GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda and Government Hospital Kupwara, with the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) to enhance access to medical services.

The Lieutenant Governor also chaired the meeting of the State Management Committee (SMC) on the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

The Committee considered several welfare-oriented proposals covering medical and health support, infrastructure, outreach, education and skill development.

Among the proposed initiatives were education and career incentives, deployment of psychological counsellors in identified areas, skill-development support and strengthening of welfare infrastructure.

The meetings were attended by Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Maj Gen Paramvir Singh Dagar, Chief of Staff, HQ White Knight Corps; Maj Gen KS Dhadwal, Chief of Staff, HQ Chinar Corps; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department Shailendra Kumar; Principal Secretary, Home Chandekar Bharti; Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandeep K Bhandari; Principal Director, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Government of India, Neena Mishra; Director Sainik Welfare Department, J&K, Brig Pankaj Chib (Retd.); Brig Sandeep Kaushal, Commander 21 Sub Area; Air Commodore VP Singh; Col Pradeep S Karki, Director, DRZ (North); Brig Virender Singh Slathia (Retd.) and other senior officers.

How A Kashmir

Dar allegedly passed counterfeit antiques off as genuine, used Ayurvedic products and potions to attract customers and took part in fraudulent real estate dealings.

His name also appears in a larger investigation into a purported wild-garlic scam that cost one complainant 55.80 lakh.

That case began with a complaint that reached Anantnag Police in June 2025.

The complainant said he had entered an agreement with Dar and two other men to purchase wild garlic.

An initial payment of 1.78 lakh was made against a promise of delivery within two days. The material never came.

The complainant said the accused then sought more money. He eventually paid 55.80 lakh through bank transfers and cash,

according to court records. Investigators later found that the accused had no licence or permission from the Forest Department to procure or sell wild garlic, a fact confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Anantnag.

The money trail gave investigators a more precise picture.

Bank records showed 34,16,995 transferred into accounts linked to the accused. The complainant also produced a handwritten receipt for 13.50 lakh bearing Dar's acknowledgment.

A forensic examination concluded that Dar had written the receipt.

Police then widened the inquiry. Investigators said Dar, Mohammad Iqbal Wani and Muejeeb Ahmad Koka had used several firms under different names and presented ventures involving land, precious stones, forest produce and other commodities.

Call records showed frequent contact among the three men, which investigators cited as evidence of coordinated activity. Police also said the inquiry had identified other people who may have fallen victim to the alleged operation.

The wild-garlic complaint became FIR No. 126/2025 at Anantnag police station. Police later raided three locations to gather further evidence and identify possible victims or associates. Officials described the investigation as an organised financial crime probe.

"The fraudulent schemes relied on a simple pitch: invest money in an apparently profitable venture and expect a substantial return," a senior police officer said. "The victims were later confronted with demands for more money and, when they sought repayment, criminal intimidation."

The case has since moved beyond the original 55 lakh complaint.

The police now describe Dar as a habitual offender whose alleged activities extended through several forms of commerce, giving the investigation a wider reach than a single disputed transaction.

"The PSA detention describes the assessment that his alleged conduct posed a broader threat to public order," the officer said.

The allegations remain under investigation and judicial scrutiny.

But the probe that began with a 55 lakh wild-garlic deal has widened to fake antiques, Ayurvedic products, land and other ventures, leaving police to trace the full extent of what they describe as a wider fraud network.

Wagener Stadium Set for India-Pakistan Clash After 53 Years

Press Trust of India

AMSTELVEEN (NETHERLANDS): The Wagener Stadium, which witnessed one of the most fiercely contested India-Pakistan matches in World Cup history more than five decades ago, is set to host another chapter of the storied rivalry when the two arch-rivals meet in the FIH World Cup on Wednesday.

It was at this very venue on August 31, 1973 that India edged Pakistan 1-0 in the semifinal of the World Cup, with B P Govinda scoring the decisive goal in the 62nd minute to send the team into the final.

For captain M P Ganesh the match remains one of the most memorable India-Pakistan encounters he witnessed.

"It was one of the fittest Indian teams playing abroad. We outplayed Pakistan, but we could have scored more



goals. Surjit was in top form and scored nine goals in the tournament," the 80-year-old Ganesh recalled.

He considers that semifinal one of the finest India-Pakistan clashes at a World Cup, played against

the backdrop of the political tension between the two countries.

"That was the best India-Pakistan match in the World Cup. The semifinal was like a war of skills. Those days every match we played against

each other was like an on-field war," Ganesh said.

"The bitterness of the 1971 war was still afresh. We were enemies at the border and on the ground too, of course within the rules and regulations."

Ganesh recalled that the rivalry in those days was intense even away from the playing field.

"We weren't used to wishing each other. I remember in the 1971 World Cup, during the march past, we were standing next to each other but didn't see each other," he said.

The 1973 semifinal was a battle of equals, with neither side willing to give an inch. India eventually found the breakthrough through Govinda, whose goal secured a 1-0 victory.

"Both the teams played really well. Nobody wanted to lose. It was a very rough and tough match," Ganesh said.

India's victory carried them into the final, also at the Wagener Stadium, where they faced hosts Netherlands. The match ended 2-2 after extra time before the Dutch won 4-2 on penalty strokes to claim the title.

Tickets Sold Out

The much-anticipated India-Pakistan clash at the FIH Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday is a sell-out, with the 10,000-capacity Wagener Stadium set to witness a packed house for the high-profile Pool D contest.

The match has generated considerable interest among the Indian and Pakistani communities in the Netherlands, with tickets having been sold online in phases since September 2025.

"Tickets were sold online from September 2025. We have sold them in phases, with the first phase in September and the next one in March this year," Tamara Bouwmans, communication officer of the Royal Dutch Hockey Association (KNHB), told PTL.

The ticketing platform offered several categories, with prices ranging from 35 Euros for a South Stand ticket for non-Dutch matches to 57 Euros for a covered Main Stand day ticket. Hospitality tickets were priced at 251.34

Euros.

Bouwmans said that when a group-stage day is completely sold out, half-day passes are offered through the ticketing platform. These passes allow spectators to watch all matches on that day except the one involving the Netherlands.

For Indian-origin residents in the Netherlands, the India-Pakistan match has been particularly special.

"I wanted to watch the India-Pakistan match with my family, but tickets are not available. This is the first time the Indian team is playing a World Cup here, so we were really excited," said Anjana Pabbi, who has been living in the Netherlands for the last eight years.

"We will now watch it on TV and cheer for Harmanpreet Singh and the team," she added.

Wagener Stadium was sold out earlier for the tournament co-host Netherlands team's matches.

Bowlers Place India on Verge of Big Win Over SL

Press Trust of India

GALLE: Backed by Rishabh Pant's quintessential 66, India's bowlers displayed ruthless efficiency to reduce Sri Lanka to 84 for four at stumps on the fourth day as the visitors positioned themselves for a massive victory in the first Test here on Tuesday.

Pant, Devdutt Padikkal (44) and KL Rahul (35) pulled in their combined weight to take India to 193 in their second innings, raising an improbable target of 372 in front of Sri Lanka, who are still 288 runs away from that mark.

For the hosts, skipper Dhananjaya de Silva (31) and first innings century-maker Sonal Dinusha (25) were manning the crease at close.

For a better understanding of the huge mountain in front of Sri Lanka, the highest ever successful chase in Test cricket at the Galle stadium is 344 by Pakistan in 2022, and a 200-plus target was surmounted only twice at this venue since 1998.

The weight of that unfavourable history on them was so evident when the Lankans came out to bat in the fourth innings after a brief rain delay.

They looked cagey, and the first wicket did not take too long to come.

Mohammed Siraj hurried Nishan Fernando into a pull, and the latter could not control the shot which was taken in the deep by Prasidh Krishna.

Prasidh himself had a moment of joy soon when he ousted Kamindu Mendis.

After setting Mendis up with three in-coming deliveries, Prasidh served one that went away and the left-hander nibbled it to Rahul in the cordon.

Between those two strikes, left-arm spinner Manav Suthar dislodged Pasindu Sooriyabandara, who came in as a concussion substitute for Dinesh Chandimal.

Chandimal sustained an injury while fielding during the first session of the day, hitting his shoulder and head hard on the ground.

Chandimal was cleared of any injury in the subsequent scan, but could not clear the concussion test.

However, that chancy entry into Test cricket lasted just one ball, as Sooriyabandara was trapped leg before by Suthar who later added the wicket of Lahiru Udara to his burgeoning kitty.



Pant Fastest to Hit 100 Sixes in Test Cricket

Dashing wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant became the first Indian player and fourth in the world to complete the rare milestone of 100 sixes in Test cricket during the fourth day of the opening game against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday.

En route his milestone, Pant also became the fastest to 100 maximums in only his 51st game while former England skipper Ben Stokes had reached the mark in his 82nd Test.

Ahead of Pant is Stokes (138 sixes), New Zealand's Brendon McCullum (107 sixes) and Australia's maverick keeper-batter Adam Gilchrist (100 sixes).

Before the start of the game,

Pant was on 97 sixes and in the first innings equalled Chris Gayle's record of 98 sixes.

Among Indians, both Virender Sehwag and Rohit Sharma, with 91 sixes each, are joint second in the list.

List of Batters With Highest Number of Sixes

1. Ben Stokes (England) - 138 sixes
2. Brendon McCullum (New Zealand) 107 sixes
3. Adam Gilchrist (Australia) - 100 sixes
4. Rishabh Pant* (India) - 100 sixes
5. Chris Gayle (West Indies) - 98 sixes.

Earlier, the Lankan bowlers were suitably rewarded with regular wickets for using the pitch and conditions to good effect.

But Padikkal first and Pant later ensured that there would not be too many jitters in the Indian camp.

Pant twisted, turned, twirled and fell down while executing his shots in typical Pant-style to reach a 53-ball fifty.

The left-hander reached the little landmark with a six off pacer Lahiru Kumara, and he added 54 runs for the sixth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja. It was also his 100th six in Test cricket, and he became the first Indian and the quickest batter to achieve that feat.

If anyone was ever in doubt over Pant's place in the Test side, this knock would give them an evidence of the left-hander's value in red ball format.

However, Pant's adventures

ended with a snick to stumper Niroshan Dickwella off Kumara. Before that Padikkal, who made a 167 in the first innings, looked in perfect touch again.

The left-hander swept and cut spinners at will, giving India some valuable runs to break away from the home side.

A straight punch off off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha was the stand-out shot of his innings, as Padikkal showed the penchant to put away even good balls.

But the Karnataka man eventually fell to a zipping ball from off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha that pinned him to the back foot. Padikkal did resort to DRS but to no avail.

However, India's second innings had a shaky start as a laden-footed Yashasvi Jaiswal edged pacer Asitha Fernando to Dickwella in the first over itself.

India Likely to Host Cape Verde in September-October

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Another footballing bonanza could be in store for Indian fans, with the Blue Tigers likely to host recent World Cup sensation Cape Verde between September 30 and October 6, according to sources.

The proposed fixture could be played either before or after India's high-profile friendly against Brazil in Kolkata on October 3, with discussions on the Cape Verde match, including the venue and exact date, still underway.

"The talks are on but it is yet to be finalised. But there

is high probability that India will host Cape Verde between September 30 and October 6," a source told PTL.

"The venue and date will be decided after it's officially finalised. The modalities and deliberations are on. Hopefully, it will be finalised shortly."

Currently ranked 64, Cape Verde grabbed global attention at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, reaching the last-32 on their debut and producing an unbeaten group-stage campaign.

The tiny African nation held eventual champions Spain to a goalless draw, played out a thrilling 2-2

draw against Uruguay and drew 0-0 with Saudi Arabia to progress to the knockout stage.

Their remarkable run finally ended against defending champions Argentina, but not before Cape Verde pushed the defending champions all the way.

They twice fought back from behind before eventually going down 2-3 after extra time in the round of 32.

The campaign marked a historic first World Cup appearance for Cape Verde, who became the smallest country and the second least-populated nation after Iceland to qualify for the tournament.

Big Blow: Babar Azam Ruled Out of 1st Test vs England

AP

LEEDS (ENGLAND): Pakistan captain Babar Azam was ruled out of the first test against England starting on Wednesday because of a hand injury.

Babar was struck on the middle finger of his right hand while batting against the West Indies this month, and hit again in a warmup game last week in Beckenham.

"Pakistan captain Babar Azam is unavailable for the first test match," Pakistan coach Sarfaraz Ahmed said on Tuesday.

"Salman Agha will be the captain for the first test."

Ahmed said the finger was not broken and he hoped the pain will reduce so Babar could play in the second test at Lord's starting on Aug. 27.

But his absence was a blow to Pakistan. Babar had just been reappointed captain and led the scoring in the West Indies. Agha will captain the test team for the first time. He's the skipper of the Twenty20 side.

Shan Masood, whom Babar replaced as captain, was recovered from his own broken finger during the first test in the West Indies. He missed



the second test and warmup game but he'll return to the top order at Headingley.

"Our practice match gave us a lot of confidence," Ahmed said. "Whatever bases we needed to cover with bat and ball, we did. We believe we'll do very well here."

Pakistan is touring England for the first time since 2020 and the host appears vulnerable after losing the home series against New Zealand in June. Captain Ben Stokes retired and coach Brendon McCullum was fired and replaced by fellow New Zealander Stephen Fleming. However, Fleming will miss the Pakistan series and Marcus Trescothick will be in interim charge.

Joe Root expects to be a much better England captain than he was the first time

from 2017-22. He's led England in a record 65 tests and earned 27 wins, 27 losses.

He noted the circumstances were different from his first stint, and he was not the same player and person. He felt "very fortunate and in a unique position" to accept the captaincy again following the retirement of Stokes. He said he'd learned a lot from playing under Stokes and McCullum.

"I feel as ready as any other England captain that's ever been before," Root said. "To have that amount of experience is invaluable."

He confirmed Harry Brook, who Stokes endorsed for the captaincy, was continuing as vice-captain.

"I fully feel he's got my back like the rest of the guys do," Root said.

Real Madrid Presents José Mourinho in Closed-door Ceremony



AP

MADRID: In an unusual ceremony closed to the media and fans, Real Madrid officially presented coach José Mourinho on Tuesday.

The event took place at the club's headquarters in Madrid, with president Florentino Pérez welcoming the coach.

The only images of the presentation were provided by Real Madrid TV and the club's website and social media accounts.

"I'm one of you," Mourinho said in a message to fans in a video released by the club. "And not just today, but since I arrived in 2010 and after I left in 2013, always with you. ... To return to Real Madrid is to return home."

Madrid said the coach was signed for three seasons until June 30, 2029.

After the signing, Madrid said Mourinho received a replica of the stadium, a watch and a jersey with his name.

Madrid has been revamped after a second consecutive season without a major title. In addition to Mourinho, who replaced Álvaro Arbeloa, the club also brought in players such as Marc Cucurella, Ibrahima Konaté, Denzel Dumfries, Bernardo Silva and Yan Djanogly.

Kylian Mbappé, Vinícius Júnior and Jude Bellingham will lead the squad again as it tries to keep Barcelona from winning a third straight La Liga title.

Mourinho was hired in June and officially took over in July at the start of the pre-season.



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 29 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

29 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

VISIT <https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN 

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE INKISHAF VOX POP UNRAVEL KASHMIR

Cancer-causing Chemicals in Cars: Study Findings by May 2027



Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Aug 18: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that its nationwide study to detect cancer-causing chemicals in cars is expected to be completed by May 2027.

The green body was hearing the matter in which it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a media report titled 'People are breathing in cancer-causing chemicals in their cars, study finds'.

According to the report, researchers analysed the cabin air of 101 electric, gas and hybrid cars with a model year between 2015 and 2022, and found that 99 per cent of cars contained a flame retardant called TCIPP, which is under investigation by the US National Toxicology Program as a potential carcinogen.

Besides, most cars also had two more flame retardants, TDCIPP and TCEP, which are considered carcinogenic, it said.

The tribunal had then directed the ICMR to submit progress reports about its proposed study involving collection and analysis

of biological samples to evaluate the health risks of flame retardant exposure to drivers.

In an order dated August 13, made available on Tuesday, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad reviewed the ICMR's report.

"Dr Sivaperumal, Scientist, ICMR, appearing virtually, has submitted that the work had started from November 2, 2025, and the work will be completed within 18 months.

"He has disclosed that the entire work is in three phases focusing on southern, eastern and western regions and in each region 60 samples will be collected and analysed, including 97 controlled samples," the bench said.

It noted that in the western region, the council has already collected 50 samples, out of which 40 have been analysed.

"He (scientist) has also informed that the entire exercise will be completed by May 2, 2027," the bench noted.

Taking note of the progress, the NGT has directed the ICMR to file a fresh status report. The matter has been listed for further proceedings on November 4.

Sonia Gandhi Memoir Revisits Love, Loss and Lost Top Job

HILLEL ITALIE

New York, Aug 18 (AP) Sonia Gandhi has a memoir coming out this fall in which she will reflect on the promise and the tragedy of marrying into India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty and on her own career in government.

Alfred A Knopf announced Tuesday that Gandhi's "Belonging: A Journey of Love" will be published November 10.

"Much has been written about my family, but few narratives were able to reach into the truth of their motivations, their actions and even their very human failings," Sonia Gandhi said in a statement issued through Knopf.

"In many ways, this book is a homage to their humanness. My story also offers readers a unique perspective of the social and political changes I have witnessed for six decades in the beautiful country of my belonging."

Gandhi, 79, is a native of Italy who was studying in Cambridge, England, when she met fellow student and future husband Rajiv Gandhi, grandson of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and son of India's first female prime minister, Indira Gandhi.

In "Belonging," she writes of her life being upended when her mother-in-law is assassi-



nated in 1984 and succeeded by Rajiv Gandhi, who seven years later was also murdered. She too would eventually enter politics and become the longest-serving president of the Indian National Congress Party while also turning down her party's offer to become prime minister. Her party lost power to current Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party in 2014.

"It was heartbreak and loss that threw me into the public world of politics. Up till then I had guarded my privacy fiercely," she said in her statement.

"Writing about my life did not come easily to me. It meant opening myself up, sharing moments and experiences I had

always held deep inside," she said. "Yet as I gradually removed myself from the political sphere and looked back at all I had seen, the thread of love and loyalty that wove through my story began to define itself, from the simplicity of my childhood in small-town Italy, to the complexity of my years in India as the wife of Rajiv Gandhi and the daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi."

The Nehru-Gandhi family remains active in politics. Both of Sonia Gandhi's children, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, are members of the Indian parliament's lower house from the Congress party.

Facebook Friend Request Costs Man Rs 15.2 Lakh



Press Trust of India

Gorakhpur, Aug 18: A Facebook friendship turned costly for a man from Gorakhpur's Khajni area after cyber fraudsters allegedly duped him of Rs 15.20 lakh by claiming that a woman's luggage had been detained at Delhi airport, police said on Tuesday.

Indralal Jaiswal, a resident of Khorla alias Bhati village, approached police after realising that he had been cheated. An FIR has been registered against an unidentified woman and the case is being investigated with the help of the cybercrime cell, police said.

According to Jaiswal's complaint, he became friends on Facebook with a woman who introduced herself as Charlotte Olivia and claimed to be a US resident working in Syria. During their conversations, she allegedly told him that she wanted to visit India.

Later, the woman claimed that she had reached Delhi airport but that officials had detained her luggage and demanded money for its release.

Believing her claims, Jaiswal transferred Rs 15,20,399 from his SBI account through the bank's app to several bank accounts provided by the woman, according to the complaint.

However, the demands for further payments allegedly continued, following which Jaiswal became suspicious and realised that he had fallen victim to a cyber fraud.

He subsequently lodged a complaint on the national cybercrime portal and approached the police. Jaiswal told investigators that the WhatsApp numbers linked to the woman displayed the names Charlotte Olivia and Sonam Kumari.

He has also submitted transaction records and other evidence to the police, officials said.

Inspector Jayant Kumar Singh said, "an FIR had been registered against an unidentified woman in the name of Charlotte Olivia."

"The cybercrime cell is examining the transactions and collecting details of the bank accounts allegedly used in the fraud," he said.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475
1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar – 190001