

US Envoy: Kashmir An Important Part of India

Cites improved security, Hints at Lifting of Travel Advisory

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The United States may reconsider its travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir following steps taken by the Centre and the J&K government to improve security in the region, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his residence in Srinagar, Gor said Washington periodically reviews its travel warnings and indicated that the existing advisory for Jammu and Kashmir would also be reassessed.

"The United States puts out travel warnings, and every so often, we re-evaluate those travel warnings. I cannot make



any big announcements here today, but it is something we are going to look at," Gor said.

He said the government in New Delhi and the J&K administration had taken "incredible steps" | [More on P10](#)

Qualified, Selected, Still Waiting: An Engineer's Disability Rights Battle

Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: When Amir Suhail Wani saw his name in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board's provisional selection list for Junior Engineer (Electrical), it should have marked the end of a long competitive process.

Instead, it became the beginning of another wait.

Wani, an engineering graduate from the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, who lives with cerebral palsy and speech impairment, had appeared in the OMR-based examination for the post on October 25, 2025. His candidature had been provisionally accepted and he had been issued an admit card. The provisional selection list published on February 23, 2026, carried his name.

But his recommendation for appointment was



withheld.

What followed was initially presented as a problem of documentation. Authorities sought clarification regarding his disability certificate and a minor variation in his father's name across documents.

Wani approached the concerned authorities to address the objections. A

Medical Board constituted by the Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar, subsequently certified that he was a known case of cerebral palsy and found his disability certificate genuine. An Executive Magistrate/ Tehsildar separately conducted an inquiry into the variation in his father's name and issued a certificate

establishing his identity.

But the matter did not end there.

According to the case before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Wani was subsequently subjected to another medical examination by a board headed by the Principal of Government Medical College, Srinagar. He approached the Tribunal after his recommendation continued to remain withheld.

And that is where the dispute takes on a larger significance.

More than a document dispute

Wani's case before CAT Srinagar is not simply about whether his documents are genuine. At its centre is a challenge to the way certain posts have been identified for persons with benchmark disabilities.

In his original application, Wani has | [More on P10](#)

Flash Floods Hit Parts of Kashmir

No loss of life or property reported

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Flash floods were reported in parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday following intense spells of rainfall, officials said, prompting a weather alert for vulnerable and hilly areas.

A flash flood occurred in the Wangath area of Ganderbal district, while minor flash floods were also reported from Haknar and Gund following an intense spell of rain between 1 pm and 3 pm, officials said.

There were no reports of loss of life or damage to property in the affected areas.

A flash flood was also reported from the Shadab Karewa area of Shopian district, where an extremely heavy spell of rain accompanied by gusty winds lashed parts of the district.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, said rainfall was being reported from several parts of north, central and south Kashmir, besides Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Banihal-Ramban, | [More on P10](#)

Kashmir's Issues Lie with Delhi, Not Washington

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday discussed the situation in the Union Territory with visiting US Ambassador Sergio Gor, while reiterating that the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir's internal issues lies with the central government and not Washington. The meeting came after Abdullah had made it clear earlier in the day that while he was willing | [More on P10](#)

Q MY VISIT TO KASHMIR IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. Everybody here knows I'm the US Ambassador to India, and this is an important part of India. I'm here visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place, and so I'm thrilled to be here."

• US Ambassador to India

65 Building Violations HC Directs Action Against Special Tribunal Member

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the Government to initiate "appropriate" action against a former member of the J&K Special Tribunal, who was prima facie found guilty of compounding 65 major building violations for "extraneous" considerations.

In this regard, a Division Bench comprising Acting

Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani directed its Registry to forward the vigilance report to the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir for appropriate action against the erring public servant.

The court passed the directions while closing a Public Interest Litigation concerning alleged

violations of building bye-laws in Gogji Bagh area of Srinagar.

The PIL was initially filed by Dr Abdul Rouf Malik, claiming to represent the inhabitants of Gogji Bagh, who had raised concerns over the erection and re-erection of residential and commercial buildings in violation | [More on P10](#)

HC Pulls Up Govt Over Delay In Wetland Conservation Plans

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has pulled up the Jammu and Kashmir Government over its failure to respond for nearly a year to the Centre's communication on conservation plans for three wetland reserves.

While hearing a Public Interest Litigation concerning

environmental protection, a Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani also sought an explanation for excluding other Ramsar Sites from the management planning process.

The Court passed the directions after being informed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and | [More on P10](#)

Turn Students Into Creators, Not Mere Job Seekers: LG Sinha

Addressed 23rd Foundation Day of SMVDU; Urges focus on research, innovation & real-world solutions



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called upon universities to transform students into creators of opportunities rather than mere job

seekers, stressing the need to focus on research, innovation and solutions to real-world problems.

Addressing the 23rd Foundation Day celebrations of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), | [More on P10](#)

MSMEs Key To India's Economic Resilience: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called for a technology-driven, globally competitive and inclusive ecosystem for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), describing them as the "true builders" of India's economic resilience. Addressing the second edition of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) | [More on P10](#)

**REVENUE DEPARTMENT**
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

JK ZAMEEN SUDHAR PORTAL

JAMABANDI (LAND RECORDS)

CHECK YOUR RECORD AND REGISTER YOUR GRIEVANCE

Your Land. Your Record. Your Right.

The Revenue Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has launched the JK Zameen Sudhar Portal to make land records transparent, accessible and citizen-friendly.

The portal enables easy public access to digitized Jamabandi and related land record services.

CHECK YOUR JAMABANDI

- 1 Visit the portal: jkzameensudhar.jk.gov.in
- 2 Select District, Tehsil and Village
- 3 Search the Jamabandi record
- 4 View and verify land details online

RAISE & TRACK A GRIEVANCE

- 1 Open the grievance section on the portal
- 2 Submit your objection / discrepancy with details
- 3 Receive acknowledgement / reference number
- 4 Track status online for timely resolution

Transparent land records

Easy online access

Search and verification services

Grievance submission and tracking

Citizen-friendly digital interface

ACCESS YOUR LAND RECORDS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

<https://jkzameensudhar.jk.gov.in>

YOUR DATA IS SECURE. YOUR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED.

SAVE TIME | ENSURE ACCURACY | EMPOWER CITIZENS.

Be Informed. Be Empowered. Be a Part of Transparent Land Governance.

DIPK-4755/26 | Dated: 19.08.2026

**IFFJK**
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



7-10 SEPTEMBER 2026

1ST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DON'T MISS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IFFJK

Events

Updates

Announcements

Festival Information

Download IFFJK App Stay Updated

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD



Download on the App Store



GET IT ON Google Play



 www.iffjk.org



No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

2

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بھائی ابراہیم یونس زکریا کوٹلیہ صاحب کے نام پر یعنی 0206010005082 جو کوئٹہ کے سرکار کے پرنسپل علی محمد شاہ کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی مشتاق احمد شاہ کے نام پر کروانا مطلب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض چودہ دوہا ست دان کے اندر اندر ایک ہفتہ تک تحریر کی ذی ذی یادگار ہے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معاذ اللہ نے کہ بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

مشتاق احمد شاہ ولد اسد شاہ ساکنہ گرجا باغ گند پڑ گاؤں۔

فون 9103043010 MBC۔

PUBLIC NOTICE

I intend to apply to the Office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir, for the registration of my proposed homestay under the name and style "l'aire du pèlerin Peregrine's Nest" situated at Saidpora Bala, Harwan, Srinagar - 191121, Kashmir, under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from the concerned Tehsilardar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, in any form in print media, list of family members with name, age, and photograph self attested by the owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bedrooms and bathrooms), inspection report by the committee. The recommendation of the inspection committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now, before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

Dr. Sadaf Munshi,
D/o Munshi Abul Hassan,
R/o Rather Mohalla, Syedpora, Harwan, Srinagar - 191121

SS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tabasum Akhter, D/O Ghulam Mohammad Wani, R/O Jawalapora, Tehsil Budgam, District Budgam, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, have applied for the late entry / issuance of my Date of Birth Certificate. My actual date of birth is 15/02/1994, which was not previously registered in the concerned Chhokidar / Police records. If any person has any objection regarding the issuance / late entry registration of my Date of Birth Certificate, they may file their objection in writing before the competent authority (Registrar Births & Deaths / CMO Budgam) within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Applicant: Tabasum Akhter
D/O Ghulam Mohammad Wani
R/O Jawalapora, Tehsil & District Budgam, UT of J&K

mcb

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD
OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in
Secondary School Examination
(Class-10th) under Roll No: 840278,
Session: 2000-2001, year: 2020
through the Jammu and Kashmir
Board of School Education. The
error committed by the School
/Parent/Board against my Name
and Father's name as Nadiya Gulam
Safdar D/o Gh Safdar instead of
Nadiya Safdar D/o Ghulam Safdar
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error
in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education,
New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any
objection in this regard, may file the same in the office
of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within
seven days from the date of publication of this notice,
after the expiry of said period no objection will be
entertained. This is published for the information of
general public.

Nadiya Safdar
Father's Name: Ghulam Safdar
Mother's Name: Shamshada
Date of Birth: 04-04-1985
Residence: Alamgari Bazar Near PHC Zadibal

Spring Silk Cocoon Auction Begins in Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Spring Silk Cocoon Auction Market for Kashmir commenced at the Sericulture Complex, Srinagar.

The market was inaugurated by Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director Sericulture, in the presence of departmental officers, cocoon growers from various districts of Kashmir Division and buyers from within and outside the Union Territory.

The Cocoon Auction Market has been organized with the objective of ensuring fair and remunerative prices to cocoon growers through a transparent and competitive bidding process. The initiative is part of the Department's continued efforts to strengthen the sericulture sector and improve the economic well-being of silkworm rearers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director reiterated the Department's commitment to providing adequate market facilities to cocoon growers and ensuring better returns for their produce. He also highlighted the focus on expanding the infrastructure base by establishing more Silkworm Reeling Units across Jammu & Kashmir to promote local silk production.

"Our aim is to ensure that the cocoon produce generated in Jammu & Kashmir is largely consumed within the Union Territory itself. This

will not only boost the local silk industry but also help our farmers realize better returns for their produce," Bhat said.

The auction market is expected to contribute significantly towards enhancing the income of cocoon growers by facilitating direct interaction between sellers and buyers, promoting competitive bidding and ensuring transparent price discovery. The Department has put in place arrangements for the smooth conduct of the auction, including proper space allocation, weighing and quality assessment facilities.

Cocoon growers and buyers actively participated in the auction process. The growers appreciated the arrangements and transparent mechanism adopted by the Department, expressing hope for better returns in view of the improved quality and quantity of cocoons produced across Kashmir Division.

The buyers also appreciated the quality of cocoons available at the market, noting improvement in both quality and quantum compared to previous years.

The successful commencement of the Cocoon Auction Market marks another significant step towards empowering cocoon growers, strengthening the local silk value chain and revitalizing the silk industry in Jammu & Kashmir.

Conference on Gender Equality Concludes at GCW M.A. Road



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A two-day national conference on "Gender Equality in the 21st Century, Perspectives & Pathways to SDG-5" concluded at Government College for Women (GCW), M.A. Road, Srinagar, on Wednesday, with speakers stressing the need to translate academic discussions on gender equality into meaningful social change.

Prof. Mufti Mudasar, Professor and Head of the Department of English, University of Kashmir, was the special guest at the valedictory session and delivered the valedictory address, a spokesperson said in a statement.

He said Prof. Mudasar examined gender justice through religious, intellectual and legal traditions, calling for critical and creative engagement with tradition rather than viewing tradition and reform as incompatible.

"Referring to Islamic intellectual history, particularly the ideas of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, he said questions concerning women, justice and legal interpretation had long been debated within the intellectual tradition itself."

He also highlighted the historical challenges faced by women in matters such as marriage and divorce, besides Iqbal's concerns over interpretations that could lead to inequitable outcomes.

The spokesperson said Prof. Mudasar maintained that commitment to religious and spiritual traditions could co-exist with a vision of gender justice rooted in human dignity, compassion and fairness.

He stressed the need for an open-minded approach to gender-related issues while remaining mindful of the cultural and religious contexts of different societies.

Earlier, Prof. Shabir Ahmed Parrey, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, delivered the welcome address, while Prof. Mustafa Majid, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, presented a consolidated report of the technical sessions.

"Principal Prof. (Dr.) Yasmeen Farooq said the conference brought together diverse perspectives on gender equality, covering education, economy, political participation, literature, media, technology, environment and everyday social experiences," he said.

Man Dies in Road Accident at Peerbagh

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 35-year-old man was killed after the Alto car he was driving collided with another vehicle at Peerbagh area of Srinagar on Wednesday late evening, officials said.

An official told KNO that the Alto car collided with

another vehicle, leaving its driver critically injured.

He said the man was declared brought dead at the hospital. He was later identified as Ziya Ahmad Malik (35), son of Abdul Gafer Malik, a resident of Rawalpora, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been taken up.

ACB FIR Over Rajbagh ‘Trends’ Building, Officials, Owners Named

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case against several government officials and beneficiaries over alleged irregularities in the grant and subsequent modification of building permissions for a multi-storey commercial building in the flood basin and river-fringe area of Rajbagh here, officials said on Wednesday.

The FIR, registered as Case/FIR No. 10/2026 by ACB Srinagar, follows a Joint Surprise Check and subsequent verification into allegations that the building, identified as "Trends" and located opposite Hatrick restaurant in Rajbagh, was constructed in violation of planning, building and flood-control regulations.

According to the ACB, the verification prima facie revealed alleged abuse of official position, criminal conspiracy and facilitation of unauthorised construction, besides encroachment of about 2.9 kanals of State/Kahcharai land.

The probe also allegedly found construction over drainage infrastructure and within the prohibited river-fringe area of the Jhelum.

Those named in the FIR include the then Senior Town Planner, Srinagar Development Authority, Muneer Ahmad Khan; then Joint Commissioner Planning, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, R K Tutoo; then In-charge Assistant Town Planner, SMC, Ulfat Jan; and beneficiaries Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh and his wife, Parveena Akhter.

Other officials found to have a role in the alleged irregularities have also been proceeded against, the ACB said.

The case has been registered under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt., 2006, and Sections 447-A, 468 and 120-B RPC, along with other applicable provisions.

The investigation has been entrusted to an authorised officer of ACB Srinagar.

According to the verification report, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer, SMC had initially issued building permissions Nos. 1052 dated January 18, 2006, and 724 dated September 20, 2006, in favour of Gulzar Sheikh, son of Habibullah Sheikh, a resident of Kanipora, Shopian, and his wife, Parveena Akhter, presently residing at Sanat Nagar, Srinagar.

The permissions were subsequently withdrawn through SMC Order No. 891 of 2006 dated November 4, 2006, on the ground that



the land had been notified for acquisition for construction of a public park.

The withdrawal order was later quashed by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on September 11, 2013.

Following the court order, the then Joint Commissioner Planning, SMC, restored the two building permissions through Order No. 02 of 2015 dated October 17, 2015.

The ACB, however, alleged that the beneficiaries did not commence construction in accordance with the restored sanctioned plans and instead sought modification of the permissions.

The modified permission, No. 80 of 2017 dated July 18, 2017, was subsequently issued by Tutoo, according to the verification.

The modification allegedly resulted in a substantial increase in the sanctioned plinth area from around 8,100 square feet to 10,260 square feet, while the permissible height was increased from 50 feet to 70 feet.

The ACB alleged that the changes were made in violation of the Srinagar Master Plan 2000-2021 and applicable building bye-laws.

The verification further found that mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from concerned line departments had allegedly not been obtained before the modified building permission was issued.

The then-in-charge Assistant Town Planner, Ulfat Jan, allegedly recommended the modification involving the addition of the fourth and fifth floors without obtaining the requisite NOCs, following which the modified permission was approved by the then Joint Commissioner Planning, the ACB alleged. The probe also examined clearances relating to flood-control regulations.

According to the verification, the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, had issued a conditional clearance in 2005, vide communication No. 3396-97 dated

October 13, 2005.

The clearance reportedly noted that the site was situated near the inner slope of the river body and fell within a flood-prone area, with conditions and restrictions attached to the clearance.

Despite this, building permissions were issued in 2006, the ACB alleged.

The verification further noted that following the devastating floods of 2014, the then Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Er Mir Javid Jaffer, had cancelled all previously issued NOCs through Circular No. 366-406 dated October 28, 2014.

A subsequent report of the department, bearing No. CE/I&FCDK/10126-28 dated October 8, 2025, allegedly confirmed that no fresh or subsequent NOC had been issued in respect of the subject survey numbers.

The ACB also examined the land-use classification of the property.

It alleged that Muneer Ahmad Khan, then Senior Town Planner, SDA, had, through a communication dated April 15, 2005, projected the subject land as falling in Commercial Zone (C-30), despite the land allegedly forming part of a water body under the Srinagar Master Plan 2000-2021.

The bureau is also examining the alleged encroachment of approximately 2.9 kanals of State/Kahcharai land and the construction carried out over drainage infrastructure and within the river-fringe/flood-basin area.

The ACB said the registration of the FIR followed a detailed verification of the allegations and that the investigation is underway to establish the role and criminal liability, if any, of the officials and beneficiaries concerned.

The registration of an FIR does not by itself establish guilt, which will be determined in accordance with law.

Div Com Reviews Preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.) and the following Friday, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg convened a high-level meeting on Wednesday to assess and strengthen arrangements at major mosques and shrines across the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner SMC, SSPs, VC LCMA, senior officials from various departments, including KPDCL, PHE, FCS&CA, PWD, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, LCMA, Wakf Board, Health, Police and Traffic departments, along with religious representatives from prominent shrines.

The Divisional Commissioner conducted a detailed assessment of essential facilities at major religious sites, including Hazratbal Shrine, Jenab Sahib Saura, Assar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag and Peth-makhama Budgam, besides other mosques and shrines expected to witness significant gatherings for night prayers.

He gave special emphasis on arrangements at Hazratbal Shrine, where more than one lakh devotees are anticipated to participate in congregational and night prayers. Garg instructed the concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements remain fully functional throughout the occasion.

The Chief Engineer, KPDCL was directed to maintain an uninterrupted power supply at Hazratbal, along with a reliable backup arrangement through DG sets. The PHE department was asked to establish sufficient drinking-water points and keep water tankers available as an emergency measure.



To ensure convenient movement of devotees, SSCL, SRTC and ARTO were instructed to deploy adequate buses and e-autos, including services extending into the late hours. Traffic Police Srinagar was asked to prepare a comprehensive route plan for visitors arriving from different districts to prevent congestion and facilitate smooth traffic flow.

Emphasising the need for adequate shelter and crowd-management facilities, the Divisional Commissioner directed Wakf authorities to make advance arrangements for tents at designated religious locations.

The Commissioner of SMC was instructed to undertake an extensive sanitation and cleanliness campaign at Hazratbal Shrine and its surrounding areas.

To safeguard public health, joint market-inspection teams were ordered to monitor food quality, hygiene standards and pricing around markets and religious sites.

Garg stressed strict action against traders found violating prescribed quality standards or resorting to overcharging.

The Health Department was directed to establish medical camps and deploy personnel according to duty rosters, while Fire & Emergency Services were instructed to position fire tenders at vulnerable and strategically important locations to ensure a rapid response in case of any emergency.

Religious leaders attending the meeting expressed satisfaction with the arrangements being undertaken for the occasion.

DCs were instructed to ensure availability of essential commodities and services during the religious occasion.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioners briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the preparations and facilities being put in place in their respective districts.

- 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
- BUIBHARA: 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 6 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1448	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4 : 24
	ZUHR	12 : 35
	ASR	5 : 20
	Magrib	7 : 18
	ISHA	8 : 44

This Day In History

- 2- Venus and Jupiter in conjunction - possible astrological explanation for Star of Bethlehem
- 1391- Konrad von Wallenrode becomes the 24th Hochmeister of the Teutonic Order.
- 636 - Battle at Yarmuk: Muslims beat Byzantines
- 1641 - England & Scotland sign Treaty of Pacification
- 1828 - Hindi reform movement Brahmo Samaj founded by Ram Mohan
- Roy and Dwarkanath Tagore in Calcutta 1864 - 8th/last day of battle at Deep Bottom Run Va (about 3,900 casualties)
- 1900 - Great Britain beats France by 158 runs in Paris; cricket's only appearance at an Olympic Games
- 1905- Sun Yat-sen, Chinese revolutionary, forms the first chapter of T'ung Meng Hui, a union of all secret societies determined to bringing down the Manchus
- 1914 - Battle at Gumbinnen, East-Prussia: Russians beat Germans
- 1914 - Battle at Morhange: German troops chase French, killing thousands
- 1914 - Bavarian troops kill 50 inhabitants of Nomeny, France, Ed Klepfer & \$31,500; Jackson involved in Black Sox Scandal' 1919
- 1918 - WWI: Britain opens offensive on Western front invasion in Mongolia
- 1940 - 1st Polish squadrons fight along allies in the Battle of Britain
- 1944 - Soviet offensive at Jassy & Kisjinev
- 1944 - US & British forces destroy German 7th Army at Falaise-Argentan Gap
- 1953 - General Fazlollah Zahedi arrests Iranian Prime Minister
- Mohammad Mosaddegh in a CIA supported coup d'état
- 1960 - USSR recovers 2 dogs, 1st living organisms to return from space
- 1961- East Germany begins erecting 5' high wall along the border with the west to replace the barbed wire put up Aug 13
- 1968 - During the night 250,000 Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia in response to the Prague Spring
- 1974 - Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed is elected fifth President of India
- 1975 - Il-62 crashes south of Damascus, Syria, killing 126
- 1975 - Viking 1 launched to orbit around Mars, soft landing USA
- 1977 - NASA launches Voyager 2 towards Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus & Neptune
- 1980 - UN Security Council condemns (14-0, US abstains) Israeli declaration that all of Jerusalem is its capital
- 1985 - Israel ships 96 TOWs to Iran on behalf of US
- 1985 - Libya throws out 1000s Tunisian/Egyptian gas workers
- 1988- 6.5 earthquake strikes India/Nepal, 1,000s killed
- 1988- Peru becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 1990- Iraq moves Western hostages to military installations (human shields)
- 1991- Estonia formally declares its independence from the USSR
- 1992- England get 7-363 in 55 overs vs Pakistan, then world ODI record
- 1993- Oslo Peace Accords signed, after secret negotiations in Norway, followed by a public ceremony in Washington, D.C. the following month
- 1994- Archbishop Quarracino wants all homosexuals to leave Argentina

Israeli Strikes Syrian Base Hours After Turkish Visit

GHAITH ALSAYED

Damascus, Aug 19 (AP) A Turkish delegation had visited an air base in northern Syria the day before it was hit by Israeli airstrikes, Syrian officials said.

The Israeli strikes hit the Abu Duhur base early Tuesday, hours after the delegation had left, causing damage but no casualties. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement that Israel had attacked the base because Syria

demned the attack, as did Tom Barrack, the U.S. ambassador to Türkiye who also serves as special envoy to Syria, and a number of Arab countries.

Turkish officials on Wednesday did not comment on the reported presence of a Turkish military delegation. But Türkiye's communications directorate accused Netanyahu of making "untenable allegations ... intended to legitimize Israel's unlawful airstrikes targeting Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity." It alleged that Netanyahu aimed



was "on the verge of breaching" an agreed-upon "status quo in security matters" by allowing Turkish troops to deploy there.

Two Syrian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly said the Turkish delegation had visited the air base in the northwestern province of Idlib on Monday to review rehabilitation work underway at the facility.

It was the first confirmation of a Turkish presence at the Abu Duhur base.

Turkish and Syrian officials have not publicly commented on Türkiye's role there but have con-

"to pursue expansionist and destabilizing policies in the region ahead of the elections in Israel."

Türkiye "will resolutely continue to cooperate with the Syrian Government on a legitimate basis for the establishment of peace, stability, and prosperity in Syria, and will never allow the destabilization of Syria," it said.

The Abu Duhur air base lies at a strategic location near the borders between Idlib, Aleppo and Hama provinces. During the time of former Syrian President Bashar Assad, who was ousted by a rebel offensive in December 2024, MiG-23 and MiG-21 fighter jets and L-39 aircraft operated out of the base.



Pakistan Summons US Diplomat Over Kashmir Remarks

By Sajjad Hussain

Islamabad, Aug 19 Pakistan on Wednesday summoned US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker and lodged a "strong demarche" over remarks by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor regarding Jammu and Kashmir during his visit to the union territory.

In Srinagar, Gor told reporters on Wednesday that Jammu and Kashmir is an important part of India and an incredibly beautiful place.

Gor, who took a 'shikara' ride at the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar, also said that the US will reconsider the advisories on travel to Jammu and Kashmir as the central government and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have taken steps to make it a safer place.

Hours after his remarks, Pakistan's Foreign Office summoned the US Chargé d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a "strong demarche" over the comments made

It was underscored that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory, awaiting final disposition in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people

by Gor, who is also the Trump administration's Special Envoy to South and Central Asia.

"Pakistan strongly condemned and categorically rejected the characterisation of Jammu and Kashmir as a 'part of India'," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"It was underscored that

Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory, awaiting final disposition in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people," the statement added.

It was further highlighted that the "irresponsible statement" by the US ambassador "negated the long-standing and well-documented position of the United States on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and also ran contrary to the US commitment to the supremacy of international law and the UN Charter," it said.

While appreciating President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue in the aftermath of the four-day conflict in May last year, the US side "was urged to ensure that its public statements remain consistent with the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir," the statement added.

US Green Card Seekers Face New Hurdles from Sept 18

Sagar Kulkarni

Washington, Aug 19 (PTI) Immigrants seeking green cards or permanent residency in the US will face fresh hurdles as the Trump administration has expanded the definition of "public charge" to deny applications to those availing benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps or any subsistence aid from the government.

The new rule finalised by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) comes into effect from September 18 and will also hit Indians seeking green cards.

An earlier rule only considered two types of public benefits as grounds for denying a green card application: cash assistance for income maintenance and long-term institutionalisation at the government's expense.

"To make public charge inadmissibility determinations, USCIS officers will consider the five statutory factors and any other factor relevant to assessing the alien's likelihood at any time of becoming a public charge, including the alien's receipt of means-tested public benefits, such as cash assistance for income maintenance, housing assistance, food stamps, financial aid for college, or any other similar benefit," an official statement said.

The guidance follows the Department of Homeland Security's decision to rescind the 2022 Biden-era public charge regulations. The final rule was announced on July 16 and published in the Federal Register on July 20.

It will apply to Forms I-485 seeking permanent residence or adjustment of status that are post-marked or electronically submitted on or after September 18.

The new rule allows USCIS officers to count age, health, family status, finances, educational background, and even the use of public benefits by an applicant's dependents, regardless of that dependent's status, against that applicant's chances for approval.

If a USCIS officer finds that an alien applying for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident in the United States is inadmissible only because they are likely at any time to become a public charge, the USCIS officer may invite the alien to post a public charge bond.

"The public charge rule would provide even more discretion to officers to deny adjustment of status applications in light of the USCIS memo that indicates that adjustment of status requires extraordinary discretion," according to an analysis by immigration attorneys Cyrus Mehta and Damira Zhanatova.

Pakistan Extends Airspace Ban for Indian Aircraft Till Sep 24

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad- Pakistan on Wednesday extended the closure of its airspace to Indian aircraft until September 24, according to the country's airports authority.

Pakistan and India imposed matching airspace restrictions on each other's airlines after the Pahalgam terrorist attack in April 2025.

"Pakistan airspace not available for Indian-registered aircraft and aircraft operated or leased by Indian airlines/operators, including military flights," said a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority.

The decision comes ahead of the expiry of the previous restriction on August 23.

According to the NOTAM, the extension will take effect from 10:15 am on August 23 and will remain in force until 4:59 am on September 24.

As per a Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) document from 2022, the country's airspace is divided into two flight information regions (FIRs) — Karachi and Lahore.



The Extension will take effect from 10:15 am on August 23 and will remain in force until 4:59 am on September 24.

The NOTAM applies to both the Karachi and Lahore FIRs.

The ban has been extended monthly since last year, causing financial problems for airlines and extended travel time for passengers.

India has also maintained a reciprocal airspace ban on all

Pakistani-registered aircraft, airlines, and military flights as part of measures taken against Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people last year.

Both countries closed their respective airspace to each other's airlines after the attack.

Pak Seeks Review of Imran Khan Hospital Transfer Order

Sajjad Hussain & M Zulqernain

Islamabad/Lahore, Aug 19 (PTI) The Pakistan government on Wednesday petitioned the Supreme Court, seeking a review and recall of its order to shift jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to a private hospital.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that 73-year-old Khan be taken to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad "within the next two days", and he shall remain there until the next hearing on September 16.

It also ordered the setting up of a medical board and allowed the former cricketer-turned-politician weekly meetings with family.

The order followed months of concern raised by Khan's family and supporters over his health, and repeated allegations of being denied access to adequate medical care.

Khan, who is the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf political party, has been in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail since 2023, with several cases against him.

On Wednesday, the federal government termed the order "discriminatory" and argued it could set a precedent for all convicts to seek similar treatment in case of health issues, as it filed the review petition.

Senior leaders of Khan's party criticised the federal government's move and accused it of adopting "delaying tactics" instead of adhering to the top court's order.

The Supreme Court directive in Khan's case came while hear-



ing several identical petitions following the politician's eye ailment that surfaced earlier this year.

The petitioners had sought his transfer to a private hospital, saying they were not satisfied with the treatment he was receiving at government medical facilities.

The federal government had initially responded positively to the order and announced its implementation.

But later Law Minister Azam Tarar announced that the government would file a review petition seeking modification in the order.

The government on Wednesday filed the review petition arguing that the top court's interim order was "discriminatory" - because it applied only to Khan and not to prisoners in general.

It is believed that moving Khan to a private hospital would set a precedent for all convicts to seek similar treatment in case of health issues, Tarar said.

The review petition called the order "in excess of jurisdiction" and therefore "liable to be reviewed".

It further argued that the order "suffers from errors of law floating on the surface of the record" and that the prison rules had escaped the apex court's attention in its ruling.

Gen Z Has Embraced Gandhi's Values: Tushar

Press Trust Of India

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, : Generation Z has adopted the values of Mahatma Gandhi, who hitherto remained confined to symbols and memorials, his great-grandson Tushar Gandhi said on Wednesday, and termed the "dimagi Naxal" remark by PM Narendra Modi as "hate politics".

Tushar Gandhi visited Mahatma Gandhi Mission University in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and later met Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convenor Abhijeet Dipke at the latter's residence.

"Mahatma Gandhi was being kept limited to memorials and symbols till today. If we see 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', it has the logo of Babu (Mahatma Gandhi's) in spectacles; however, internal cleaning was missing here.

"But the Jantar Mantar agitation shows that Generation Z has embraced the true values of Mahatma Gandhi rather than his name (symbolism)," he told reporters after visiting Mahatma Gandhi Mission University.

Tushar Gandhi added that the power of the youth agitation at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi made the Central government answerable for the first time.

"For the last 12 years, this government has become habituated to not answering anybody and thought no one can question them. For the first time, the questions were asked from the streets and were repeated till they were



answered," he added.

Queried on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "dimagi Naxal" remarks during the Red Fort speech, Tushar Gandhi claimed the government is afraid of intellectual people.

"Using this term is an example that they are afraid of people with brains. This is another example of hatred politics. Targeting a group of people who they are afraid of does not suit the Prime Minister," he added.

Tushar Gandhi hailed the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) for the agitation and action.

"I applaud CJP because they changed the questions to direct actions. They told people that they have to fight for their questions. Therefore, we see Gen Alpha is now calling the district collector to visit their schools. This change is important," he added.

Tushar Gandhi later visited CJP convenor Abhijeet Dipke at his residence in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

Marathi Test Drive for Mumbai Cab Drivers from Aug 20



Mumbai, Aug 19 (PTI) The Maharashtra Transport Department will launch a statewide drive from Thursday to check non-Marathi taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers' working knowledge of Marathi language, with RTO officials ordered to videograph the exercise.

Transport union leaders, however, warned of launching an agitation over possible financial hardships and corruption in the enforcement of the rule.

Addressing a press conference at the Mantralaya here, Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said the campaign will cover drivers who do not possess the required certificate or "working

knowledge" of Marathi.

Officials will first issue a one-month notice to drivers found lacking the required language skills, giving them an opportunity to learn Marathi before punitive action is taken.

"If someone fails to do

so even after three months, orders will be issued for cancellation of their licence and badge," Sarnaik said.

A retired officer of the Regional Transport Office (RTO), however, told PTI that while Minister Sarnaik

claimed that the driving licences of taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers could be suspended or cancelled if they are found having inadequate knowledge of Marathi, the Transport Department can only take action against their badges or permits and does not have the power to suspend or cancel their driving licences on that ground.

A release issued by the minister's office said the drivers who fail to acquire practical knowledge of Marathi during the notice period may have their badges suspended for up to three months, while those who subsequently refuse to learn the language could face cancellation of their badge and permit.

Woman Held Hostage, Robbed of ₹75 Lakh in Delhi

New Delhi, Aug 19 (PTI) Four armed men allegedly barged into a house in Ashok Vihar in northwest Delhi, tied a 56-year-old woman's hands, taped her mouth, and decamped with around Rs 75 lakh in cash and jewellery, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in the locality's E-Block when the woman was alone at home.

According to the preliminary investigation, four men waited for the woman, and just when she was about to leave for some work, forced them inside. Two of them waited on the apartment stairs, the woman claimed.

The robbers, she claimed,

according to the police, threatened her with a knife, tied her hands and legs and taped her mouth.

They also threatened to kill her and harm her twin daughters, the police said.

Four men waited for the woman, and just when she was about to leave for some work, forced them inside. Two of them waited on the apartment stairs, the woman claimed

According to the woman, the robbers also knew about her deceased son and where her daughters work.

She said the jewellery they took away was bought

for the marriage of the twins, who run a business in Chandni Chowk.

The woman's husband runs a manufacturing business in Wazirpur village.

The police said the rob-

bers were in the house for around 20 minutes, collecting valuables.

Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the area.

Manual Offering Count at Vaishno Devi Shrine to End: LG



Press Trust of Inida

JAMMU: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) is taking significant steps to modernise and streamline the process of handling devotees' offerings, with the manual counting system set to be completely phased out within the next fortnight, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

Addressing the issue of transparency and efficiency in the management of temple offerings, Sinha said the idea to discontinue manual counting was suggested by a Board member during a meeting.

"There is a lot of discussion in the country regarding temple offerings. A respected member of the Board suggested in a meeting that the manual counting process should be stopped. So, two Cash Recycler Machines (CRM) have been installed there, and the remaining CRMs will be installed in 15 days," the Lt Governor, who is also chairman of the SMVDSB, said at a function here.

Sinha clarified that neither employees of the Shrine Board nor bank officials will have any direct involvement in the handling and counting of offerings once the new system is fully operational.

"The human interface itself has been eliminated. No employee of the Shrine Board or the bank will have any direct involvement in it," he said.

He said the move is aimed at strengthening institutional mechanisms for the management of devotees' offerings and ensuring that the process is carried out through a technology-driven system with greater transparency and accountability.

The issue has come into the spotlight following the controversy over the alleged theft of donations by the counting staff at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Omar Reviews ₹2,000-Crore Plus Development Projects During Srinagar Tour

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday undertook an extensive early-morning tour of Srinagar, reviewing the progress of major development projects across all eight Assembly constituencies and directing concerned departments to expedite ongoing works and ensure that public infrastructure is completed within stipulated timelines.

Beginning his tour at around 6:30 am, the Chief Minister visited nearly a dozen project sites covering road connectivity, traffic infrastructure, healthcare, heritage conservation and sports facilities. He interacted with officials and executing agencies and reviewed the physical progress of the works.

At Barbar Shah in Habba Kadal, Omar inspected the site of the proposed multi-span bridge over Choont Khul, being executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department at an estimated cost of ₹32.50 crore. The bridge is designed to improve connectivity towards Shehar-e-Khaas, facilitate smoother traffic movement and strengthen urban mobility in the historic core of Srinagar.

The Chief Minister also inspected the newly constructed Urban Primary Health Centre at Maharaj Gunj. The facility is being developed at an estimated cost of ₹2.62 crore under UT CAPEX and is intended to strengthen primary healthcare services in the Shehar-e-Khaas area.

Work on the health centre commenced in November 2024 and is scheduled for completion by November 20, 2026. Officials briefed the Chief Minister that major civil works, including brickwork, internal plastering, tile work and window fixing, have been completed, while electrical works are around 85 per cent complete. The fire-fighting system has also been completed.

At Mirza Kamil Sahib Chowk in Hawal, Omar laid the foundation stone for a ₹1.33-crore beautification, upgradation and junction improvement project.

The project includes upgradation of the existing road pavement, pedestrian-friendly footpaths, new kerbs and drainage arrangements, road markings, traffic signage, bollards and delineators. It also includes modern LED street lighting, solar traffic blinkers and other measures aimed at improving pedestrian safety and the overall appearance of the junction.

At Sub District Hospital Habak in Hazratbal, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the upgraded hospital building and reviewed the progress of the long-pending project.



CM Omar Warns Against Using 'Gen Z' as a Threat

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday warned that using the 'Gen Z' tag as a threat will quickly lead to the erosion of any goodwill for the youth.

Abdullah was commenting on a video in which a young woman could be seen raising her voice against the Ladakh police at a checkpoint. The girl in the video said, "We are Gen Z and we are not going to tolerate this."

"This 'we are Gen Z' has become the new 'jaantay nahin ho mera baap kaun hai'. The quickest way to erode any Gen Z goodwill is to start using it as a threat at the slightest perceived affront," Abdullah posted on X while reposting the video from his personal account.

In the undated video which

surfaced on social media, the woman was aggrieved about being stopped near Minimarg in the Ladakh region, a place famous for being the gateway between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

She claimed that the people had been made to wait there for five hours. "We pay from our pockets to visit and they are doing this to us. Earlier they used to do this to Kashmiris (only), now they are doing it with tourists as well," she added.

The woman staged a dharna at the check post and did not allow even an Army convoy to proceed towards a transit camp. The situation was brought under control after the district officials convinced her.

The woman's remarks against the Army have drawn criticism from former Army officers who said her behaviour towards men in uniform was uncalled for.

The project, which had remained stalled for a considerable period, was revived after the present Council of Ministers granted the required norm relaxations. With a revised cost of ₹54.49 crore, the project envisages a two-basement, four-storey facility with a 50-bed hospital. Omar directed the authorities to maintain momentum and complete the project within the stipulated timeframe.

The Chief Minister next inspected the ongoing conservation and restoration of the historic Aali Masjid at Eidgah.

The first phase of the conservation project is being executed by the Public Works Department at a cost of ₹4.88 crore, with completion targeted for October 2026. The works include strengthening of the roof, wooden flooring, Khatam Band work, papier-mâché, ashlar stone work, Devri cornices and other conservation measures.

Omar directed officials to ensure meticulous execution of the restoration works while preserving the architectural and heritage character of the historic monument.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the road-safety infrastructure project involving construction of flyovers at Parimpora and Shalteng junctions on the Srinagar Bypass (NH-44).

The project, estimated to cost ₹85 crore, has an approximate total length of 2,000 metres and includes elevated sections, approaches, service roads, drainage and utility corridors. The intervention is aimed at improving traffic movement and road safety along one of Srinagar's important traffic corridors.

At SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, Omar reviewed the progress of two major institutional projects—the 250-bedded IPD Block and the College/Laboratory Block.

The 250-bedded IPD Block, approved at a cost of ₹83.94 crore, has achieved around 80 per cent physical progress and

is targeted for completion by December 2026.

The College/Laboratory Block, with an approved cost of ₹88.23 crore, has achieved around 66 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by December 2027.

The Chief Minister also inspected the site of the proposed High Court Complex at Rakh-i-Aksha, Bemina. The comprehensive project has an approved cost of ₹908.20 crore.

The main building will comprise two basements, a ground floor and six upper floors and will accommodate courtrooms, Judges' chambers, Bar rooms, meeting rooms and parking facilities. Additional western and eastern blocks are proposed to house judicial and administrative functions along with other facilities.

The overall complex is planned to provide 1,600 car-parking spaces. Phase-II of the project will include additional facilities such as a judicial block, guest house, auditorium, police constabulary and residential quarters.

Reviewing traffic infrastructure, Omar inspected the proposed Mominabad Vehicle Underpass, intended to reduce congestion and facilitate smoother movement along the National Highway.

The proposed four-lane underpass will have a 22.50-metre main carriageway, service roads, drainage and utility corridors and a vertical clearance of 5.5 metres.

He also reviewed the proposed underpass at Nowgam Railway Station and the Foot Over Bridge at Children Hospital, Bemina. The combined sanctioned cost of these works is ₹31.52 crore. The FOB will include lift facilities for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and women.

At Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh, the Chief Minister inspected the recently completed main swimming pool, developed at a cost

Man killed after Motorcycle Collides with Vehicle

BANDIPORA: A 30-year-old man was killed while his pillion rider was injured after the motorcycle they were travelling on was hit by an unknown vehicle at Main Market Hajin in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the duo were travelling on a motorcycle when an unknown vehicle hit them at Main Market Hajin.

He said both sustained injuries and were initially shifted to SDH Sumbal, from where they were referred to SKIMS Soura for specialised treatment.

The official said that upon arrival at SKIMS Soura, doctors declared one of them brought dead, while the other is undergoing treatment.

The deceased was later identified as Yawar Ahmad Mir (30), son of Mohammad Altaf Mir, a resident of Sumbanora, Bandipora, while his injured pillion rider was identified as Abdul Rashid Makroo (45), son of Abdul Rehman Makroo, a resident of Sudnara, Bandipora.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

Man Drowns While Saving Son in Qazigund

QAZIGUND: A man drowned while attempting to rescue his five-year-old son after the child accidentally fell into Nallah Sandran at Nussu Badragund area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday.

An official told KNO that the father-son duo had gone to the area to attend a marriage ceremony when the child fell into the water channel.

The child, Imad Zahoor (5), was rescued and shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund, where he is undergoing treatment and is stated to be stable and under observation.

The deceased has been identified as Zahoor Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Nigenpora, who drowned while trying to save his son.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated proceedings—(KNO)

10 Injured After Passenger Bus Accident in Nagrota

JAMMU: At least ten persons were injured after a passenger bus met with an accident in the Nagrota area of Jammu on Wednesday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the accident occurred in the Nagrota area, leaving ten persons injured.

He said that soon after the incident, the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Their condition is stated to be stable.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I Kounsara Ali D/o Ali Mohammad Sofi have lost my Discharge Certificate of class 12th bearing roll no 3114423 Bi-Annual 2019-20. Now I intend to get its duplicate. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with JKBOSE within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No.52/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2026-27 under Endorsement No.:6422-27 Dated:18-08-2026

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders (In Single Cover) are being invited on a Percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
01.	Macadamization of Main Roads of District Headquarters alongwith Main Markets with Allied Links under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	49.81	1100	99,620	30-Days	AAV Class with HMPO or MoU with Registered HMPO

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-08-2026
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	18-08-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	18-08-2026 from 04:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24-08-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25-08-2026 at 10:00 AM in the Office of PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal.

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. (The name of the Work along with NIT No. and Serial No. must be written on the Treasury Challan).

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (Dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date).

4. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security.

5. Unbalanced Bid:-
As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Department Vide No. (Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department's circular issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025), which is reproduced as:

- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.
- The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No.: 6422-27
Dated:- 18-08-2026

DIPK-4730-26
DT: 19/08/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION BIJBEHARA
www.jkpdd.gov.in Tel No: - 09132-233002 Fax No:- 09132-234397
e-mail: xen-stdbijbehara@jk.gov.in, xenstdbijbehara@gmail.com,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NITNO: STB/29 of 2026-27; Dated: 14/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from "A" Class Electrical Contractors issued by the Electrical Inspectorate of Govt of Central Inspectorial organization of Govt. of India/ other state Govt. In case bid submitted joint venture firm, any of partner should possess "A" class electrical license for "Augmentation of Receiving Station Ashmuqam from Existing (1 x 6.3 + 1x10)MVA to 2 x 10 MVA" as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this tender document. The details are as under:

#	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (IN Rs.)	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
1.	Augmentation of Receiving Station Ashmuqam from Existing (1 x 6.3 + 1x10)MVA to 2 x 10 MVA	1386193.00	1000	27725.00

2	Publishing Date & Time	14.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
3	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	14.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
4	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	14.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
5	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	03.09.2026 (1700 Hrs)
6	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	14.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
7	Bid Submission End Date & Time	04.09.2026 (1700 Hrs)
8	Bid opening date & Time	05.09.2026 (1700 Hrs)
9	Venue of opening Bids	STD Bijbehara

Please Read Standard Bidding Document Carefully

- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification if required and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below.
- There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-651; Dated: 07-06-2018
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of cost of tender document. The cost of tender document should be paid through e- challan/ treasury challan / receipt only.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TD, pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara through speed post, Courier or by hand.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.
- In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to submit additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR as per the latest Circular issued by Finance Deptt. Vide their No:FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dt. 08.08.2025
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before the submission of bid.
- Before the deadline for submission of bids, the employer reserves the right to modify the bidding document by issuing Addendum/Corrigendum.
- All requisite documents like EMD, eChallan, NIT, SBD, Experience Certificate, Turnover Certificate, ITR, GSTR, PAN Card etc. as sought in the eNIT must be compulsorily uploaded with the bid.

NO:STB/TS/4386-89
Dated: 14.08.2026
DIPK-NB-1440-26
DT: 19/08/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
Bijbehara

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

Karewas
Aren't Quarries

Kashmir's Karewas have been cut open for years, one excavation after another, as if these ancient terraces were piles of earth waiting to be taken away.
Now the scale has a number.
A government-led inspection has found that more than 18 lakh metric tons of clay, sand and gravel were excavated from Karewa sites in Budgam and Pulwama between 2019 and 2024. The findings are before the National Green Tribunal after a petition challenged the mining activity.
The number is startling. The larger story is what it tells us about the way Kashmir has approached development.
A Karewa becomes valuable when it can supply material for a road, a building or some other project. Its agricultural value often receives far less attention. Its geological history receives even less.
That logic has consumed pieces of Kashmir for years.
The inspection identified Zadoora, Gowherpora and Rangeen Kultreh among the major sites. Satellite images showed excavation expanding at Zadoora between 2020 and 2025, with separate mined areas gradually joining into larger scars.
At Gowherpora, the pollution control authorities found excavation taking place without environmental clearance, an approved mining plan, pollution-control consent or an environmental management plan.
Beyond procedural lapses, they point to a system in which the land was treated as a source of material before it was treated as a public asset.
Karewas hold a special place in Kashmir's landscape. Their soils support orchards and crops, while their distinctive formations also tell part of the valley's geological story.
Once large sections are excavated, that story becomes harder to preserve and productive land becomes harder to recover.
Development itself is not the problem. Kashmir needs roads, schools, hospitals, housing and public infrastructure. The problem begins when development loses its sense of limits.
The Karewas show what that looks like.
A project gets approved, soil gets removed, machinery moves in, a slope changes shape, and an agricultural landscape becomes a quarry. Later, officials arrive to measure the damage.
That order has to change.
The NGT case gives Kashmir a chance to ask a larger question about its development model: Who decides which landscapes can be consumed? Who checks what leaves the ground? Who restores land after extraction? Who answers when rules are bypassed?
Accountability should follow the evidence, while restoration should follow accountability.
Kashmir cannot keep calling every piece of land a resource simply because someone can extract something from it.
The Karewas are older than our roads, projects and administrative boundaries. They fed generations before today's development plans existed.
They should still be here when those plans are forgotten.

Kashmir's Counterfeit Crisis

Geographical Indication tags gave Kashmiri artisans a name worth defending, but almost no tools to defend it.



Naziya Rashid

A genuine Kashmir Pashmina shawl can take months of handwork before it reaches a buyer. A power loom can produce something similar in an afternoon.
Both can appear on shelves from Delhi to Dubai under the same three words: Kashmir Pashmina.
That is where the trouble begins.
The name promises craftsmanship, origin and quality. The market, increasingly, has learned to sell that promise without delivering the craft behind it.
It exposes the limits of a legal system that gave Kashmir Pashmina a powerful name, backed by centuries of craftsmanship, but has struggled to keep it from counterfeiters.
Kashmiri Pashmina received Geographical Indication registration in 2008, GI No. 46, and Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpets followed in 2016 as GI No. 527, both filed through the registry in Chennai, the carpet application brought by Meeras carpet weavers on behalf of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries.
Both registrations lie under India's Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, which took effect in September 2003.
The statute exists partly because of an international commitment: under the TRIPS Agreement, a country that fails to protect a product's origin at home has no claim to protection abroad either.
The goal is straightforward: only genuine producers in the valley may call their pashmina "Kashmir Pashmina" or their carpets "Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpets." Registration should let artisans capture higher prices for authenticity that machine production cannot replicate.
But while registration turned out to be the easy part, enforcement, the piece that actually protects an artisan's income, remains badly underdeveloped.
Pashmina itself begins far from any loom, in the high-altitude terrain of Ladakh, where Changthangi goats grow the fine undercoat that gives the fabric its name, sometimes called Kashmir's soft gold.
Spinners and weavers in the valley convert that raw fleece into fabric using techniques passed down through generations, an intricate process that resists shortcuts.
Genuine pashmina takes months of careful work, but somewhere between that slow process and a shawl made on a power loom, a whole counterfeit economy has grown.
Shawls made with sheep wool, silk or synthetic fibres are sold as pashmina, carrying a name they never earned. Buyers rarely can tell the dif-



“Darjeeling Tea and Basmati Rice have generated a substantial body of GI litigation in Indian courts. Kashmir Pashmina and Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpets have generated almost none, and anyone who has bargained over a shawl in a tourist market knows the shortage of lawsuits has nothing to do with a shortage of counterfeiters.

ference by touch, and few think to ask for certification.
Srinagar's Craft Development Institute runs a testing facility and issues a Pashmina quality mark, but participation is voluntary, and online retailers face almost no pressure to prove what they sell.
Carpets tell a similar story, with a much longer supply chain attached.
Kashmir's hand-knotted carpet tradition dates to the 15th century, when Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin is said to have brought weavers from Persia and Central Asia to train local artisans.
Over time, Kashmiri weavers adapted those techniques and made the craft their own.
Today, counterfeit and power-loomed carpets move through exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and e-commerce platforms before reaching customers continents away from Srinagar, in countries where Indian GI registration holds little legal force unless that same mark has also secured protection under local law.
Distance itself becomes a shield for infringement.
The GI Act gives registered pro-

prietors real weapons: the right to sue, to seek injunctions, to collect damages, and to pursue criminal penalties against anyone who falsely applies a protected name.
That toolkit sounds serious until someone asks who is supposed to use it.
Most pashmina spinners and carpet weavers work alone or in small household units. They fall outside the "authorised users" the statute imagines, and they lack the money and legal training needed to sue a retailer in Mumbai, let alone a seller overseas.
Producer collectives and government bodies that could act on artisans' behalf have brought few enforcement cases given how widespread the misuse is, and surveillance of labels, fiber content, and online listings happens sporadically rather than systematically.
International law makes the problem more complicated, leaving Kashmir's traditional artisans with a harder fight to protect a name built over generations.
TRIPS sets a basic level of protection for geographical indications across WTO member countries. But its strongest protection, which can block use of a protected name even when there is no proof that consumers were misled, is reserved for wines and spirits.
Handicrafts like pashmina and hand-knotted carpets lie in the weaker category, so Indian registration alone does little once a product crosses a border.
New Delhi has pushed for years to extend the stronger standard to all GI-protected goods, without success so far.
Until that changes, protection outside India depends on a slow, expensive collection of separate national filings that individual artisan communities have little realistic way to pursue on their own.
Court records make the weakness visible, showing how difficult it can be to turn legal protection on paper into meaningful protection in the marketplace.
Darjeeling Tea and Basmati Rice have generated a substantial body of GI litigation in Indian courts. Kashmir Pashmina and Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpets have generated almost none, and anyone who has bargained over a shawl in a tourist market knows the shortage of lawsuits has nothing to do with a shortage of counterfeiters.

It shows who gets hurt by infringement and who has the standing to fight it.
The artisans best positioned to spot fraud are the least equipped to litigate it, and the government bodies holding the registrations rarely have the ground-level intelligence to identify specific violations.
Without case law, the practical scope of these protections stays uncertain even to the producers the law was written to help.
Beneath the legal disputes and market battles is a human cost that falls most heavily on the artisans whose livelihoods depend on the craft.
Much of Kashmir's pashmina and carpet workforce consists of home-based workers, many of them women doing spinning and finishing work for piecework wages that fall first when counterfeit competition drags prices down throughout the market.
Families who have practiced these crafts for generations increasingly watch their children choose other work, because a market that cannot separate genuine Kashmiri craftsmanship from imitation cannot reward it consistently, regardless of how much individual buyers value the real thing.
Consumer education should go hand in hand with legal enforcement. Buyers should know what a GI mark certifies, why hand-knotted carpets cost more, and why genuine pashmina cannot be sold at mass-market prices.
An informed buyer can push the market toward honesty more effectively than any single lawsuit.
But none of this calls for scrapping the GI framework. It simply means making the system work as it was meant to.
Giving registered artisan cooperatives real legal standing, forcing sellers, especially online platforms, to certify origin and fiber content, tightening customs checks, and pursuing GI recognition in major export markets would close much of the gap that counterfeiters currently exploit.
Damages recovered through infringement suits, along with any certification or licensing fees collected, ought to flow directly back to the producer communities who generate the value in the first place.
Kashmir's Geographical Indications protect livelihoods and centuries of craft knowledge together, a combination worth more than intellectual property law usually accounts for.
An old Kashmiri saying holds that a thread once broken leaves an invisible knot. Cultural heritage works the same way.
Once authenticity disappears from a market, no law or brand value can fully restore it, and Kashmiri artisans have limited time left to wait for that lesson to sink in.

The author is a PhD scholar at the University of Kashmir's Department of Law. Her doctoral thesis examines infringement of Geographical Indications of Kashmir. She can be reached at naziya.rashid82@gmail.com.

The Business of Insecurity

A once-restrained grooming culture has become a marketplace built on manufactured doubt, and someone profits from every purchase it provokes.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

A few days ago, at a friend's house, I counted more than thirty empty makeup boxes piled near the gate.
Different brands and shades were discarded within what must have been a matter of weeks.
I stood there longer than I meant to, doing the math on what those boxes must have cost, and a question settled in that I have not been able to shake since: has beauty itself become just another consumer product, manufactured and sold the way soap or shampoo is sold?
Kashmir did not always look like this.
Before the 1990s, elaborate makeup was generally frowned upon here. Lipstick, worn on an ordinary day, invited disapproval rather than admiration.
Even brides, on the most significant day of their lives, kept their grooming modest by comparison with

what we see now.
waxy cream, mehendi, and a touch of lipstick were often the whole routine.
That restraint has given way to something else entirely.
Makeup has grown into a sprawling fashion industry, and what used to be an occasional touch has become, for many women, a daily obligation.
The change extends well beyond the products themselves. A full professional beauty economy has formed around them.
Beauticians and makeup artists get hired for weddings, parties, photographs, and even ordinary gatherings, often at prices that would have seemed absurd a generation ago.
Grooming that once took a few minutes at a mirror now runs through professionals, specialized products, and real expense.
Beauty has become something purchased rather than something expressed.
These artists take women who are already attractive and layer on foundation, concealer, contouring, highlighter, false eyelashes, and elaborate eye work until the original face barely surfaces.



“The real question was never whether makeup is good or bad. It is who convinced us that we are not beautiful without it, and who cashes the cheque every time we believe them.

Here is the real question: did women suddenly become less attractive, or did our sense of what attractiveness means get rewritten?
The answer lies in the psychology behind the industry itself.
Modern advertising almost never sells a cream or a foundation as a

cream or a foundation. It sells confidence, allure, youth, social acceptance, and self-worth.
A woman sees an image built to look flawless, and the advertising nudges her toward believing something is missing from her own face.
The solution, conveniently, sits on

the next shelf.
Walk through any cosmetics counter and count the promises. One cream claims to lighten skin, another claims to erase wrinkles. One more defines the eyes, while other reworks the structure of the face.
The industry manufactures insecurity first, then sells the cure.
Social media has poured fuel on this fire.
Filters and digitally altered photographs have built beauty standards that no unedited human face can meet. A teenage girl scrolls past an enhanced image, holds it up against her own reflection, and concludes she falls short.
She buys the next product simply because she has been convinced she needs it.
Social pressure does the rest of the work. Once one woman in a circle adopts elaborate makeup, others feel pulled toward the same standard.
What looked excessive a few years back now reads as ordinary.
Eventually, appearing in public without makeup starts to feel like the unusual choice, rather than the default one.
This is how consumer culture always operates.
It introduces an extravagance, lets

that extravagance harden into fashion, and finally turns the fashion into an obligation nobody questions.
None of this makes cosmetics themselves the enemy. Personal grooming has existed in some form throughout human history, and there is nothing wrong with wanting to look presentable.
The trouble begins when appearance turns into obsession, a natural face gets treated as a flaw, and money and hours get poured into chasing a standard invented by people with a financial stake in the chase.
We would do well to remember that beauty does not always call for correction.
A healthy face, natural features, simplicity, and genuine confidence hold their own worth without a single product added.
The real question was never whether makeup is good or bad. It is who convinced us that we are not beautiful without it, and who cashes the cheque every time we believe them.

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

The Iranian Cyclist in Kashmir

Iranian psychologist and mountaineer Arzoo Eskandari has cycled through 10 countries on a peace journey across Asia, selling her car and leaving her job behind to meet people beyond the reach of language, politics and national frontiers.



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Arzoo Eskandari has spent the past several months turning a bicycle into a passport.

The Iranian clinical psychologist, mountaineer and tourism ambassador for Isfahan has cycled through 10 countries, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Laos, Thailand and India, with Kashmir becoming one of the most meaningful stops on a journey that began with a simple idea: slow down enough to see the people around you.

Her bicycle, which she calls "Afra," the Persian word for maple tree, has become part vehicle, part diary. She has painted personal messages on its handles, including one that reads, "slow down and open your eyes to see the world around."

The sentence captures much of what she says she has learned on the road.

Eskandari began travelling alone about a decade ago, gradually persuading a traditionally minded family to let her go farther. A one-day trip became two days, then a week, followed by longer expeditions.

Mountain climbing came first. She has climbed high peaks in Iran, Mount Ararat in Turkey and a mountain in Armenia. She later cycled through Istanbul and Van and travelled nearly 8,400 kilometres inside Iran.

Her Asian expedition demanded a larger sacrifice.

She sold her ordinary car after failing to find a sponsor willing to believe in her plan to cycle through Asia. She left her psychology job and began funding the journey herself, cooking her own meals and avoiding hotels whenever the cost became too high.

The journey has also unfolded against events much larger than one cyclist.

When war broke out while she was in Thailand, Iran's internet services were severely disrupted for one to two months. Eskandari could barely contact her family in Isfahan, a city targeted in the attacks. Her parents, accustomed to regular video calls and updates through Instagram, suddenly had no way of knowing where she was or whether she was safe.

Kashmir, aka Iran-e-Sageer, gave her a different experience.

She found local people helpful and hospitable, and she has spoken publicly about feeling more comfortable here than in several other Indian cities she visited. She also discovered cultural connections with Iran that made the valley feel unexpectedly close to home.

Eskandari spoke to Kashmir Observer about travelling alone as an Iranian woman, the risks and kindness she has encountered on the road, the war that separated her from her family, her decision to sell her car, and why she believes a bicycle can become a vehicle for peace.

Kashmir Observer: You have travelled through different countries, and professionally you are a psychologist. What inspired you to leave that life behind and travel by bicycle?

Arzoo Eskandari: Before I tell you about my journey, let me introduce myself. My name is Arzoo Eskandari. I am a psychologist and a traveller, and I am currently travelling by bicycle. So far, I have travelled to 10 countries, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Laos, Thailand and India, and now I am in Kashmir.

This journey began around eight years ago. Before travelling by bicycle, I was a mountain climber. I climbed high mountains in Iran, Turkey and Armenia. I also travelled by bicycle in Istanbul and Van. Within Iran, I travelled through almost the whole country by bicycle and covered approximately 8,400 kilometres.

Now I want to travel through all of Asia by bicycle.

You asked why I left my job and why I left my country. Travelling by bicycle is difficult for a woman, particularly because security can become a concern. Still, I love exploring the world this way.

The main message of my journey is "slow life." People think too much about the past and worry too much about the future. I want to live in the present and enjoy it.

A bicycle makes that possible. I travel slowly enough to connect directly with villages, cities and local people. I want to understand their culture, food, clothing and way of life. Those experiences are a central part of



the journey for me.

Kashmir Observer: You are travelling alone as a woman. What has that experience been like?

Eskandari: I continue travelling despite my fears. My biggest concern is security because I am a woman and I cannot trust everyone. So I pay close attention to my surroundings.

At the same time, I have met many kind families in different cities. They have helped me and welcomed me. I try to keep a positive mindset, and I generally meet positive people.

My psychology background also helps me. I can observe people and understand whom I can trust and around whom I should remain cautious.

Kashmir Observer: You must have experienced both good and difficult moments. Is there one experience that remains especially memorable?

Eskandari: The best part of travelling through different countries has been meeting people who did not understand my language at all.

We could not communicate through words, but they welcomed me with immense love and kindness. They hosted me in their homes and helped me. Sometimes we could not even have a proper conversation.

That taught me something important. The language of humanity is greater than language itself. Humanity has no borders, boundaries or race. Two people can connect even when they cannot speak to one another. That has been the most beautiful experience of my journey.

I have not experienced anything extremely bad. Laos was difficult at one point because many roads there are unsuitable for bicycles. I had a minor accident and injured my leg. I rested for several days and recovered.

Travelling alone also means taking care of yourself. If you become sick, nobody is automatically there to look after you. You have to become your own doctor.

Kashmir Observer: You wrote on Instagram that Kashmir was a place where nobody had bothered you. What happened during your journey in India that led you to say that?

Eskandari: When I entered India, I travelled through several cities and felt that the situation was different in different places. In some places, I did not feel completely com-

fortable going out alone.

Kashmir felt very different.

First, Kashmir is a very clean place. I also found people here more helpful, and I felt that I could trust them more.

Once I needed a taxi, but I had no internet connection. Local people arranged one for me and helped me. They treated me with great politeness and respect.

That experience overwhelmed me.

Kashmir Observer: You began your journey in Iran. What happened when the war began and internet services were disrupted?

Eskandari: It was a very bad experience. When the war began, I was in Thailand. I learned that the war had started, and at the same time internet services in Iran were shut down.

For around one to two months, the internet situation was very poor. I could not contact my family.

I was extremely worried because I could receive information about the war only through news agencies. I am from Isfahan, and Isfahan was also targeted in the attacks. I worried about my family and friends each day, but I had no way to contact them.

My family was also worried about me because they could not reach me.

Kashmir Observer: How did your family react during that period?

Eskandari: We normally speak through video calls. I tell them where I am and explain what I am doing, and that reassures them. They also follow my Instagram stories.

During the war, the internet shutdown changed that completely. They had no idea where I was or what might have happened to me. That was very difficult for them.

Kashmir Observer: Reports often describe restrictions faced by women in Iran. You have travelled alone inside Iran and outside the country. How did you convince your family to let you do that? You also posted a video asking your father for permission. What was his reaction?

Eskandari: Today you can see me travelling freely and easily, and my family has no objection. The situation was very different at the beginning.

I have travelled alone for about 10 years. My family initially did not allow me to travel alone because of their traditional beliefs.

I gradually convinced them. First, they al-

lowed me to travel for one day. Then it became two days, then a week, and eventually longer journeys. At that time I was also involved in mountain climbing.

Society also had its own ideas about what women should do. Riding a bicycle as a woman was not widely accepted. Police officers stopped me many times and asked, "You are a woman, why are you riding a bicycle?"

I continued travelling, working, and doing what I believed was right for my life.

My message to women and girls is simple: do not be afraid. Try to fulfil the dreams you have in your mind. We have one life.

Kashmir Observer: What message do you want the world to hear through this journey?

Eskandari: My main message is peace.

I am travelling with a message of peace from the people of Iran to people in other Asian countries. I also invite people from Asia to visit Iran, particularly Isfahan, because there are many beautiful places for tourists.

The deeper message is that humanity has no borders, boundaries or language.

When people put their differences aside and allow two human beings to connect, the world becomes a much more beautiful place.

Kashmir Observer: You visited Delhi and other parts of India before coming to Kashmir. What differences did you notice among the people and places?

Eskandari: I have not travelled through all of India. I visited two or three cities before coming to Kashmir, so I speak only about what I experienced.

Kashmir felt very different in its physical appearance, the behaviour of people and the atmosphere.

I also found the historical and cultural connections between India, Kashmir and Iran very interesting.

When I visited historical places in Delhi, I saw Persian poetry, Iranian art and the influence of Iranian artists. Many buildings were influenced by the Iranian Chahbagh style, and Iranian architects participated in their construction.

The Taj Mahal also has a connection with Iranian architecture and craftsmanship. An Iranian architect and builder played a role in its construction.

Kashmir gave me an even stronger sense of that connection. Based on what I have experienced, people in Iran and Kashmir have shared good relations since ancient times.

Kashmir Observer: People often say Kashmiris resemble Iranians. What did you feel after coming here?

Eskandari: Absolutely. That is one reason I feel such a strong sense of belonging here.

Sometimes it feels as if I am in my own country.

The natural beauty contributes to that feeling, but the people are even more important. I have been away from Iran for several months, and Kashmir gives me a sense of harmony and belonging.

I love Iran and Iranian people. Here, I see people and an atmosphere that remind me of home.

Kashmir Observer: How do people react when they learn that you are Iranian?

Eskandari: They stop me and tell me that they love Iran.

Kashmiri people have great affection for Iran, and they are very hospitable. That has made my experience here especially pleasant.

Kashmir Observer: Before this journey, you owned a car. What did you do with it, and how did you prepare financially?

Eskandari: Travelling across Asia by bicycle is a very important goal for me. It is important for me personally, and I also want it to mean something to women and girls.

Before starting, I tried to find a sponsor. Nobody believed in my plan. I told people that I wanted to travel across Asia by bicycle, but nobody was willing to support it.

I needed money to begin. So I sold my car and used that money for the journey.

It was an ordinary car. It was not very expensive, but selling it gave me the money to start.

Since then, I have travelled long distances by bicycle and had to manage my budget carefully. I cannot stay in hotels all the time because they are expensive. I often cook my own food and reduce expenses wherever I can.

I hope to find a sponsor who can help me complete this project. If my money runs out, I will have to return home.

Kashmir Observer: Do you think you will find a sponsor?

Eskandari: I hope so.

Kashmir Observer: How much money do you need?

Eskandari: I need money for travelling to other countries, accommodation and other essential expenses. Reaching the next country also involves costs, as does completing the journey there.

Kashmir Observer: Where will you go after India?

Eskandari: I want to go to Nepal. After Nepal, I will travel through East Asia and then return home.

Kashmir Observer: You are Iranian, and your journey is unfolding at a time of conflict in the Middle East. What message would you like to give Iran, its people and the rest of the world?

Eskandari: My message to the people of Iran is peace and security.

I want Iranian people to travel to other countries and experience different cultures. At the same time, I want people from other countries, especially Asian countries, to visit Iran.

Iran is a beautiful country. Isfahan is a beautiful city.

People should meet one another. They should see how much they can understand without sharing the same language or nationality.

That is what this bicycle has taught me. I started this journey because I wanted to see Asia, but the journey has also shown me how quickly distance can disappear when people welcome one another.

My bicycle takes me slowly through villages and cities. It forces me to stop, speak, eat, rest and look around. That is why I call it a journey of slow life.

I want to keep going. I also want to prove that a woman can set a difficult goal, leave home and pursue it with her own strength.

The road has given me fear, injury, financial pressure and periods of separation from my family. It has also given me strangers who opened their homes, people who helped when I had no internet, and a place in Kashmir that felt unexpectedly close to home.

— The interviewer is a Special Correspondent at Kashmir Observer. The interview was transcribed by Dabirah Hassan.



I AM TRAVELLING WITH A MESSAGE OF PEACE FROM THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO PEOPLE IN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES. I also invite people from Asia to visit Iran, particularly Isfahan, because there are many beautiful places for tourists. The deeper message is that humanity has no borders, boundaries or language. When people put their differences aside and allow two human beings to connect, the world becomes a much more beautiful place.

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 skills -- 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 before 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. While 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.



Review Identifies Most Effective Treatments For Bipolar Disorder

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have reviewed 77 meta-analyses spanning 116 different bipolar disorder treatments and identified the most effective ones across age groups and mood phases. Bipolar disorder is a mental disorder, characterised by extreme swings in mood, energy levels and activity. The disorder can causes phases of depression marked by a low mood and energy or mania, in which mood and activity levels tend to be high. Researchers, led by those from The Ottawa Hospital in Canada and universities in Spain, Italy, France and the UK, have created EBI-BD (Evidence Based Interventions for Bipolar Disorder). EBI-BD is an open-access web platform clearly presenting the impact, side effects, and strength of evidence for each treatment based on findings from the "most comprehensive" review, published in The British Medical Journal. For bipolar depression, effective treatments for adults include cariprazine, fluoxetine and lurasidone, while those among children and teenagers were lurasidone and olanzapine with fluoxetine. Effective interventions for mania episodes among adults include aripiprazole, haloperidol, lithium and risperidone, whereas those for children and teenagers include aripiprazole, asenapine and olanzapine. Maintenance dose -- prescribed to prevent future episodes and for long-term health -- effective for adults include aripiprazole, lithium and risperidone. "We hope clinicians will be able to use the platform with their own patients to find the best balance between efficacy and side effects, according to each patient's needs," author Michele De Prisco, psychiatrist and researcher at the Hospital Clinic de Barcelona and the University of Barcelona, Spain, said. "Using the platform and its integrated preference tool, clinician and patient can decide together which treatment to consider next," Dr De Prisco said. Author -- Jess Fiedorowicz, head and chief of mental health at The Ottawa Hospital and professor at the University of Ottawa, said medications for the mental health disorder can come with varied side effects. "A tool that incorporates patient preferences and promotes shared decision-making can help find treatments that are a better fit," Dr Fiedorowicz said. Results from the review have also been used to update guidelines, including those of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders (ISBD), for the management of bipolar disorder. The study is the first living umbrella review to include all treatment strategies assessed across any age group and phase of bipolar disorder from the largest and best meta-analyses available to date, the researchers said. The review can be adapted rapidly as new evidence emerges and serves as a foundation for continuously improving care, which is why it is called a "living review", they said.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NIT No- 78 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 18.08.2026 (2nd call).

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	Development of Play field by way of leveling, filling and constr. of sitting arrangement and changing room and flood lights at Jagir Ghat Sopore.	77.83	1600/-	155660	90 days	29.08. 2026	AAY	UT capex Budget 2026-27	SE (R&B)Bla 72 of 2026-27 dated: 29.7.2026

Project Authority:

Position of funds:

Position of AA.

Youth service and sports officer Bla.

Available

Accorded by Your service and sports officer Baramulla vide his order No: DYSSO /Bla/UT-Capex/6of 2026 dated: 09.07.2026

1, The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	18.08.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.08.2026 to 27.08.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	18.08.2026
4	Bid submission End date	27.08.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	29.08.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority) vide Principal Secretary to Government Finance department's circular issued under endorsement No: DF-Code/ 44/ 2021-02-158 dated "8.8.20025.

a: Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

b: Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

c: The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

d: The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

The additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work.

4 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).

5, The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No: 6500-09

DIPK-4724/26

Dated: 19.08.2026.

sd/-

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Sopore

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

J&K Bank

IAPM Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,

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

0194-2452658, Ext.:132,japmd.lmr@jkbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated **01.06.2026** thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely **1) Sheikh Mohammad Rafiq S/O Shabir Ahmad Sheikh R/O Ziyarat Batmaloo, Sgr. (Borrower/Mortgagor)** and guarantors namely **2) Tariq Ahmad Manroo, 3) Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat and 4) Mr. Shabir Ahmad Shera** to repay an amount of **Rs. 24,15,167.18** (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven and Paise Eighteen Only) being the balance outstanding as on **31.05.2026** in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on **19.08.2026**.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs, 24,06,533.18 (**Rupees Twenty Four Lac Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Three and Paise Eighteen only**) together with future interest thereon from **01.08.2026** and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring **03 Marlas 126 Sft** falling under Khasra No.**605 min**, Khata No. **1154** and Khewat No. **178** situated at Mouza **Lachmanpora**, Tehsil South Srinagar and District Srinagar standing in the name of **Sheikh Mohammad Rafiq** S.O Shabir Ahmad Sheikh R/O Ziayarat Batamaloo, Srinagar.

Sd/ Authorized Officer

Form No 3

[See Regulation -15 (1) (a)/16(3)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/469/2026

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

Exh. No: 34955

STATE BANK OF INDIA

VS

KHAN WALI LOHAR

To,

(1) KHAN WALI LOHAR

S/O: MUZAMIL LOHAR MIR

R/O:VARNOH LOLAB TEHSIL SOGAM

DISTRICT KUPWARA

JAMMU AND KASHMIR-193223

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/ 469/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 01.07.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 2866042/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

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

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

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

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

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

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 15.09.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 08.07.2026

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that

That due to an inadvertent mistake, my caste/surname has been wrongly recorded as "Nadaf" in my Aadhaar record. Aadhaar No. 422014380749.

That my correct caste/surname is "Bhat" and the entry of "Nadaf" is erroneous and does not pertain to me.

If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir ahmad bhat

son of Ghulam Nabi Bhat

R/o Chotta Bazar Srinagar

J&K Bank Organizes Mission YUVA Review-Cum-Felicitation Meet

Mission Director lauds Bank's role as principal partner in flagship employment initiative



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- J&K Bank organised a review-cum-felicitation meet at its divisional office Kashmir to recognise outstanding performers and review the progress achieved under Mission YUVA across the Kashmir Division.

Director Employment and Director, Mission YUVA, Harvinder Singh (IAS) chaired the meeting in the presence of Bank's Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, Zonal Heads of Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama and Srinagar, Cluster Heads of Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag-II besides officials from various branches across the Division also attended the meeting.

The review focused on sustaining the momentum through stronger field-level coordination, faster processing of eligible cases and continued support to beneficiaries. During the event, notable performers from across the Kashmir Division were felicitated for their outstanding contribution to the implementation of Mission YUVA.

Appreciating the Bank's contribution as the principal financial partner in Mission YUVA, Mission Director Harvinder Singh acknowledged the coordinated efforts of the Bank's divisional, zonal, cluster and branch-level functionaries in achieving significant milestones under the programme.

He said, "Mission YUVA seeks to translate the aspirations of our youth into sustainable enterprises and meaningful livelihoods. As its principal financial partner, J&K Bank has played a vital role in taking the programme to the grassroots through timely financial support, sustained handholding, and close coordination with the implementing agencies."

"The commitment demonstrated by the Bank's field teams gives us confidence that Mission YUVA will continue to generate enduring employment opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri expressed gratitude to the Mission Director for chairing the meeting and guiding the Bank's functionaries.

Iltija Demands Crop Insurance, Better Infra For Apple Growers



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- PDP leader Iltija Mufti on Wednesday held a sit-in protest at a mandi in south Kashmir's Anantnag district in support of crop insurance and better infrastructure for apple growers in Kashmir, saying farmers deserve protection from the losses.

Speaking to reporters at the protest site, Jablipora fruit mandi, she said apple growers face losses every year due to the Srinagar-Jammu national highway closure and natural calamities.

"Their demands are not like they are out of this world... For example, a crop insurance scheme should be introduced for them because every year we see, whether it is due to road closures, hailstorms, floods, or natural calamities, our apple farmers here in the

whole of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in Kashmir, suffer a lot of damage," she said.

The PDP leader said the government should waive off their loans and provide better storage facilities and improve transportation facilities.

Mufti asserted that horticulture is very important for the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, which kept the economy of the region afloat even during the militancy era.

"We know that for so many years, whenever there was a disturbance here, even during the era of militancy, the one thing that kept the economy of Jammu and Kashmir going was horticulture.

Charging that the NC government is not paying attention to the farmers' demands, she asserted that her party would not allow the government to favour some capitalists.

Food, Fuel Inflation Risks Keep RBI MPC In Wait-And-Watch Mode

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The RBI's rate-setting panel broadly agreed that rising food and fuel prices posed inflation risks, but there was limited evidence of broad-based price pressures, warranting a wait-and-watch approach, while voting for the status quo on interest rates, the MPC meeting minutes released on Wednesday showed.

Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which met on August 3-5, unanimously decided to keep the benchmark policy rate (repo) unchanged at 5.25 per cent, opting to wait for greater clarity on whether higher energy costs triggered by the US-Iran conflict feed into broader inflationary pressures.

The committee noted that the Indian economy remained resilient despite global headwinds, with domestic demand, investment and exports providing support to growth.

However, uncertainty remained due to geopolitical developments, volatile oil prices, monsoon and risks associated with El Niño.

According to the minutes, Governor Malhotra said that despite the conflict in West Asia disrupting supply chains, heightened uncertainty, and an erratic monsoon so far, the Indian economy has performed better than expected in Q1:2026-27.

Monetary response to a supply-side shock is warranted when there are signs of it leading to a generalisation of inflation, de-anchoring of inflation expectations or persistent inflation. While risks remain, evidence of this so far is limited,



Malhotra said.

"...I would prefer to wait for more certainty to emerge on the inflation trajectory in terms of the persistence of realised prints at these or higher levels, the forecast and the likely levels to which inflation may normalise and settle, for any recalibration of the policy rate," he said.

The Governor also stressed the need to remain watchful as the risks of higher food, fuel and other input prices translating into a broad-based increase in inflation and de-anchoring of expectations persist.

"Any evidence of these risks materialising may need policy tightening," he opined.

Deputy Governor and MPC member Poonam Gupta was of the view that with persistent uncertainty on account of global developments and weather-related risks, the best course of action would be to wait and watch a bit more.

"This would allow for the weather-related uncertainties to fully settle; to ascertain how far the supply-side inflation is getting entrenched; and to get some more clarity on the global front," she said.

RBI Executive Director and

MPC Member Indranil Bhattacharyya opined that in a highly uncertain environment, economic agents are better served by framework guidance than by any explicit forward guidance about the future path of policy.

He also noted that there has been limited pass-through so far of spikes in food and fuel inflation, suggesting that inflation is yet to get broad based.

The three-external members in MPC -- Nagesh Kumar, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Ram Singh -- too had voted for continuing the pause of repo rate.

Nagesh Kumar said the slight improvement in the growth and inflation outlook of the Indian economy should not be a cause for any complacency.

The agriculture outlook continues to remain clouded by the El Niño, although the monsoon deficit has been mitigated in July in several parts of the country, he said.

"The concerns arising from the West Asia conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz have not receded, even as India has made efforts to deal with the situation by diversifying the sources of supply," Kumar said, and added that trade policy uncertainties have been

BRICS Meet Focuses On Tourism, AI, Seamless Travel

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR- Cooperation in sustainable and responsible tourism, skill development, use of artificial intelligence and facilitating seamless travel among BRICS countries were among the issues discussed at the second BRICS 2026 Tourism Working Group meeting held here on Wednesday.

The meeting, hosted by the Union Ministry of Tourism under India's BRICS Chairship, was chaired by Tourism Secretary Bhuvnesh Kumar and attended by delegates from BRICS member states, according to an official statement.

The deliberations focused on four priorities identified by India -- Artificial Intelligence and Tourism, Sustainability and Responsible Tourism, Tourism Skilling and Capacity Building, and Tourism Exchanges and Seamless Travel Facilitation.

The meeting was held under the overarching theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

The working group discussed ways to enhance cooperation in



the responsible use of emerging technologies, sustainable and community-centred tourism, human capital development, tourism exchanges and improved connectivity among member states.

Kumar said the first Tourism Working Group meeting, held virtually on May 25, and subsequent consultations had helped make progress on India's BRICS tourism agenda.

He said India's Chairship had sought to strengthen cooperation in sustainability, skilling, seamless travel and smart tourism.

The outcome of the deliberations will provide a basis for the

BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting scheduled for August 21, he said.

The working group also recognised tourism as an important driver of economic growth, employment, sustainable development and people-to-people exchanges amid technological changes and evolving traveller expectations.

As part of the programme, BRICS delegates will visit Jaipur's Hawa Mahal, City Palace and Amer Palace on Thursday to experience Rajasthan's cultural and architectural heritage, the statement said.

Ladakh CS Seeks Single-Window Clearance For Startups

Press Trust Of India

LEH/JAMMU- Ladakh needs to have a single-window clearance system to simplify the process of setting up and operating enterprises, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra said on Wednesday.

Kundra held a review meeting on the startup policy of Ladakh, which focuses on financial incentives and the implementation framework, a single-window mechanism aimed at strengthening the startup ecosystem and providing structured support to entrepreneurs across the Union Territory.

"There is a need to establish a single-window mechanism for startup-related clearances, including those involving SIDCO, pollution control and other regulatory agencies, so as to simplify the process of setting up and operating enterprises in Ladakh", Kundra said.

Officials from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), associated with the implementation of the startup policy, made a detailed presentation on changes introduced in the financial incentive and support framework based on the principle that a uniform support mechanism may not adequately address the requirements of enterprises at different stages of development.

According to officials, the revised framework provides for a structured four-level enterprise support mechanism covering different stages of the startup journey, along with dedicated financial support windows for ideation, seed funding and founder support.

It also incorporates expanded eligibility and entry provisions, a common scorecard-



based assessment mechanism with progressively higher benchmarks, streamlined procedures for different financial instruments and safeguards to ensure responsible utilisation of public funds, they said.

Reviewing the revised provisions, Kundra stressed the need to make the policy simple, accessible and outcome-oriented, particularly for young entrepreneurs and early-stage enterprises in Ladakh.

He suggested examining the possibility of rationalising the four-level framework into three stages by appropriately merging the growth and scale categories, while retaining adequate support for ideation and early-stage ventures.

The chief secretary emphasised strengthening support during the initial stages of enterprise development, particularly for ideation, prototype development and early-stage operations.

He also stressed the importance of founder support and ensuring that eligible startups have access to patent-related assistance, including provisions for domestic and international patents, as applicable under the revised policy.

On eligibility and assessment, Kundra called for a transparent and inclusive mechanism for startups registered under the recognised Startup India framework.

Gold Prices Drop Rs 800 in Delhi Amid Crude Surge, Global Uncertainty

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices declined by Rs 800 to Rs 1,58,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday as rising crude oil rates and lingering geopolitical uncertainty weighed on investor sentiment.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,58,800 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

Silver also declined, dragged by heavy selling, tumbling Rs 5,730 to Rs 2,35,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), from the previous close of Rs 2,40,730 per kg, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold prices traded weak as higher crude oil rates continued uncertainty after the US-Iran ceasefire window ended without fresh talks, which kept investors' sentiment cautious, said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

The sharp rise in crude prices has added to concerns over inflation and the broader economic outlook, while the



absence of fresh talks between Washington and Tehran has kept traders cautious.

Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at Lemon Markets Desk, said bullion remained under pressure as investors are awaiting the Federal Reserve meeting minutes later in the day for fresh insights on the future interest-rate path.

In international markets, spot gold gained nearly 1 per cent to USD 4,361.76 per ounce, while silver traded flat at USD 63.33 an ounce.

For bullion traders, the day's moves reflected a market caught between geopolitical uncertainty and rising energy costs, with gold's safe-haven appeal failing to translate into gains at home.

Govt Expands Transshipment Air Cargo Network

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Four domestic and two international stations have been brought under the transshipment air cargo network wherein re-screening of cargo will not be required at the transit station.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday flagged off the scaled-up phase of the transshipment cargo framework at Delhi International Airport Limited's (DIAL) Transshipment Excellence Centre (TEC) at Terminal 2 of the Delhi airport.

The mandatory re-screening of transshipment cargo has been done away with as part of efforts to improve the ease of doing business, according to an official release.

In this regard, the Proof of Concept for Domestic-to-International transshipment commenced on the Chennai-Delhi-Frankfurt sector in June.

With the success of the PoC, the civil aviation ministry on Wednesday said the network has been expanded to four additional domestic origin stations -- Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad -- as well as two new international destinations of London and Copenhagen.

Naidu said the framework will be expanded to International-to-International and International-to-Domestic transshipments as well.

Nifty Falls For 7th day, Sensex Down 326 Points

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Wednesday as elevated crude oil prices amid a lack of a diplomatic resolution following the end of the US-Iran ceasefire dented investor sentiment.

Falling for the fourth consecutive day, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 325.78 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 76,909.68. During the day, it dropped 412.57 points, or 0.53 per cent, to 76,822.89. In the last four days, the benchmark has lost 1,170.28 points, or 1.49 per cent.

Extending its losses to the seventh day, the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 76.60 points, or 0.32 per cent, to end at 24,078.30. It has tumbled 505.5 points, or 2 per cent, in the last seven sessions.

The expiry of the temporary 60-day US-Iran ceasefire without any meaningful diplomatic breakthrough has renewed concerns over a prolonged disruption to energy supplies, driving crude oil prices higher, an expert said.

From the Sensex pack, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, TITC, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were among the major laggards.

HCL Tech, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Sun Pharma were among the winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.04 per cent to USD 91.97 per barrel.

"Markets turned cautious ahead of the release of the US FOMC minutes, as investors remained concerned that the Federal Reserve's battle against inflation may continue. The lack of a diplomatic resolution following the end of the US-Iran ceasefire kept crude oil prices and bond yields elevated, strengthening risk-off sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd.

Hyundai Motor India To Hike Vehicle Prices By Up To 1% From Sep



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Wednesday said it plans to increase prices of its vehicles by up to 1% across its portfolio, from September 2026, to partially offset cost pressures.

The quantum of increase will vary depending on the model and variant, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said in a regulatory filing.

The price revision has been necessitated by a combination of rising input and commodity costs, higher operational expenses and continuing geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties, among other factors, it added.

HMIL said it continues to "make every endeavour to optimise costs and absorb cost escalations to minimise the impact on customers".

However, the persistence of these cost pressures has necessitated passing on a part of the increased costs to customers through this marginal price revision, it said.

Currently the company sells a range of vehicles from entry hatchback Grandi10 NIOS to electric SUV IONIQ 5 with pricing ranging from ₹5.6 lakh to ₹55.7 lakh.

JKEDI Pulwama Concludes MDP Under RAMP

Observer News Service

PULWAMA- The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), successfully concluded two Management Development Programmes (MDP-11 and MDP-12) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at Abhama, Pulwama. The programmes trained 49 entrepreneurs, equipping them with structured, high-quality training designed to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and strengthen business capabilities.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Nafia Nazir, Senior Manager P&A/Range Officer South (K); Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Iftikhar Bashir Lone, Assistant Faculty; Mohd Yasar, Assistant Faculty and S. Imran, Program Co-facilitator.

Interacting with the participants, M Nafia Nazir reviewed the progress of the program and highly appreciated the efforts of JKEDI Pulwama in organising impactful capacity-building programmes in the far-flung areas of Pulwama district. She commended the enthusiasm and active participation of the women entrepreneurs and encouraged them to apply the knowledge and skills gained to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

Furthermore, Raiyees Manzoor emphasised the importance of such initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship and empowering women at the grassroots level, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. Participants expressed heartfelt gratitude to the course team and JKEDI for their dedicated guidance and support in successfully organising the program.

India Beat Pakistan 5-3 in Men's Hockey World Cup

Press Trust of India

AMSTELVEEN: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Abhishek scored a brace each to help India beat arch-rivals Pakistan 5-3 in their final Pool D match of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday.

Harmanpreet struck twice from two penalty corners in the fifth and 21st minutes, while Abhishek's two fine field goals came in the 11th and 24th minutes. Vice-captain Hardik Singh also scored from a penalty stroke in the 35th minute.

Pakistan scored through Hannan Shahid (22nd, 46th) and Sufyan Khan (24th) to reduce the margin.

Happy with win against Pak
India may have emerged on

the right side of a high-octane contest against Pakistan on Wednesday, but captain Harmanpreet Singh believes that they cannot afford defensive lapses going into the business end of the FIH World Cup.

"Missing a few chances up-front is okay but we cannot afford any mistake at the back," Harmanpreet said after the match.

The Indian captain was particularly concerned about the team's inability to retain possession after winning the ball in the attacking half.

"If you are winning the ball in the 25-metre area, we must keep the possession. We are making some silly mistakes which can be avoided. In the two matches we have talked about avoiding the slow start



in the third quarter but we did the same mistake today. It is a good learning for us for the next match," said Harmanpreet, who led from the front scoring two goals from penalty corners.

The captain, however, felt there were plenty of positives in India's overall performance, particularly in their attacking play and ball circulation.

"If you look at our circle entries, ball possession, opportunities we have created and the passing, it was up to the mark. I am very happy with the performance," he said.

India's ability to handle the pressure of a charged-up contest also pleased head coach Craig Fulton, who said his players remained committed to the game plan despite the occasion. "It was a big game on a big

occasion and everyone is trying their best. I am glad that we stuck to our plan. I am happy with the way the team played," Fulton said.

Abhishek, who scored twice, said there was never any panic in the Indian camp despite Pakistan making a comeback.

"There was no nervousness. We played as per our plan and succeeded. We knew that we cannot afford to be relaxed at any moment," he said.

Pakistan's Sufyan Khan, meanwhile, admitted that his side's mistakes proved costly against a strong Indian outfit.

"We made many mistakes and we have to work hard. India is a very good team and hopefully we will learn from this and come back stronger in the Asian Games next month," he said.

1000's Join As Royal Premier League Lights Up Pulwama

Press Trust of India

PULWAMA (PTI) The second edition of the Royal Premier League Pulwama commenced in this south Kashmir district on Wednesday evening, marking a striking display of the region's changing social landscape.

In an area once associated with the presence of terror groups, the cricket tournament has brought a very different energy to the forefront—one defined by sporting ambition, youthful enthusiasm, community participation and a shared celebration of peace and normalcy.

The Sports Stadium Pulwama carried forward the enthusiasm witnessed during last year's inaugural edition, coming alive with cricketing action and a vibrant gathering of young spectators after Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed Para unveiled the tournament trophy and a senior police officer conducted the ceremonial toss, setting the inaugural match underway under the floodlights at 8 pm.

The packed stadium with about 20,000 in attendance, spirited cheers and collective excitement around the game offered a vivid picture of a generation increasingly choosing the cricket ground as a space for aspiration, competition and celebration.

The league brings together 10 teams for 24 scheduled matches, with every game being played as a 20-over contest with a leather ball. With double-headers scheduled on most days, beginning at 1 pm and 5 pm, the tournament is set to keep the stadium buzzing with activity throughout its run.

Para said the tournament is an effort to bring "light, happiness and hope" to young people who had been hurting and carrying a sense of grief and disappointment.

"Sporting events such as the league provide them with a space to come together, set aside their worries, celebrate collectively and simply enjoy the spirit of the game," the PDP legislator told PTI. He emphasised that cricket can play



a larger role in creating positive spaces for the youth, fostering camaraderie and giving them an opportunity to express themselves through sport.

The enthusiastic response to the tournament, he added, reflected the desire of young people to participate in activities that bring communities together and offer moments of joy, optimism and normalcy.

Para said the league, built through the efforts of Irfan Sarkar, has grown into something much larger than a sporting tournament. "It belongs to the Valley—to its villages, mohallas and homes, and most importantly, to its young people, who have embraced the game with enthusiasm and a renewed sense of possibility." The people associated with the tournament said the league is more than cricket.

"Kashmir is watching. Kashmir is playing. And Kashmir is celebrating. From the players on the field to the thousands of spectators in the stands, the league has created a shared space where talent, passion and community come together.

"The cheers under the floodlights, the sound of drums and the collective celebration of every boundary and wicket are a reflection of a changing mood and a growing desire for moments of joy and togetherness," one of the people cited above said.

He said it is about creating spaces where young people can dream, compete and belong. "It is about replacing silence with cheers, isolation with community and uncertainty with the confidence that comes from participation and shared purpose."

According to Para, in a region that has endured years of violence and disruption, the sight of packed stands and young cricketers taking centre stage carries a message that extends well beyond the boundary ropes - hope over fear, unity over division, and life over darkness.

Mohammad Latief, a cricket lover, said the excitement reaches another level during night matches, when the stadium is illuminated under floodlights and thousands of young people gather to watch them.

Locals said the league reflects the growing space being created for young people to channel their energy into sport, nurture talent and build a sense of community.

The sight of youngsters filling the stands, local players competing under professional conditions and families coming together to enjoy cricket underscores a changing narrative—one in which the aspirations of the youth are increasingly finding expression through sport, said Mohammad Ashraf Mir, a village elder.

DURAND CUP

East Bengal Edge Delhi on Penalties to Reach Final

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA, AUG 19 (PTI) East Bengal held their nerve in a penalty shootout to beat a resolute SC Delhi 5-3 after a goalless regulation-time stalemate and reach the Durand Cup final, here on Wednesday.

Eyeing a record-equaling 17th title, East Bengal will face the winners of Thursday's second semifinal between Mohun Bagan Super Giant and defending champions NorthEast United FC in Sunday's summit clash at the Salt Lake Stadium.

A potential Kolkata derby final would be a repeat of the 2023 title clash, which Mohun Bagan had won.

Captain Mohammed Rashid, who had endured an otherwise frustrating outing in regulation time, finally had his moment in the shootout, calmly finding the corner with East Bengal's fifth and decisive kick to seal the victory.

East Bengal were flawless from the spot, converting all five attempts.

Anwar Ali opened the shootout by calmly sending his penalty past SC Delhi goalkeeper Nora Fernandes. Rohit Danu then powered his effort into the net before Lalchungnunga picked out the top-right corner to put East Bengal 3-1 ahead.

SC Delhi kept themselves alive through Rodriguinho and Duvan, but Chris Ikonomidis converted East Bengal's fourth to make it 4-2.

Juan Pena had earlier seen his penalty saved by East Bengal goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Singh Gill, who went the right way to make a regulation save.

Rodriguinho and Duvan then converted their attempts, while Mohammed Aimen kept SC Delhi's hopes alive with their fourth.

Rashid then stepped up for the decisive kick and struck it cleanly into the net to complete East Bengal's 5-3 shootout win.



Goalless regulation time stalemate

Nothing separated the two teams after regulation time as the semifinal ended in a goalless stalemate, leaving Antonio Lopez Habas frustrated after East Bengal squandered chance after chance despite enjoying 60 per cent possession and having 20 shots.

East Bengal skipper Rashid was particularly unlucky, hitting the crossbar with a 16th-minute free-kick before striking the post with another long-range effort in the 74th minute.

In between, SC Delhi goalkeeper Nora Fernandes produced a crucial save to deny Hmar, while East Bengal's Prabhsukhan Singh Gill had earlier kept his side in the contest by saving Rodriguinho's penalty.

East Bengal had started strongly, with Rashid's free-kick rattling the crossbar and Jesin hitting the woodwork three minutes later.

Edmund and Bipin also had opportunities as Antonio Lopez Habas' side repeatedly threatened.

SC Delhi's best opportunity came in the 33rd minute when they were awarded a penalty after Rodriguinho went down following a challenge from Mandi. Gill guessed correctly and made an excellent save to keep the scores level.

SC Delhi grew into the contest after

the drinks break, with Azhar and Pena working hard in midfield, but East Bengal remained the more dangerous side.

The Red-and-Gold continued to dominate after the interval. Rodriguinho threatened on a quick attack early in the half, but Anwar produced a superb sliding challenge in the 47th minute to deny him.

East Bengal then increased the pressure, with Rashid and Bipin prominent in attack. Ikonomidis and Chungnunga were introduced as Habas looked for the breakthrough, but Fernandes repeatedly stood between East Bengal and the goal.

The Delhi goalkeeper came off his line in the 75th minute to make another important save, this time denying Hmar after a dangerous move down the left.

East Bengal continued to press in the closing stages, but Rashid's effort in the 85th minute sailed over the bar.

SC Delhi defended resolutely and survived six minutes of added time to take the semifinal into the shootout.

According to the tournament rules of the Durand Cup, knockout matches that end in a draw after regulation 90 minutes skip extra-time and head directly into a penalty shootout to decide the winner.

Crystal Palace Signs US Teen Gozo for Record \$15M Fee

AP

LONDON: Crystal Palace added to its squad for another European campaign by signing United States youth international Xavier Gozo in a club record sale for Real Salt Lake.

The Conference League titleholder signed the 19-year-old winger to a five-year contract late Monday. The transfer fee was reportedly \$15 million.

Real Salt Lake said in a statement it will "retain a significant percentage of any future transfer fee for Gozo," who it said was the first Utah native to join a Premier League club.

Palace starts the Premier League at Everton on Saturday and will play in the second-tier Europa League. UEFA makes the league phase draw in Monaco next week.

David promised to Brighton

After scoring at the World Cup for Canada, forward Promise David is moving to Brighton on loan from Union Saint-Gilloise.

Brighton said its deal for the 25-year-old David "includes an obligation to buy should certain criteria be met." He played in four of co-host Canada's games at the World Cup and scored in a 2-1 loss to Switzerland in the group stage.



Belgian league runner-up Union was eliminated in the Champions League qualifying rounds last week, against Bodø/Glimt, and will play in the Europa League where its expected prize money drops by tens of millions of euros.

Brighton and Union have close ties through their owners and share player data analysis by Jamestown Analytics. The data firm founded by Brighton owner Tony Bloom is renowned in European soccer and also used by Como and Heart of Midlothian.

Brighton hosts Aston Villa, the Europa League titleholder, in their Premier League opener on Sunday. Brighton is in the third-tier Conference League this season and has a first-leg game

on Thursday in the qualifying playoffs at Tromsø in Norway. World Cup veteran Elvedi to Leeds

Leeds got a solid defensive addition by signing Switzerland veteran Nico Elvedi from Borussia Mönchengladbach for a reported 8 million euros (\$9.3 million).

Elvedi has been to the past three World Cups and played every minute of Switzerland's six-game run to the quarterfinals, ended by a hard-luck loss against Argentina last month.

The 29-year-old center back spent 11 years at Gladbach where he played under Leeds coach Daniel Farke in the 2022-23 season.

Elvedi joins a Leeds squad looking to build on a solid first season back in the

Premier League when the club owned by the San Francisco 49ers also reached the FA Cup semifinals.

Newly promoted Coventry spends more

The price of trying to stay in the Premier League is getting higher for promoted teams.

Championship title winner Coventry took its off-season spending to about \$160 million on Wednesday by signing 19-year-old Guinea-born forward Sidiki Chérif from Fenerbahce.

The reported transfer fee was 20.5 million pounds (\$28 million) for Fenerbahce which last week signed Belgium veteran Romelu Lukaku as the Istanbul giant aims for a first Turkish league title since 2014.

KO
KASHMIR OBSERVER

29 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

YouTube

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

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.

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

OR SCAN

'I Am Malala': Ahmedabad School Fined ₹10,000

Parents Protests Against School; Consultant Shown the Door

PTI

Ahmedabad: A row over the availability of Malala Yousafzai's memoir, I Am Malala in the library of a Gujarat school has triggered official action, protests, a departmental inquiry, a 10,000 fine and the termination of the services of an education consultant.

The controversy erupted after some parents and organisations, including the VHP, objected to the book at the library of Shilaj-based Anand Niketan School, alleging that students were being compelled to read material they considered objectionable on religious grounds.

The Ahmedabad City District Education Department subse-



quently issued a show-cause notice to the school and ordered an inquiry into the allegations.

In its response, Anand Niketan maintained that I Am Malala was not part of the mandatory cur-

riculum and was available only through an optional book club and library programme. The school said there was no intention to hurt anyone's religious sentiments and assured the authorities that such a situation would not recur.

The controversy then widened to include allegations against Munazza Shums, an alumna of the school who was associated with it as an education consultant, curriculum designer and teacher trainer. Critics alleged that she had altered the curriculum to make books related to Malala Yousafzai and Anne Frank compulsory for students.

School Chairman Kamal Mangal, in a letter to the Gujarat Edu-

cation Minister, said the school would not invite Shums for further consultations.

The department has imposed a 10,000 penalty under the RTE Rules, 2012, treating the matter as the school's first such violation.

Officials have instructed the institution to deal more carefully with issues involving students' education and parents' sentiments and ensure that similar controversies do not arise again.

What began as a dispute over a book on a library shelf has now left Anand Niketan battling a much wider storm—over curriculum, religious sensitivities and the role of an influential education consultant.

Allahabad HC Gives Brothel Customers Legal Relief

PTI

Prayagraj, Aug 19: The Allahabad High Court has ruled that a man who visits a brothel as a customer cannot be prosecuted under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, as paying money for personal gratification is not procurement for the purpose of prostitution within the meaning of the act.

Sections 3, 4, 5 and 7 deal with provisions relating to penalising keeping or managing a brothel or allowing premises to be used as one; punishment to a person who lives on the earnings of another person's prostitution; and targeting those who procure, induce or take a person for sexual exploitation.

Justice Gautam Chowdhary, in his judgement on August 11 observed, "If a person visits a

brothel as a customer, then at the most, he may be procuring a prostitute to satisfy his personal lust, but not for the 'purpose of prostitution' as defined under the Act (which requires commercial exploitation). Therefore, a customer who pays money for gratification cannot be prosecuted under Section 3, 4, 5, or 7 of the Act."

With this observation, the court allowed the petition filed by a man named Nitin and quashed the charge sheet and criminal proceedings against the petitioner, who was among 16 people apprehended during a police raid on a house in Ghaziabad on December 31, 2023.

Nitin was charged under Sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the ITA, and the high court found these charges legally unsustainable for a customer, as they were re-

lated to running and managing a brothel.

The court said that a customer cannot be said to be keeping or managing or acting or assisting in the keeping or management of a brothel because he simply comes and pays money to get a woman to satisfy his lust.

The court further observed, "Perusal of the record shows that the applicant was merely a customer who came to satisfy his personal lust after paying the money and not for the purpose of prostitution; therefore, the provisions of Sections 3, 4, 5, 7 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, are not attracted against the applicant."

"Thus, continuance of the proceedings against the accused applicant would amount to sheer misuse of the process of the court."

Congress to Stick to 1937 Resolution on Vande Mataram

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 19: The Congress Working Committee on Wednesday decided to abide by the 1937 resolution of its highest decision-making body on Vande Mataram, saying only two stanzas of the National Song would be sung at all party events henceforth.

The Congress decision came after the BJP accused its leaders of insulting Vande Mataram by not singing the full version at party events.

Addressing a press conference after the over-four-hour meeting of the CWC, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said the party's stand is very clear, and it stands behind the decision of its top leadership in 1937.

"There is no confusion on that. Congress president categorically said so yesterday in Goa. Today we also discussed the issue in the meeting of the CWC. Our stand is very clear that the 1937 resolution decided in which Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Rabin-

dranath Tagore, Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Patel - the top-most leadership of the party at that point of time were present.

"Whatever the decision they took, we have decided that. We are very clear that our Congress party workers will do that only. This is our decision," he told reporters.

Asked whether only two stanzas of Vande Mataram will be sung at party events, he said, "Yes, first two stanzas."

Venugopal said singing of

Vande Mataram and the National Anthem is an emotional issue for the Congress, but for the BJP, it is a political matter.

He also said that the BJP's criticism of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's objection to the singing of the full National Song was merely a distraction tactic. "This is the version of the BJP to distract from national issues of paper leak and 'chanda chori,'" he said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that on October

28, 1937, a resolution was passed on Vande Mataram at a CWC meeting in the presence of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and Maulana Azad at the suggestion of Rabinranath Tagore.

"There was a discussion on that resolution in today's meeting of CWC... Congress president also read out a part of the earlier resolution. There is no controversy on this issue. "This issue is being made out deliberately, as today's issue is youth,

examinations, 'chanda chori' and failure of foreign policy," he said.

"Our stand has been clear from day one that the October 28, 1937, and our first president Rajendra Prasad said that the National Anthem will be 'Jana gana man...' and Vande Mataram will be our National Song," Ramesh said.

A day after the BJP accused him of singing "incomplete" Vande Mataram, on Tuesday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hit back at the party, saying he sang the same version that

was sung by Mahatma Gandhi, Patel, Nehru, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Talking to reporters in South Goa, Kharge said that if singing that version of the National Song was a crime, cases should also be filed against these leaders.

The ruling BJP has alleged that the Congress chief sang an "incomplete" version of Vande Mataram at a public meeting in South Goa on Monday, and accused the grand old party of disrespecting the National Song.

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