

Dr Farooq Tells Ruhullah To Resign, Seek Fresh Mandate



Agencies

Srinagar: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah has publicly rebuked party MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi over his recent political positions, telling the Lok Sabha member that if he believes Article 370 can be restored, he should raise the issue in Parliament instead of pursuing what Farooq described

as the "wrong path."

Speaking to media, Farooq said nobody had stopped Ruhullah from speaking about Article 370, but questioned the manner in which the MP was pursuing his political positions.

"If Ruhullah believes Article 370 can return, let him raise it in Parliament," Farooq said.

He also challenged Ruhullah's assertion that | [More on P6](#)

Hot, Humid Weather To Persist In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally hot and humid weather over the coming days, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers expected at scattered places, the Meteorological Centre said on Monday.

According to the latest forecast, brief spells of rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours from August 25 to 28.

Weather activity is likely to increase slightly from August 29 to 31, when light to moderate rain and thundershowers may occur at scattered to many places. Brief intense showers are also possible during the early morning and afternoon hours, the MeT said.

Hot and humid conditions are likely to continue from September 1 to 2, with brief spells of rain or thundershowers at scattered places. Similar weather is expected between September 3 and 5, although rainfall activity is likely to remain confined to isolated places.

The weather office cautioned that brief intense showers at localised places could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides, particularly in vulnerable areas.

Temperatures Remain Above Normal
Meanwhile, temperatures remained largely above normal at | [More on P6](#)



Devotees offer prayers at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar ahead of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. KO Photo By Abid Bhat



Spread Message Of Peace, Love, Unity & Harmony: LG

Celebrates Raksha Bandhan With DPS Baramulla Students

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday celebrated Raksha Bandhan with

students of Delhi Public School (DPS), Baramulla, at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar.

As part of the celebrations, the students tied Rakhis to the Lieutenant Governor and exchanged greetings with him.

Sinha urged | [More on P6](#)

KISHTWAR RAPE CASE

CM Sets One-Month Probe Deadline

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday directed the School Education Department to expedite its inquiry into the Kishtwar schoolgirl rape case and complete it within one month to ensure stringent and exemplary action.

"Chief Minister today directed the School Education Department to complete its inquiry into the heinous Kishtwar incident concerning a young schoolgirl expeditiously so that stringent and



exemplary action can be ensured in this matter," Omar posted on his official X handle.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to complete the inquiry within

one month and take all necessary steps to bring the investigation to its logical conclusion.

He stressed the need for a thorough and time-bound inquiry, underscoring that the matter must be dealt with firmly and that appropriate action should be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped repeatedly by a teacher at her school for the last few months, resulting in pregnancy and her death following an abortion bid in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar | [More on P6](#)

Tribal Group Seeks Action Under SC/ST Act

A tribal advocacy group has approached the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, seeking invocation of the SC/ST Act in the case of a minor Gujar

girl's death during an abortion following a sexual assault, monitoring of the investigation, and compensation to her family. The 15-year-old girl in Kishtwar district | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Entrepreneurs Urged to Build For Global Markets

Young Kashmiri founders gathered in Srinagar to discuss teams, products, markets and the challenges of taking a business global.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: The tables at Sutr & Spice in Sanat Nagar were filled with young entrepreneurs, aspiring founders and professionals on August 22.

Over coffee, they gathered around Tahir Qazi, chief executive and co-founder of iQuasar, to hear what it takes to build a company from Kashmir and take it to the world.

The gathering was organised



by Startup Kashmir as part of its Coffee Cup Meetup series, an informal platform that brings

aspiring founders face to face with experienced entrepreneurs. | [More on P6](#)

Fresh Threats To KPs Trigger Security Concerns, Probe

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday termed fresh terror threats to Kashmiri Pandit employees as a matter of serious concern, as panicked staff from the community sought enhanced security, a high-level probe, and permission to work from home following the online leak of their personal details.

The latest threat letter, purportedly issued on August 23 by the United Liberation Council (ULC), believed to

be a shadow of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, names several Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime Minister's Special Package.

The document, which went viral on social media, included confidential information such as Jammu residential addresses, vehicle numbers, and phone numbers.

Reacting to the development, Abdullah termed the threat a matter of serious concern, asking police, security, and intelligence agencies to thoroughly investigate the source of | [More on P6](#)

Power Hike A 'Compulsion', Not A Choice: CM

Says 6.83% Power Hike Lowest Possible; Rules Out Immediate Cabinet Reshuffle

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday defended the recent 6.83 per cent electricity tariff hike, calling it a "compulsion" for his government and hitting back at critics by pointing to higher tariff increases during previous governments.

"Those pointing fingers at me should remember that they have also been in power at some point. During their tenure, the power tariff was raised by 14 per cent. At that time, they did not see it as unjust. Four years earlier, there was a 15 per cent hike, and again, the BJP remained silent," Omar told reporters.

He said his government had increased the tariff by only around six per cent after four years and had done so at the lowest possible rate.

"How much have inflation and prices gone up during this period? We increased the tariff at the lowest possible rates. We are not celebrating it; it was a compulsion," he said.

The Chief Minister said reducing transmission and distribution losses in the power sector would help reduce the need for such measures in the future.

Omar also clarified that the tariff hike had no bearing on his government's commitment to provide 200 units of free electricity to poor and needy households. | [More on P6](#)

Hokersar Wetland Dredging

HC Upholds ED Jurisdiction, Dismisses Reach Company's Plea

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has upheld the jurisdiction of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to investigate a money-laundering case linked to alleged corruption in a project involving construction and dredging works at Hokersar Wetland.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar dismissed a petition

filed by M/s Reach Dredging Limited, challenging the summons issued by the ED and the underlying Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR).

The case relates to an e-NIT issued in July 2018 by the Executive Engineer, Flood Spill Channel, Narbal, for construction of a channel across Hokersar Wetland along the old alignment, including side-slope protection and | [More on P6](#)



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2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG**

FRESH NIT NO. 69 (4th Call of NIT 22, NIT 29) OF R&B/ANANTNAG/2026-27/E-Tendering/6103-12, Dated 21-08-2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost in (Basic cost +GST) (Rs.in Lakh)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Macadamization of Road Dailgam Interior Roads	39.97 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.87 + (18% GST Amount 6.10)	1100	79940/-	15 Days	AAY & BEE Class Only
2	Macadamization of Road Interior roads of Kamad Chichripora & Ugjan Anantnag.	29.96 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 25.39 + (18% GST Amount 4.57)	1100	59920/-	15 Days	AAY & BEE Class Only
3	Macadamization of Road Interior roads of Khandiphari Danjepeath left Right i/c Mukdham Mohalla	39.94 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.84 + (18% GST Amount 6.10)	1100	79880/-	15 Days	AAY & BEE Class Only
4	Macadamization of Road Interior roads of Pushwara.	40.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.90 + (18% GST Amount 6.10)	1100	80000/-	15 Days	AAY & BEE Class Only
5	Macadamization of Road Aung Nowbugh Road and interior road of Aung.	39.95 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.85 + (18% GST Amount 6.10)	1100	79900/-	15 Days	AAY & BEE Class Only

Project Authority: PW(R&B) Department.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 09 of SE/R&B/Ang/AAA of 2026-27, Dated 21.05.2026

Position of T. S: Accorded

Major Head of Account : -MH- C&T Capex Budget 2026-27

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 jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below—

S. No.	Particulars	Date
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-08-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 22-08-2026 (10:00AM) To 29-08-2026 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 22-08-2026 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 29-08-2026 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	31-08-2026 (10:30AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD{CDR/FDR/BG} should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 07 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. 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 Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ‘Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)’ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

DIPK-4923/26
dated: 24-08-2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my original B.Tech (Civil) Degree Certificate, which I misplaced at Lal Chowk, Srinagar, near Police Station Kothibagh. The said degree was obtained from Indo Global College of Engineering, Chandigarh (Mohali) through I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University in April 2017, under Roll No. 1314569. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same certificate. Masroor Yousuf S/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, R/o Kamad Dialgam, Anantnag.

rko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID 0204020013927 registered in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/o late Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/O puti mohalla Mohalla srinagar is to be transferred in favour of Imran Hussain bhat puti Mohalla saida Kadal Srinagar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/O . objections If any must reach concerned authorities within a week at the most.After that no objection shall be entertained. Contact no:-6006302603

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulshan Ara D/o Mohd Yaqoob, W/o Mohammad Ashraf Khanday, R/o Namblabal, Pampore, Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir, have applied for issuance of a passport and intend to change my name from Gulshan Ashraf to Gulshan Ara. Any person having any objection in this regard may contact the Passport Seva Kendra, Boulevard Road, Near Nehru Park, Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained. Gulshan Ara D/o Mohd Yaqoob W/o Mohammad Ashraf Khanday R/o Namblabal, Pampore, Pulwama, J&K

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shakeel Ahmad Najar S/o Abdul Karim Najar, Father of Sumaiya Adfar, R/o Dev Pora Dard Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card No. 2273 8963 0127 as “SUMIYIA ADFAR”. The correct name of my ward is “SUMAIYA ADFAR”, as per the Domicile Certificate record. I have applied for correction of the name in the Aadhaar record accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may raise the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asifa Ramzan D/o Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, R/o Buchoo, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby solemnly declare and state on oath that my true, correct and original name is “Asifa Ramzan.” However, due to an inadvertent/clerical error, my name has been wrongly recorded in the records of J&K Bank, Branch Hygam, in Savings Account No. 0810041000000838, as “Asifa Bano.” The name “Asifa Bano” does not represent my correct name and is not my intended name for the said bank account.

I hereby give public notice and formally declare that I have no objection whatsoever to the correction of the wrongly recorded name “Asifa Bano” and its replacement with my true and correct name “Asifa Ramzan” in the records of J&K Bank, Branch Hygam, and in all connected banking records/documents. Accordingly, any person, institution or authority having any genuine objection, claim or concern regarding the aforesaid correction is hereby called upon to submit the same in writing before the Branch Manager, J&K Bank, Branch Hygam, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with supporting documentary evidence.

Take notice that upon expiry of the aforesaid period of seven days, no objection or claim shall be entertained, and I shall be at liberty to proceed with the requested correction of my name in the bank records. Any person failing to raise an objection within the stipulated period shall be deemed to have no objection to the aforesaid correction.

This notice is being issued for information of the general public and for all legal and official purposes. Asifa Ramzan D/o Mohammad Ramzan Bhat R/o Buchoo, Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shabnum Ali S/o Ali Mohd Bhat, R/o Khaipora Payeen, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card No. 7176 3965 5691 as “SHABNAM ALI”. The correct name is “SHABNUM ALI”, as per the Domicile Certificate. I have applied for correction of the name in the Aadhaar record accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may raise the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ab Hamid Mir S/o Gh. Rasool Mir, R/o Dangarpora, do hereby inform the general public that my date of birth has been wrongly recorded as 01/09/1973 in my Driving Licence bearing No. JK-0520150054131. My correct date of birth is 15/09/1973. I have applied before the ARTO Sopore for correction of my date of birth in the said Driving Licence. Any person having any objection in this regard may communicate the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained. Sd/- Ab Hamid Mir S/o Gh. Rasool Mir R/o Dangarpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tawseef Gulzar Bhat, S/o Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, R/o Sumblar Shok Baba, Bandipora, is applying for DEE Class Government Contract Engineer with JKPCD, Bemina. Any person having any objection in this regard may contact the above office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after which no objection shall be entertained.

ab

GENERAL NOTICE

I, Nisar Ahmad S/o Late Gh. Mohd. Dar R/o Abi Nowpora, Srinagar, working as Section Officer in the University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar, intend to adopt/incorporate my surname ‘Dar’. I shall hereafter be known as Nisar Ahmad Dar for all purposes, including official records, educational records, employment records, bank accounts, identity documents & other legal documents.

Anybody having any objections to the said adoption of surname may submit the same before the relevant authorities within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received thereafter shall not be entertained in any case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SUMAYA, D/o Ghulam Hassan, R/o Nabdipora, Hawal, have changed my name from SUMAYA (Old Name) to SUMAYA HASSAN (New Name). I shall hereafter be known and recognized as SUMAYA HASSAN. If anybody has any objection to the said change of name, he/she may contact J&K Bank, Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of 7 days, no objection shall be entertained.

INFO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I Ghulam Ali Malik S/o Ghulam Rasool MalikR/o Hardu wamina have applied for enlistment as Class D civil Contractor registration. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections(if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I Bashir Ahmad parra s/o Ghulam Mohmmad parra R/o Hardu wamina have applied for enlistment as Class D civil Contractor registration. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections(if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby notify the general public and concerned authorities that I am maintaining a bank account bearing Account No. 0078041200000357 with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Branch.After my marriage, I Shakeela Akhter intend to update/correct my particulars in the bank records and passbook as follows:Father's Name: Ghulam Ahmad Thoker to be replaced with my Husband's Name.Firdous Ahmad LoneAddress: Thakar Pora, Budgam to be changed to Hooru, Budgam.Henceforth, the above changes may be treated as my correct particulars for updating the bank records and passbook. This notice is being published for information of the general public and all concerned. Name: Shakeela Akhter Account No.: 0078041200000357 Bank: J&K Bank, Budgam Branch Date: 24/08/2026

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public and concerned authorities that my name and my husband's name have been wrongly recorded in my bank account maintained with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Budgam Branch, bearing Account No. 0078040100770269.The particulars have been incorrectly recorded as:“Hasina W/o Gh. Qadir Kanjal”Whereas, as per my Aadhaar Card and other valid documents, my correct particulars are:“Haseena Bano W/o Ghulam Qadir Kanjal”,I, therefore, request the concerned bank authorities and all concerned persons to treat Haseena Bano W/o Ghulam Qadir Kanjal, R/o Jawalapora, Budgam as my correct name and particulars for all official and banking purposes.Any person having any objection regarding the above correction may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Haseena Bano W/o Ghulam Qadir Kanjal R/o Jawalapora, BudgamJammu & Kashmi

mcb

THE J&K BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE GANDERBAL PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 124021030, Session: OCT-NOV, Year: 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School (Alamdar-e-Kashmir Memorial Education) against my Date of Birth & Mother's Name as 15-12-2010 / Rubeena instead of 15-05-2010 / Rubeena Jan. Now I have applied for correction in the J&K Board of School Education, Sub Office Ganderbal. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Board Office Ganderbal 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 the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Asrar Ahad Mir S/o Abdul Ahad Mir
Mother's Name: Rubeena Jan Date of Birth: 15-05-2010
R/o Syed Pora Hamchi Hazratbal

Media Line

THE J&K BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE GANDERBAL PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 124021027, Session: OCT-NOV, Year: 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School (Alamdar-e-Kashmir Memorial Education) against my Mother's Name as Shanza instead of Shahnaz. Now I have applied for correction in the J&K Board of School Education, Sub Office Ganderbal. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Board Office Ganderbal 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 the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Athar Rafiq S/o Mohammad Rafiq
Mother's Name: Shahnaza Date of Birth: 05-11-2009
R/o Shoperi Bagh Chatterhama Srinagar

Media Line

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 0205050001087 From Late Rashi Bhat S/o Late Gulam Rasool R/o Gund Khalil Check Kawoosa 100 KVA Narbal to Javid Ahmud Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Bhat R/o Gundi Khaleel Narbal . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the PDD Sub Division Sozeth Lawaypora within seven days. Javid Ahmud Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Bhat R/O Gundi Khaleel Narbal

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my service records as Mudasir Hassan S/o Gh Hassan While my correct name is Mudasir Hassan Bhat S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat. Now I have applied for the correction of the same . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Commandant IRP 13Th Battalion Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mudasir Hassan Bhat (No: 164/078110 3JKAP IR Bn Parihasspora Pattan) S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my Scooty TVS Jupiter while travelling in Nowgam Srinagar. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Police Station/ARTO within seven days.. After that no objection shall be entertained. Imtiyaz Ahmad Wanl S/o Mohammed Amin Wani R/o Lasjan Srinagar

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 0206030029829 From MOHD RAMZAN KUMAR S/o Gh Ahmad to Younis Ahmad Kumar S/o Mohammad Ramzan Kumar R/o Kralpora Magam . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the PDD Sub Division Beerwah within seven days. Younis Ahmad Kumar S/o Mohammad Ramzan Kumar R/o Kralpora Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mehraj Ud din Zaroo, S/o Lt. Ghulam Rasool Zaroo, R/o Umer Colony B, Lane No. 5, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, do hereby solemnly declare that my ward is currently studying in Class 9th (Roll No. 01) at Evis Garden Educational Institute, Bota Kadal, Srinagar. In the school records, her name has been inadvertently recorded as Minat Mehraj Zaroo instead of her correct name Minat Mehraj. Both names, Minat Mehraj Zaroo and Minat Mehraj, refer to one and the same person. If anyone has any objection to the rectification/correction of the name to Minat Mehraj in the school records, they may submit their objection in writing along with relevant proof to the Principal/concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mehraj Ud din Zaroo Father of : Minat Mehraj Umer Colony B, Lane No.5, Lal Bazar, Srinagar

fko

THE J&K BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE GANDERBAL PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 124021026, Session: OCT-NOV, Year: 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School (Alamdar-e-Kashmir Memorial Education) against my name, Father's and Mother's Name as Mir Aroosa Javid / Javid Iqbal Mir / Shazia Javid Instead of Mir Aroosa Javid Iqbal / Javid Iqbal Mir / Shazia Javid. Now I have applied for correction in the J&K Board of School Education, Sub Office Ganderbal. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Board Office Ganderbal 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 the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

MIR AROOSA JAVID IQBAL D/o JAVID IQBAL MIR
Mother's Name: SHAZIA JAVID Date of Birth: 17-07-2010
R/o SYED PORA HAMCHI HAZRATBAL

Media Line

THE J&K BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE GANDERBAL PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 124021026, Session: OCT-NOV, Year: 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School (Alamdar-e-Kashmir Memorial Education) against my name & Father's Name as Ahmad Ibn Nabi / Ghulam Nabi Khroo instead of Ahmad Ibn Nabi / Ghulam Nabi Khuroo . Now I have applied for correction in the J&K Board of School Education, Sub Office Ganderbal. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Board Office Ganderbal 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 the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Ahmad Ibn Nabi S/o Ghulam Nabi Khuroo
Mother's Name: Arifa Date of Birth: 08-11-2011
R/o SYED PORA HAMCHI HAZRATBAL

Media Line

الذیاتیات ڈورو

عوامان :- درخواست منجانب افروزہ اکبرجہاں بیوہ مجاز افضل بیگہ ساکنہ ڈورو تحصیل ڈاگر پورہ برادر اجرائی ڈیپنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایں آرسا 43 بیوہ گلشور

اشجار ہر ضلع و عام

معالیہ منجانب عوامان الصدقہ منال سالک نے ایک درخواست بخش ڈیپنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ نیکو دہائی ہے اس بار سے ایں علیقلید سے روپوش طلب کی گئی ہے اور مطابق رپورٹ علیقلید کہ سالانہ افروزہ اکبرجہاں ڈیپنٹ مجاز افضل بیگہ ساکنہ ڈورو کی رہائش ہے اور سالانہ کوشش مورہ 05-07-2026 کو فوٹ ہو چکا ہے جسکی نسبت سندھو تگیا سنگھ پاک ڈیپنٹ آفیسر

زینہ گیر نے اجرائی کے متعلق پیشہ سرکاری ملازمتا متونی کے اعلان جائزہ لیں ہے

افروزہ اکبرجہاں بیوہ مجاز افضل بیگہ 46 سال گھر بیوکام

مرزا پاکیزہ مجاز بیگہ دختر 15 سال زیر تعلیم

مرزا فاطمہ مجاز بیگہ 12 سال --

محمد برجواز بیگہ پسر 09 سال --

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد نہیں ہیں سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی

عزیرا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مدبر اعتراض رض عدالت حد اکوفتری

اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرسے معاذ کوئی مدبر اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار FKO

Address Stray Dog Menace in Srinagar: CM Omar to Officials

Press Trust of India

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called for a focused, coordinated and humane response to the growing stray dog menace in Srinagar on Monday.

He directed the concerned departments and the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to make the issue a top priority and work towards tangible results.

Chairing a review meeting on the issue, the chief minister observed that the stray dog menace has become one of the foremost concerns for Srinagar residents, affecting citizens' daily lives and sense of security.

According to official data, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed more than two lakh dog bite cases in the past two years. Jammu district alone has reported nearly 40 per cent of the dog bite cases while the numbers in Srinagar district are comparatively low -- around 12 per cent.

Abdullah questioned why the relatively better implementation of animal birth control in Jammu has not been replicated in Kashmir. "Within

the same territory, we have achieved around 80 per cent sterilisation in Jammu, while Srinagar has not been able to make comparable progress. If it can be done in Jammu, we should be able to replicate that success in Srinagar," the chief minister said.

Abdullah assured government support for the resources needed to undertake the work sustainably.

He directed officials to take immediate action on the ground to address the dog menace, including measures for quick disposal of garbage dumps so dogs do not thrive on roadside piles of food waste.

He directed that a dedicated team be constituted within SMC to address the issue in mission mode not only in Srinagar but across Jammu and Kashmir. The chief minister emphasised increasing the number of trained dog catchers, scaling up sterilisation operations, and strengthening the availability of veterinary doctors and trained personnel.

The chief minister stressed that the response must be humane and follow established procedures.

Students Encouraged to Break Silence around Menstruation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-HEW Srinagar organised an Open-End Discussion on Ending stigma on Menstruation at Islamia College of Science and Technology, Hawal, Srinagar, with the objective of promoting awareness, understanding and open dialogue on menstrual health and hygiene.

The interactive programme provided a platform for students and participants to openly discuss various aspects related to menstruation, including menstrual hygiene, health concerns, common misconceptions and the importance of maintaining proper hygiene practices.

The discussion also focused on encouraging young people to approach menstruation as a natural biological

process and to help create an environment where menstrual health can be discussed without stigma or hesitation.

Officials from Department of Social Welfare SANKALP-HEW Srinagar interacted with the participants and addressed their queries, while emphasising the importance of awareness, access to reliable information and supportive social attitudes towards menstrual health. On the occasion, certificates were distributed among the students who participated in the debate in recognition of their active participation and contribution to the programme.

The Department stated that such awareness programmes are an important step towards empowering young people with correct information and fostering a more informed and sensitive society.



Devotees from across the Kashmir gather at the Dargah Hazratbal Shrine to participate in Khatam and recite Durood-o-Salam ahead of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). KO Photo Abid Bhat

Hazratbal Shrine Gears Up for Eid-e-Milad (PBUH) Congregation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of the observance of auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and the Friday following, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday conducted an on-site review of the arrangements at Hazratbal Shrine and took stock of the facilities being put in place for devotees.

Vice Chairman Lakes Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, Joint Commis-

sioner SMC Nuzhat Qureshi, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SP Hazratbal, Hilal Khaliq, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Tehsildar Wakaf Board, Ishtiyaq Ahmad, Tehsildar Khanyar/North, Syed Shahid, BMO Hazratbal, Dr Abdul Majeed, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, PHE, R&B, SMC, UEED, ARTO, Officers of fire & Emergency, besides members of the Shrine management.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the arrangements related to availability of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sani-

tion and cleanliness measures, traffic management, parking, transportation, healthcare, fire safety, security and other essential services required for the smooth conduct of the auspicious occasion.

While chairing a meeting at the Shrine, the DC took a department wise comprehensive review of the arrangements from the Officers of the concerned departments and the DC directed the Officers to ensure that all necessary facilities are put in place well in advance to cater to the large number of devotees expected to visit Hazratbal for prayers.

VC JKLCMA Reviews Preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chairman (VC), JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, conducted a tour of the Hazratbal area to review the arrangements and preparedness ahead of the forthcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W).

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers, XEN LD-II and Mechanical Division, along with all concerned AEEs and JEs.

During the visit, the Vice

Chairman reviewed the functioning of the Intermediate Pumping Stations (IPSS) at Nigeen and Sad-erbal and directed the concerned officers to ensure their smooth and uninterrupted operation.

He also inspected the areas affected by water blockage and choking of drains and directed the concerned staff to undertake immediate clearance measures to ensure proper drainage and prevent water accumulation.

The issue of leakage in the parking area near the Hazratbal Shrine was also reviewed. The Vice

Chairman directed the concerned officers to take necessary corrective measures at the earliest.

He further inspected the ablution pond and directed the concerned staff to ensure its thorough cleaning and proper maintenance before the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) celebrations.

The Vice Chairman also directed the field staff to maintain cleanliness and proper upkeep of the Hazratbal lakefront, particularly in view of the expected gathering of devotees and visitors during the occasion.



- 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
- BIJBIHERA: 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

11 Rabi-ul-Awwal

1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 30
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5: 15
Magrib	7: 10
ISHA	8: 35

- 325- First Council of Nicaea ends with adoption of the Nicene Creed establishing the doctrine of the Holy Trinity
- 357- Battle of Strasbourg: Roman Caesar Julian defeats the Alamanni tribal confederation led by King Chnodomar, who is captured and taken to Rome in chains
- 450- Roman Senate elects Marcian Eastern Roman Emperor, succeeding Theodosius II, who died without issue

پروفیسر راجہ احمد کا انتقال پُر ملال

ڈکھ کیساتھ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ محترمہ پروفیسر راجہ امجد علیہ الرحمہ مسعود احمد وائی دختر شہزاد احمد بٹ (ریٹائرڈ ایس ایس بی) ساکنہ ہاؤس نمبر 92، فلین 02، سکٹر 03، گلبرگ کالونی، حیدر پورہ، سری نگر تارخ 24/اگست 2026 مختصر علالت کے بعد انتقال کر گئیں۔
انّا لله وَاِنَّا الیه راجعون۔
تعزیت پڑی صرف تین دن تک کی جائے گی۔ اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی تارخ 26/اگست 2026 کو صبح 3:09 بجے، مقبرہ مجید باغ، (فلین 6، ابراہیم کالونی) میں ادا کی جائے گی۔ ادارہ ”روشنی“ لواحقین سے اظہار تعزیت کرتے ہوئے مرحومہ کی مغفرت اور جنت نشینی کیلئے دعا گو ہے۔

JKEDI Conducts Junior Level Idea Challenge at GHSS Amira Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Srinagar, today organised the Junior Level Idea Challenge at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Amira Kadal, Srinagar, with an aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurial thinking and startup culture among students.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Gh. Mohiuddin Bhat, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Srinagar, along with Dr. Nusrat Manzoor, Principal, GHSS Amira Kadal, who appreciated the initiative.

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BORD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original marks certificate of class 12 Th session Annual 2017 Issued by the Board of school Education with the following particular:
Name: RUKHSANA MANZOOR
Parentage: MANZOOR AHMAD MALIK
Roll No.: 2605286
Year/ Session: 2017 - Annual
Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card. Anybody (if) having any objection may life the same undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

SD/-
Assistant Secretary/Board of School EducationSub-Office Bandipora

ZK

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No. IIND SRINAGAR.

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058

GIST_OF_E-NIT_No:- 21_S&D IIND OF 2026-27

DATED:- 22-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e- tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Depttl. materials (Amount in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (Rs.)	Head of Account
1.	Removal of bottle necks behind Police station Batamaloo near Graveyard at Shamshan Ghat Culvert at batamaloo Phase Ist	Rs.50.00	Rs.100000/-	AAY	45 Days	Rs.1500/-	Capex Budget 2026-27

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22.08.2026
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	23.08.2026 from 11.00 A.M to 07.09.2026 upto to 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	23.08.2026 from 11.30 A.M
04.	Bid Submission end Date	07.09.2026 up to 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	08.09.2026 at 11.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Daresh Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of documents to be uploaded	

1. Scanned copy of Tender document fee in shape of Bank receipt/E-Receipt. The amount should be deposited in Srinagar Municipal Corporation Account No. 0216010200000007 J&K Bank, Balgarden Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar, IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN with NIT No. & Sr No of work. The tender document fee should be deposited between the date of issuance of NIT up to end date of submission of bid. The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of FA/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation under the mentioned account.
2. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit pledged to Financial Advisor/ Chief Accounts Officer SMC in shape of Bank receipt/E-Receipt should be deposited in Srinagar Municipal Corporation Account No. 0216010200000007 J&K Bank, Balgarden Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar, IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN with NIT No. & Sr No. of work. and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of FA/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation under the mentioned account
3. Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card.
4. Scanned copy of JKPWDOMS Registration card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS PORTAL, Cell No./ e-mail ID and correspondence address.
5. NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by the bidder.
6. BOQ.

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
S&D Division IInd, Sgr.

NO.S&D-II/ 3233
DIPK-4942/26
Dated:- 24.08.2026

Impaired Asset and Recovery centre
Zonal Office Srinagar Moulna Azad Road Srinagar
Mail ziarsg@jkbmail.com



J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

Ref / ZIARC/SARFAESI/2026-2027-

Date 21-08-2026

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 17.04.2025, thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely **Mr. Shakir Ali Kuchay S/O Ali Mohammad Kuchay** R/O Mulfaq Burzuhama Chesti Colony (Borrower cum Mortgagor) (Prop M/S shakir Ali Kuchay pay an amount of **Rs.28,14,297.28** (Rupees Twenty Eight Lac Forteen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Seven and Paise Twenty Eight Only paise) being the Balance outstanding as on 16-04-2025 in the account of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

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 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 **21th day of August, 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. Rs.32,32,149.28** (Rupees Thirty Two Lac Thirty Two Thousand one hundred forty nine and twenty eight paise) on 31/07/2026 **together** with future interest thereon from **01.08.2026** and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential house along with land measuring underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 4 Marlas falling under Khasra No 1924/373,Khata No.789,Khwat No 105 situated at Mouza Burzahama,Tehsil North,District Srinagar,Standing in the name of the borrower namely Shakir Ali Kuchay.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Eyeing Global Markets

Kashmir's startup story has reached a point where ambition alone is no longer enough. Young founders have ideas, technical skills and access to tools that can take a business well beyond the valley.

The bigger question is whether Kashmir can build companies that sell to the world while remaining rooted here.

A recent coffee cup discussion in Srinagar brought that question back into focus. The conversation centred on a simple idea: Kashmir founders should look beyond local customers and start thinking about global markets.

That direction makes sense, especially for a place where the local market remains limited and many young people already work with technology, design, software and digital services.

A global market does not mean starting with a global company. A founder can begin with one product, a small team and a handful of customers abroad. The first goal is to prove that someone outside Kashmir will pay for what the company makes. Growth can come later.

Kashmir has examples of young businesses reaching customers beyond the valley, but the wider startup culture remains at an early stage.

Funding remains limited, experienced mentors are few, links with major investors are still developing, and founders often have to build their networks outside the region. Many young people also face pressure to choose conventional careers, while the local business culture still gives entrepreneurship less space than established professions.

These are real hurdles, though they do not make the global ambition unrealistic.

Countries and regions that once stood outside the main technology centres have built successful companies by starting small and finding customers elsewhere.

Kashmir cannot match Silicon Valley, Bengaluru or other major startup hubs in money, infrastructure or scale. It does not have to. The smarter goal is to build a smaller ecosystem that plays to its own strengths.

Technology makes that more possible than before.

A software company can hire talent in Srinagar and sell its product in London, Dubai or Singapore. A design team can work with clients thousands of miles away. A specialised product can find a global customer base even when the local market remains small.

The challenge is turning these possibilities into a habit.

That calls for stronger links between founders, investors, universities, skilled professionals and established businesses. It calls for practical mentoring, better access to early funding and more exposure to international customers. It also calls for founders to think beyond the next grant, competition or government scheme and focus on building products people will actually buy.

The recent Srinagar discussion set the tone for that larger conversation. Its real value lies less in the gathering itself than in the question it raised: why should a company founded in Kashmir think small when its customers can be anywhere?

A serious startup movement will take time. A few companies finding global customers can create examples for others, attract talent and build confidence. Those early successes can become the foundation for something larger.

Kashmir does not have to build the next giant technology company overnight. It can start with one founder, one useful product and one customer abroad.

That is how a local startup culture can begin looking toward the world.

India's Blockchain Paradox

New Delhi treats the same technology as national infrastructure in one ministry and as a threat to monetary order in another, and the distance between those two positions is starting to cost the country money.



Sri Varshith Kumar Reddy E

India entered 2026 with a puzzle sitting at the center of its economic policy.

The Reserve Bank of India still leans toward restriction on cryptocurrency.

Government papers reviewed in July show the central bank opposing bank exposure to crypto and to stablecoins, whether foreign-issued or rupee-pegged.

A parliamentary panel sat down with the RBI and the Institute of Chartered Accountants on July 2 and walked away without producing any legislative shift.

The 30 percent flat tax on virtual digital asset gains lies untouched in the 2026-27 budget. On top of it, a new penalty regime takes hold on April 1, adding a daily fine of 200 plus a flat charge of 50,000 for reporting lapses.

Set beside that caution, the same government runs one of the most active blockchain infrastructure programs anywhere on earth.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the Blockchain India Challenge in early 2026, funding startups that build land registry, supply chain, and digital identity systems on distributed ledgers.

Years earlier, the Principal Scientific Adviser's office drafted a National Strategy on Blockchain that set the template: shared infrastructure, research backing, and application development pushed into sector after sector.

Look closely and the contradiction sharpens rather than fades.

Crypto and blockchain share a common technical spine, but Indian policy treats them as separate species. Cryptocurrency draws suspicion as a speculative asset class prone to tax evasion and capital flight. Blockchain, once stripped of its tokenized currency layer, gets welcomed as a governance tool.

Land titles, subsidy disbursal, and supply chain traceability now run on permissioned ledgers built and controlled by state agencies.

The Digital Rupee shows this split at its cleanest.

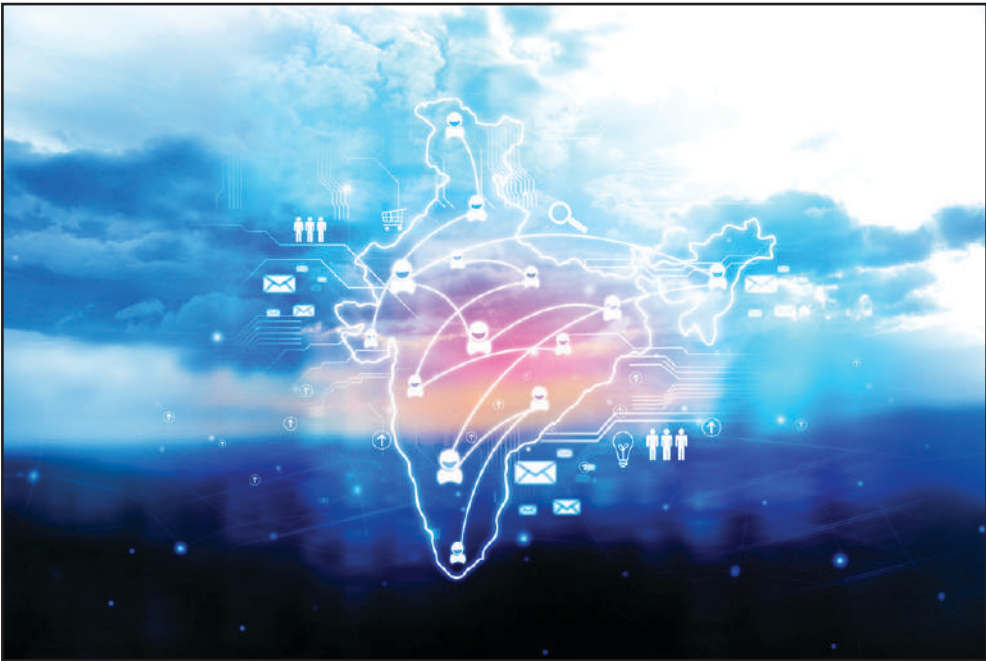
The RBI's e retail pilot crossed 1.5 crore registered users by April 2026, with more than 50 banks issuing wallets throughout tier-one and tier-two cities. Welfare-linked pilots operate in Gujarat, Puducherry, and Chandigarh, where beneficiaries draw food subsidies through programmable digital-rupee wallets redeemable only at designated fair-price shops.

This August, the RBI pushed that welfare architecture further, extending programmable money into federally administered territories. The central bank calls the e sovereign currency running on permissioned rails.

Private crypto, in the RBI's own language, remains a threat to monetary stability.

Private banks moved faster than regulators expected, and they did it without ever saying the word crypto.

The Indian Banks' Digital Infrastructure Company, born out of an earlier fifteen-bank con-



The lesson for policymakers is plain enough: blockchain built as public infrastructure earns investment and trust, but blockchain built as a bearer instrument for private value transfer earns suspicion and restriction, even though both draw from identical cryptographic building blocks.

sortium, now runs blockchain rails covering commercial finance, payments, lending, and compliance. Inland letters of credit that once took eight or nine days now settle in two or three, a cut of roughly 75 percent in processing time. ICICI Bank built its own TradeChain platform to make the letter-of-credit process paperless from start to finish.

None of it required new crypto legislation. Banks simply filed blockchain under core infrastructure instead of financial instrument, sidestepping the RBI's caution altogether.

The scale confirms the direction.

India's blockchain market, valued near \$1.09 billion in 2025, is projected to grow at a compound annual pace above 60 percent through 2034.

Enterprise IT giants including TCS, Infosys, and Wipro now run dedicated blockchain practices spanning identity systems, supply chains, and government contracts. Capital formation is happening openly, funded by banks and technology firms rather than crypto exchanges, and it is the clearest sign that India's blockchain economy has already outgrown its cautious cousin, cryptocurrency, in practical deployment.

Globally, the ground shifted fast through 2026.

The European Union's MiCA framework became a template many jurisdictions now copy, setting rules for stablecoin reserves, custody, and licensing.

Singapore and Japan built regimes designed to attract issuers and exchanges. China and India stand apart, favouring control over experimentation. Central banks worldwide moved CBDC work from pilot to operational status, with the Bank for International Settlements, the IMF, and FATF coordinating standards on reserves, audits, and anti-money-laundering rules for tokenized transfers.

India's crypto sector still lacks a dedicated licensing law. Virtual asset service providers register instead through FIU-IND's FINGate portal, an activity-based regime that reaches offshore plat-

forms serving Indian users regardless of where those platforms sit.

From April 2026, exchanges share transaction data directly with the Income Tax Department, and officers can inspect wallets during raids. Compliance tightened considerably, and the underlying tax and trading framework stayed frozen.

This split holds real economic impact, though the RBI's own priorities suggest a way past it.

Any rupee of trading volume that migrates offshore to escape the 30 percent tax and 1 percent TDS is a rupee of tax base and financial oversight lost for good.

Industry voices at Budget 2026 asked for relief on transaction-level friction, arguing the current structure pushes users toward unregulated venues.

Still, the wholesale CBDC track shows where the RBI sees genuine strategic value: settlement of government securities and call money markets, plus early work on BRICS-linked cross-border CBDC connectivity.

The lesson for policymakers is plain enough: blockchain built as public infrastructure earns investment and trust, but blockchain built as a bearer instrument for private value transfer earns suspicion and restriction, even though both draw from identical cryptographic building blocks.

A coherent macroeconomic strategy would split the regulatory question of asset classification from the technology question of ledger adoption, then build rules for each on its own terms instead of letting ambiguity do the work that policy should be doing.

Until Delhi resolves this, the country will keep building trains on rails it refuses to let anyone ride.

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



Nazir Ganaie

Beyond the Hospital Boom

Jammu and Kashmir's public and private hospitals are expanding in parallel. What the region lacks is a common framework for quality, transparency and accountability.

Jammu and Kashmir now counts two AI-IMS campuses, twelve medical colleges, seventeen critical care blocks and 3,166 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs among its assets, a buildup that would have seemed unthinkable a decade ago.

New private hospitals have opened in Srinagar and Jammu, adding cardiac units, oncology wings and kidney transplant programs to a landscape that once relied almost entirely on government institutions.

The buildings are real, so is the money behind them, but what remains missing is any common definition of what a patient can expect once inside, regardless of whether the entrance sign reads government or private.

That absence sounds bureaucratic until it becomes personal.

A district hospital and a five-star private facility can sit ten kilometers apart and answer to entirely different rules on infection control, nursing ratios, blood storage and emergency response.

Ownership does not determine outcome. Standards do, when they exist and get enforced, and Jammu and Kashmir has not yet built the machinery to enforce them uniformly.

Consider what private capital has already accomplished.

Paras Health built a tertiary presence in Srinagar spanning cardiac sciences, oncology, neurosciences and renal care, and in May 2026 it became the region's first private facility li-

censed for kidney transplants, a milestone that could spare patients the expense and risk of travelling outside the territory for a procedure once available only elsewhere.

Ujala Cygnus expanded its JK Medicity facility in Jammu and, in February 2026, secured NABH certification for emergency departments spanning eight hospitals, including that one.

Smaller hospitals, including Khyber, New City, Shifa, Noora, Medlyn, Amal and Kawsoosa, have added further capacity in both regions.

But none of that expansion, on its own, guarantees quality.

NABH accreditation forces a hospital to answer a harder question than how large it is: how reliably does it treat the person on the table.

That standard should become the floor, applied uniformly, rather than a marketing credential a handful of hospitals choose to pursue while others skip it entirely.

The most instructive model lies at Kakryal, where the 467-bed Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital operates through a partnership between the Shrine Board and Narayana Health.

Public land and institutional strength come together with private clinical management under one system of accountability, showing that government and private medicine can divide the work rather than compete, as long as both operate within an agreed framework.

The framework is what still eludes the erstwhile state.

Ayushman Bharat has empanelled numer-



ous private providers, but empanelment measures eligibility rather than performance.

The clearer test came in June 2026, when private hospitals and dialysis centers threatened to withdraw from the Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT scheme over delayed reimbursements and disputed deductions.

The government averted a walkout by sanctioning 175 crore rupees toward pending claims, a fix that solved the immediate crisis without addressing the underlying design flaw.

Providers cannot sustain quality care on

payments that take months to clear, and government cannot approve claims without rigorous audit against fraud.

Both problems demand the same solution: a faster, more transparent claims process built on technology instead of goodwill.

A single healthcare system can bring the two sides together by setting clear basic standards for every type of facility, while allowing those standards to highlight the different needs and roles of each hospital or clinic.

A twenty-five-bed nursing home cannot be

held to the infrastructure demands of a five-hundred-bed quaternary center, but it can be held to a defined floor for whatever services it actually performs.

Emergency care, intensive care, infection control, operation theaters, pharmacy and biomedical waste management all need baseline rules that travel with the service rather than the ownership structure.

Transparency has to accompany those standards. Patients currently have almost no way of knowing whether a hospital carries accreditation, how many functioning ICU beds it holds, or what its infection numbers look like before they walk through the door.

A public disclosure system, paired with indicative package pricing for common procedures, would let patients make informed choices instead of blind ones, particularly where public money or insurance coverage is involved.

A dedicated regulatory body, one empowered to monitor public and private facilities alike rather than inspect private hospitals selectively, could maintain a digital registry, run risk-based inspections and eventually publish outcome data on infection numbers, readmissions and mortality.

The World Health Organization's own assessment of the union territory's health financing has pushed for exactly this type of harmonized monitoring on the road toward universal coverage.

Jammu and Kashmir simply lacks a single promise that follows the patient from a government medical college to a corporate hospital: qualified staff, ethical practice, honest pricing and timely treatment, applied without exception.

Build that promise into law and enforcement, and the region finally turns two competing systems into one that patients can trust.

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The Little School by the Sukhnag

At a small village school in Gundi-Khaleel, learning begins with slates, stories, culture and care.



Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

It was almost ten in the morning when I reached the school. The sun had warmed the village of Gundi-Khaleel in Narabal zone, Budgam. The school stood at the riverbank of Sukhnag, with its gate open to the sound of water flowing and birds calling across the trees.

As an academic monitor, I've visited many schools, but this one felt different from the moment I stepped into the lawn.

It was a small space, edged with grass, and in the middle, four children were sitting in a circle. They were between four and six years old, completely focused on something.

As we got closer, they noticed us and stood up in perfect rhythm: "Good morning, sir, you are welcome!"

I asked them to introduce themselves. A little girl responded first. "I am Ujma shirrrr," she said with all the boldness she could gather.

I gently corrected her, thinking she meant Uzma. But she insisted, a little offended, "I am Ujma."

She held her ground like someone used to being heard. I smiled and backed off. The others introduced themselves: Ayaan Ahmad, Aabaan

Younis, and Aiman Showkat.

On the ground beside them were four traditional slates: takhti, as we call them. Soil-ink bottles and stick pens sat beside each one.

On the slates, I saw beautiful handwriting: clean, careful strokes. Other students nearby were also working on slates, their focus unshaken. The neatness surprised me.

The Head of the Institution (HOI) soon joined us. I asked about the use of slates. His answer has stayed with me ever since.

"In today's digital world, children are often busy with smartphones before they even learn how to hold a pencil," he said. "Slates help them build fine motor skills, develop creativity, and improve handwriting. It's a sensory experience. Using a stick pen on a slate strengthens hand muscles and focus. Plus, slates are reusable."

He wasn't quoting theory, he was showing its effect in real time.

As we walked toward the building, I noticed how well-maintained it was. Four rooms, freshly painted. In the corridor, I stopped to look at a 'biography board', a kind of wall chart where students could record facts about famous people or even characters from stories they read.

Then my colleague pointed toward something at the far end. We followed him to what the school called its cultural corner. The HOI explained that everything in this corner had been collected from the village.

There were wooden shoes once worn to walk over snow, a stone grinder, a kangri, a strip of Kashmiri carpet, the kind families once wove for a living.

The corner wasn't decorative. It



was a bridge between memory and learning. "This helps children link their culture with their classroom," the HOI said.

Everywhere I looked, the walls were alive, with paintings of fruits, vegetables, birds, and animals. Their names were written beside them in bold, clear script.

I called over Uzma and asked her to read a few. She read each word without hesitation. Then little Aiman, just four, tugged my sleeve. "Sir, main bhi padhti hoon," she said, asking if she could read too.

We entered the pre-primary classroom next. It felt like entering a different world. The teachers had turned the large hall into a joyful

place of learning. The walls were covered in colour. There were math toys, Rubik's cubes, musical instruments, dice, sketch pens and bright rings.

The HOI explained, "We bring in these tools to bring in joy, art, and confidence."

Later, around 12:30, we sat down in the office. That's when we heard the children shouting from the washroom. We rushed out. There, I saw something that both surprised and moved me.

A female teacher stood near the wash area, sleeves rolled up, soap in hand. She was bathing the children, carefully, lovingly. After washing them, she sat down and began

feeding them with her own hands.

Back in the office, I asked about the staff. Three teachers for fifty-three students were doing everything themselves: teaching, cleaning, feeding, bathing.

There was a dignity in that work. A belief that children deserve care and attention, no matter how small the school or how limited the staff.

That day reminded me of Rumi's words about the waterwheel, the idea that we must keep moving, giving, turning, without becoming dry inside.

Education too must flow like that. The teacher, like the wheel, must take in knowledge and pour it back out in service, to keep the garden

A female teacher stood near the wash area, sleeves rolled up, soap in hand.

She was bathing the children, carefully, lovingly. After washing them, she sat down and began feeding them with her own hands.

alive.

I left the school with those images etched in my mind: Uzma correcting me with pride, Aiman pulling my shirt for her turn, the teacher bathing her students, and a staff that never said they were doing too much.

There are schools with bigger budgets and fancier boards. But in Gundi-Khaleel, I saw something better: purpose, care, and a learning you don't always find in classrooms.

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

The Roads That Refused to Crack

Some Srinagar roads laid in 2019-20 are still holding up. Their secret was simple: measure everything, control the mix and follow the science.



Er. Danish Iqbal

Roads in Kashmir have a reputation for giving up long before their time.

Asphalt peels, potholes bloom, and once-smooth stretches crack into webs of frustration. It's a familiar cycle that repeats with every season.

While many point to budget constraints, weather, or hurried contractors, the real story lies somewhere deeper, in what happens before the first truck even arrives with hot mix.

I've seen firsthand what makes a road last. And more importantly, what makes it fail.

Back in 2019, we launched a focused quality control and assurance (QA/QC) drive in Srinagar under the technical leadership of Er. Aijaz Masood Bhat, a former research officer at the Road Research and Material Testing Lab.

This wasn't just another campaign. It was a three-season-long attempt to prove something long considered unachievable: that Jammu and Kashmir could build roads that actually stay built.

It was a difficult time. Article 370 had just been revoked. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic. But even with all that, we carried out one of the most rigorous road-building exercises this region had seen in years.

Together with Executive Engineers Er. Javaid Iqbal and Er. Ishfaq Malik, and field engineers like myself and Er. Nufail Gowhar Indrabi, we set out to beat the odds. Our focus was to perfect the mix.

For roads, that means getting the right gradation of bituminous mix as per MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)



standards.

Sounds easy on paper, but in practice, most believed it couldn't be done.

Crushed aggregates are inconsistent. Plant feeding systems aren't always precise. Many engineers had simply accepted these limitations.

But Er. Aijaz refused to settle. Starting at the source, we tested aggregate samples from Hot Mix Plants, did sieve analysis on-site, and designed our own mixes using an Excel-based tool built around MoRTH gradation bands.

When we found that most plants were uncalibrated and feed rates were being adjusted manually (read: guessed), we introduced tachometers to measure and fix real-time flow rates.

This wasn't theoretical. It was dirty, hands-on work. But it paid off.

Today, if you walk or drive down the Northern Foreshore Road, Rajbagh Bund Road, or Maulana Azad Road in Srinagar, you'll see surfaces laid in 2019-2020 that still hold strong. There aren't any major potholes, no early erosion. That's not magic, that's method.

Unfortunately, that momentum didn't last.

Often, the same person is expected to supervise both the Hot Mix Plant and the field execution site. It's impossible to do both effectively. We need a dedicated QA/QC team for each site. That's how consistency is maintained.

Excel tools are collecting dust. Plant calibration is skipped. QA/QC enforcement is sporadic. Bitumen-rich, dust-deficient mixes are being laid again. And roads are crumbling all over again.

But bitumen is only one part of the story.

Overloading is crushing our roads. Trucks with excessive axle weights press down on roads not designed for such punishment, breaking down the subgrade and causing rutting.

This isn't just about enforcement. We need smarter, mechanistic subgrade designs that anticipate these loads.

Water is another enemy. Seepage from underground utilities, irrigation channels, or just high water tables weakens the base. It turns solid structure into mush. Without proper drainage, both surface and subsurface, no road can survive Kashmir's climate.

Drainage infrastructure is often missing or ignored. Blocked stormwater channels, misaligned slopes, and missing edge drains let water pool where it shouldn't. That water then chips away at the road from below.

And then there's the overlooked issue of overlays.

Many times, when a damaged road is overlaid without milling the surface first, the camber (or road slope) is ruined. Drainage suffers. Water gets trapped. The road lifts too high and the side

drains get buried. Milling before overlaying is mandatory.

Another blind spot is how we monitor construction.

Often, the same person is expected to supervise both the Hot Mix Plant and the field execution site. It's impossible to do both effectively. We need a dedicated QA/QC team for each site. That's how consistency is maintained.

We also need to shift to weigh batching Hot Mix Plants. These machines measure materials with precision, reducing guesswork. They make feed control and quality enforcement easier and more transparent.

The solution doesn't need reinvention, it only needs implementation.

Every Hot Mix Plant must be calibrated using load-cell checks, with dry gradation analysis made mandatory before work begins.

Real-time feed rates should be tracked using tachometers and Excel-based tools to ensure mix accuracy.

Engineers in the field need both technical equipment and administrative support to enforce standards.

These practices must be institutionalized across all R&B divisions, with drainage planning and surface milling treated as essential steps in every project.

Finally, weigh batching plants should be prioritized, and staff trained to operate them effectively.

The roads we laid five years ago still stand. Not because we had extra money, but because we refused to compromise. We measured, analyzed, corrected, and treated engineering as a science, not a gamble.

If we return to that standard, we won't just save roads. We'll save public money, improve safety, and give the people of J&K the infrastructure they deserve.

It's not rocket science. It's just good engineering.

— The author is an Assistant Executive Engineer in the Roads & Buildings Department of J&K, and can be reached at danish.timesjobs@gmail.com.

Land Subsidence, House Cracks In Ramban Force Three Families To Evacuate

Press Trust Of India

Jammu:Three families comprising 10 members were evacuated as a precautionary measure after land subsidence and cracks in residential houses were reported in a village in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

The land subsidence at Kulthi Chakka Kundi in Tehsil Rajgarh, along the banks of the Chenab River, triggered panic among the local villagers, particularly in the wake of recent heavy rains that have affected several areas of the district, they said.

Administrative, revenue and rescue teams rushed to the affected area and shifted the affected families to safer locations.

Tehsildar Rajgarh Major Singh said one non-residential structure belonging to Bhagat Ram was washed away, while cracks had developed in the residential houses of Chaat Ram, Chaman Lal and Bhushan Lal due to land subsidence over the past couple of days.

Singh said he visited the affected area along with an State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team and shifted the affected families. They were provided tents for temporary accommodation.

The Naib Tehsildar and other officials are stationed in the village and are closely monitoring the situation, he said.

Locals, however, reported cracks and damage to several



other houses, including those belonging to Dev Raj, Hari Ram, Santosh Singh, Fallal Singh and Shashram.

BJP Ramban district president Neelam Kumar Lange also visited the affected area and demanded compensation and rehabilitation for the affected families.

He also expressed concern over the absence of any minister or MLA from the National Conference-led government at the site, alleging that no

minister or MLA had visited the affected area to assess the situation.

Local residents apprehended that recent water releases from the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project following heavy rains may have contributed to ground instability.

However, officials said the exact cause of the land subsidence and cracks is yet to be established.

One person, along with a sand-extraction boat, who was

swept away by strong currents in the Chenab River near Pul Doda in Doda district Monday morning was also rescued by the SDRF.

The rescued person, a non-local worker employed as an operator of the sand-extraction machine, was engaged by a private company that had been awarded the contract for sand extraction in the area, officials said.

They said efforts are currently underway to retrieve the machinery from the river.

NC Leader Booked Over Provocative Remarks Against BJP In Ladakh



KO Web Desk

Leh: Police have registered an FIR against a senior National Conference (NC) leader over his alleged "degradatory and provocative" remarks against the BJP in Drass district of Ladakh a few days ago, officials said on Monday.

The complainant, BJP district president, Drass Fayaz Ahmed Qari, alleged that NC territorial vice president Ghulam Rasool Nagvi described the BJP as a "religion" and referred to its workers as "Yazidi qaum" during the August 21 press conference.

The complaint alleged that the remarks were provocative and could create communal tension and disturb public peace and law and order in Ladakh, officials said.

"Yazidi" refers to Yazid ibn Muawiya, the ruler who killed Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala in 680 CE. He is known as an oppressor.

They said the complainant also submitted video clips of the press conference as supporting material and sought investigation and legal action against the accused.

Officials said the case has been taken up for investigation.

According to the FIR registered at Police Station Drass, the case was registered on August 22 under Sections 196, 352, 353 and 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which are invoked for hate speech, public provocation, and malicious insults to religion.

J&K Crime Branch Arrests Bengaluru-Based Fraudster In Rs 2-Cr Case

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch has arrested a man from Bengaluru for allegedly cheating gullible investors in Kashmir of around Rs 2 crore, officials said on Monday.

Junaid ul Islam, a resident of Charar-e-Sharief in Budgam district, was wanted in a case registered under Section 420 of the RPC and had been evading arrest for the last one year, they said.

"He was arrested from Mangammanapalya in Bengaluru. The arrest was made in compliance with orders from the Court of the 4th Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, which had issued a warrant against him," an EOW spokesperson said.

The investigation prima facie substantiated allegations of cheating and financial fraud against the accused.

"The accused allegedly collected around Rs 2 crore from several individuals by representing himself as an investor associated with an e-commerce company and promising monthly returns of 10 per cent.

"After receiving the money through multiple bank accounts, he failed to honour his commitments and became unresponsive," the spokesperson said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dr Farooq Tells

his Lok Sabha victory was based on his own support, asking him to resign as an MP and seek a fresh mandate from the electorate.

"Resign from Parliament and come back to the people. Let us see who votes for you," Farooq said.

The NC president also stressed the importance of loyalty to the party and its workers, particularly after the party takes a decision during an election.

Referring to the Budgam election, Farooq questioned whether party workers could have been expected to go against the candidate officially fielded by the National Conference.

On reports of growing differences within the National Conference and a possible internal revolt, Farooq said differences existed in every political party and should not be treated as unusual.

He also underlined the distinction between the party organisation and the government, saying that as NC president he should not interfere excessively in the functioning of the government.

Farooq invoked the sacrifices made by generations of National Conference workers and leaders, saying the party had survived because of the loyalty and sacrifices of its grassroots cadre.

Asked about Ruhullah's political future, Farooq advised him to look towards the Quran for the right path and reiterated his view that the MP was currently moving in the wrong direction.

The remarks come amid increasingly public differences between the NC leadership and Ruhullah, who has in recent past questioned aspects of the government's functioning and taken positions on issues including reservation, electricity tariffs and the role of the United States in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNT)

Hot, Humid

several places in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius against a normal of 29.3 degrees, while the minimum temperature settled at 16.4 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 29.8 degrees and a minimum of 14 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 25 degrees and 11.7 degrees, respectively.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a maximum of 30.2 degrees and a minimum of 14.8 degrees. Kokernag recorded 28.4 degrees during the day, while its minimum temperature was 14.2 degrees.

Gulmarg remained cooler, recording a maximum of 21 degrees and a minimum of 9 degrees.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.3 degrees and a minimum of 24.2 degrees. Katra recorded 32.5 degrees, while Banihal recorded 29.5 degrees during the day.

The weather office advised farmers that harvesting and other agricultural operations could continue, while urging people in vulnerable areas to remain cautious during intense rainfall spells.

Spread Message

the students to carry forward the true spirit of Raksha Bandhan and encouraged them to spread the message of peace, love, unity and harmony.

The event was held ahead of Raksha Bandhan, which will be celebrated on August 28 this year, and provided the students an opportunity to interact with the Lieutenant Governor.

DPS Baramulla Principal Dr Shashwata Shiva, along with coordinators, teachers and other

school representatives, accompanied the students during the visit.

CM Sets One-Month

district, officials said.

The incident prompted police to arrest the accused and his brother on Friday.

The girl's death late Thursday evening triggered protests across Chatroo and several other parts of the district.

Police have arrested Khalid Ahmed Sheikh, a Teacher Grade-II and the in-charge headmaster of Middle School Bumalpora in Inderwal, along with his brother, officials said.

The girl died while being taken towards Jammu for an abortion, sources said. Her body and that of the stillborn child were subsequently taken to her village, triggering protests in Chatroo and other parts of Kishtwar on Friday.

Tribal Group Seeks

was allegedly raped by her teacher for months, resulting in her pregnancy and death during an abortion bid.

In a complaint filed through its member trustee Kabir Ahmed, the Tribal Gujjar Bakkarwal Welfare Foundation (TGBWF) urged the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) to take immediate cognisance of the case, and seek periodic progress reports from authorities until completion of the investigation.

On Friday, police arrested the accused Khalid Ahmed Sheikh, a Grade-II teacher and in-charge headmaster of a government middle school in Inderwal village, along with his brother, officials said.

The accused were booked under under Sections 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 65(1) (rape of a woman below 16 years), 90 (death caused by an act intended to cause miscarriage), 91 (act intended to prevent a child from being born alive or to cause its death after birth) and 92 (causing the death of a quick unborn child by an act amounting to culpable homicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Besides these, the FIR registered at Chatroo police station included Sections 4 (punishment for penetrative sexual assault), 6 (punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault), 8 (punishment for sexual assault), 10 (punishment for aggravated sexual assault) and 17 (punishment for abetment) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The TGBWF complaint pointed out that despite the deceased girl being a Gujjar, which is a notified Scheduled Tribe, and the accused not belonging to any scheduled community, the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has not been invoked in the case. It urged the NCST to direct the police to invoke provisions of the special law.

The foundation also sought an inquiry into allegations that after the pregnancy came to light, threats, monetary inducement and a community-level panchayat were allegedly used to suppress and settle the matter.

The role of medical practitioners, intermediaries and others connected with the alleged termination of pregnancy should be investigated, it said.

The TGBWF urged the preservation and examination of all relevant evidence, including electronic communications, call records, financial transactions, school and medical records, prescriptions and pharmacy records.

It also sought examination of whether any person with prior knowledge of the alleged offences failed to comply with mandatory reporting requirements under the POCSO Act.

Pointing to their economic and social vulnerability, the TGBWF sought protection for the deceased girl's parents, siblings and material

witnesses from intimidation and coercion.

It also sought statutory compensation and rehabilitation benefits for them admissible under the law.

The foundation requested the NCST to obtain an Action Taken Report from the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and others concerned.

It also appealed to the authorities, media organisations and the public to protect the identity and dignity of the deceased minor and her family.

According to sources, the minor girl died after delivering a stillborn child during an abortion late on Thursday evening.

Locals said the girl had been pregnant for months. About a fortnight ago, she complained of stomach pain and was taken to a local health centre, where a medical examination revealed her pregnancy. The girl then admitted to her parents that the teacher had sexually assaulted her repeatedly for the last few months.

Locals also alleged that the accused had offered money to the girl's family members and threatened them against approaching police.

On Wednesday, the accused and his brother allegedly took the girl, accompanied by her father and uncle, to a health facility in Kishtwar for an abortion. Following a medical examination there, she was referred to another facility, where an attempt was made to induce delivery through surgery, sources said.

The girl delivered a stillborn child during the procedure. Later, her condition deteriorated, and she too died, they said.

The incident sparked protests, with a complete bandh being observed in the Chatroo belt on Friday. Protests also spread to several parts of Kishtwar after Friday prayers. (PTI)

Power Hike A

"When did we say that the electricity tariff would not increase? We said we will provide 200 units free to poor households," he said.

He said the government planned to use solar panels under the Muft Bijli Yojana to implement the free-power commitment, adding that the tariff revision and the scheme were separate issues.

On threats reportedly issued to Kashmiri Pandit employees by militant groups, Omar urged the police and intelligence agencies to investigate the matter thoroughly and not take such threats lightly.

"The security apparatus -- police and intelligence agencies -- should not take these threats lightly and must investigate where these threats are coming from," he said, stressing that ensuring the safety of government employees was the responsibility of the police.

Omar recalled that Kashmiri Pandit employees had been targeted in similar circumstances two years ago, resulting in significant losses.

Meanwhile, on the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle, Omar ruled out any immediate exercise but said it would be undertaken when required.

"The work has not stopped; there is no crisis in the government, and operations are ongoing," he said.

Asked about his earlier statement that there would be no reshuffle before August 15, Omar clarified that he had not said it would take place immediately after that date.

"I said it won't happen before August 15. I didn't tell you that it will happen on August 15. When will it happen? In what circumstances? Leave this to me," he said.

The remarks come amid speculation over the filling of three vacant ministerial berths in the Union Territory.

Kashmir Entrepreneurs

Qazi spoke about his own journey and the

challenges he faced while building a global company from the valley.

Soon, the conversation turned to the practical questions that confront anyone trying to turn an idea into a business: How do you choose the right team? How do you build something customers in other countries will pay for? How do you enter unfamiliar markets? And how do you keep a young company growing?

Participants put these questions directly to Qazi, sharing their own ideas and seeking advice along the way. The relaxed setting allowed the discussion to move freely, with no formal distance between the speaker and the people listening.

One of Qazi's central messages was that a company's ambitions do not have to stop at Kashmir borders. "With the right people, systems and vision," he suggested, "businesses built in the valley can compete for customers in international markets."

That idea highlights a growing interest in entrepreneurship among Kashmir's young professionals.

"Many aspiring founders are looking for practical guidance from people who have already built companies, especially those who can explain how to move from a promising idea to a working business," said Shahid Ansari, founder of Startup Kashmir, who attended the event along with Khair Ul Nissa Shah, director of Startup Kashmir and Alson Motors.

"Startup Kashmir has been creating spaces for those conversations through meetups, mentoring sessions and interactions with founders and business leaders."

By evening, the coffee meetup had shifted into a networking session. Participants exchanged contact details, discussed ideas and explored possible collaborations.

"The meetup was informal, but the ideas were big," Ansari concluded. "For the young people there, it was a chance to hear from someone who had built a company beyond Kashmir and think about what they could build themselves."

Fresh Threats

the communication and ensure that the employees are kept safe and treated with dignity.

Alarmed by the alleged safety breach, the All PM Package Employees Forum Kashmir approached Chief Secretary Atal Dooloo, demanding a comprehensive review of security arrangements at their workplaces and residential accommodations across the valley.

Taking note of the incident, Chief Minister Abdullah emphasised that the police and security agencies must not treat the matter lightly.

"Such threats should not be issued. The law-and-order administration, security agencies, police and intelligence agencies should not take these things lightly," he told reporters in Srinagar.

Recalling the targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandit employees two-and-a-half years ago, including revenue official Rahul Bhat in Budgam and school teacher Rajni Bala, the chief minister warned of the consequences of administrative laxity.

"Two-and-a-half years ago, under similar circumstances, some Kashmiri Pandit employees were targeted, and we had to face serious consequences because of it," Abdullah said and made it clear that the security matters fall under the purview of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

He reiterated that the primary responsibility of the police is to ascertain the source of the threats and protect the staff.

Sunny Raina, a leader of the PM Package migrant employees, expressed deep distress over the breach of sensitive personal data.

"The latest threat letter contains our Jammu

residential addresses, vehicle numbers and phone numbers, and this personal information has also been shared on social media," Raina said, seeking an immediate investigation into how the private data reached the threat-makers.

He urged the administration to allow employees to work from home as an interim precautionary measure or provide robust security at their workplaces and colonies.

Raina also clarified that the employees hold no affiliation with any political or ideological organisations, such as the RSS, and are in the valley solely to perform their official duties.

Political leaders across party lines have also demanded swift action in the incident.

BJP leader Chetan Wanchoo condemned the threats and called for an immediate, time-bound investigation to trace the entire chain behind the leaked information and hold accountable those facilitating or supplying details to terror front groups.

This incident marks the second threat targeting PM Package employees within two weeks. A similar ULC letter mentioning six employees surfaced online earlier this month, prompting security upgrades around sensitive Pandit settlements.

Police and intelligence agencies are currently evaluating the authenticity of the letter and investigating the source of the data leak.

HC Upholds ED

dredging of drainage and escape channels flowing into the wetland. Reach Dredging, whose bid was found to be the lowest, was awarded the work in 2019 and completed it in 2020, as per the pleadings.

Subsequently, the Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case (FIR No. 7/2025) under Section 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B of the RPC. The company later received summons from the ED under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The company argued that the alleged offence under Section 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act was not a scheduled offence under the PMLA after Section 13(1)(d) of the Central Prevention of Corruption Act was omitted through the 2018 amendment. It contended that the ED consequently lacked jurisdiction to register the ECIR or issue summons.

The ED opposed the plea, maintaining that Section 5(1)(d) of the J&K law corresponds to the amended Section 7 of the Central Prevention of Corruption Act, which is a scheduled offence under the PMLA.

The Court rejected the company's contention, holding that the 2018 amendment, which omitted Section 13(1)(d) of the Central Prevention of Corruption Act, did not remove the corresponding offence from the statutory framework. Rather, the court said, the amended Section 7 was made comprehensive enough to cover conduct previously dealt with under Section 13(1)(d).

The Court observed that amended Section 7 covers cases where a public servant obtains or accepts an undue advantage by abusing his position or through corrupt or illegal means, thereby corresponding to Section 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act.

Since the amended Section 7 of the Central Prevention of Corruption Act is included in the PMLA Schedule, the Court held that an offence under Section 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act also qualifies as a scheduled offence by virtue of Section 2(2) of the PMLA.

Accordingly, the court held that the ED had jurisdiction to issue summons and register the ECIR against Reach Dredging Limited. Finding no merit in the petition, the Court dismissed the plea.

J&K Plans K-12 Upgrade of 714 High Schools to Boost Senior Secondary Education

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reviewed a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen access to senior secondary education and improve the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the higher secondary level in the Union Territory.

Abdullah chaired a meeting of the School Education Department during which a phased plan to upgrade 714 high schools into K-12 composite schools was discussed, an official spokesperson said.

The plan focuses on requirements of teaching and non-teaching staff, infrastructure, laboratories and other essential facilities, he said.



The proposed upgradation is aimed at ensuring continuity in school education, expanding access to classes 11 and 12 and reducing dropouts during the critical transition after class 10,

particularly in underserved and geographically remote areas, the spokesperson said.

The meeting also deliberated on better utilisation of existing human resources, strengthening

academic facilities and improving the overall school network.

The roadmap envisages a planned and requirement-based approach to expansion, besides coordination with the Union

government for necessary support under centrally sponsored schemes.

Abdullah emphasised the need for a focused and need-based strategy to expand senior secondary education, with particular attention to accessibility and ensuring better educational opportunities for students across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta.

Other senior officers of the School Education Department were also present.

Dr Sinha Takes Charge as CEO of AIIMS Jammu



Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Prof Sanjeev Sinha on Monday assumed charge as the new executive director and CEO of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu, succeeding Prof (Dr) D N Sharma.

Sinha joined AIIMS Jammu on deputation from AIIMS New Delhi, bringing a rich blend of clinical expertise, academic experience and research orientation to the institution, a spokesperson of the institute said.

As professor in the Department of Medicine at AIIMS New Delhi, Sinha has a distinguished academic and clinical background, with experience spanning patient care, teaching, medical training and research. His expertise is expected to bring valuable academic and scientific perspective to AIIMS Jammu, the spokesperson said.

Under his leadership, AIIMS Jammu will be expanding and strengthening clinical services, enhancing the quality of medical education, promoting high-quality research and innovation,

encouraging interdisciplinary academic collaboration and creating greater opportunities for faculty and students to engage in impactful research, he said.

Sinha's leadership is also expected to contribute towards building a strong culture of evidence-based clinical practice, academic excellence and research-driven healthcare, while further strengthening AIIMS Jammu as a centre of excellence, the official said.

He said the appointment of Sinha as executive director, AIIMS Jammu, has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge, or until attaining the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The tenure of Sharma as executive director and CEO concluded with this leadership transition. He assumed charge of AIIMS Jammu on January 10, 2026, and served the institution during an important phase of its development.

Power Tariff Hike a Compulsion: MP Ramzan

Agencies

HANDWARA: National Conference (NC) Rajya Sabha Member Choudhary Ramzan on Monday defended the government's decision to increase electricity tariffs by 6.83 percent, describing the hike as a "compulsion" rather than a choice.

Speaking to reporters in Handwara, Ramzan, as per KNO said, "We don't want people to suffer, but it is a compulsion. Rates of other essentials are also touching the skies. The power tariff hike is a compulsion, otherwise we will have to stop giving electricity," he said.

Ramzan urged people to cooperate with the government, saying it had to balance competing demands amid the challenges in governance.

He said the decision was

taken even though the government was not ready for the tariff increase.

On the issue surrounding NC leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, Ramzan said Ruhullah remains an integral part of the National Conference and there is no issue between him and the party leadership.

"Aga Ruhullah is part of the ruling National Conference. He was and is part of us," he said.

Ramzan said NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah had earlier described Ruhullah as being like his son, while Ruhullah had also referred to Abdullah as a fatherly figure.

"Where is the issue?" he asked, accusing the media of blowing the matter out of proportion.

"Media should stop exaggerating the issue. They have already done enough," Ramzan said—(KNO)

'Rejig CM's Memory': Lone Shares NC Manifesto Page on Power Tariff Relief

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hours after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah claimed that the National Conference had not promised relaxation in electricity tariffs, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone shared a page from the party manifesto in which the NC had pledged to explore feasible ways to provide some respite in power tariff.

In a post on X, as per KNO, Lone said he was attaching the relevant page of NC's manifesto to rejig the CM's memory. "And CM sahib has made a statement that he never said that he will not increase tariffs. To rejig CM sahib's memory I am attaching the relevant page from NC election manifesto," Lone wrote. He further said that the CM and National Conference are not telling the people of Jammu & Kashmir that the Punjab government is providing 300 units of free electricity to all domestic consumers and Himachal Pradesh 125 units. "AAP's Bhagwant Mann took oath as Punjab Chief Minister in 2022 and rolled out the free electricity scheme in

the same year. All domestic consumers in Punjab are receiving 300 units of free power. As per the 2026-27 tariff order released by the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission, the scheme continues. Lakhs of families in Punjab are receiving zero electricity bills, and the Punjab government has repeatedly claimed that 90% of households are getting zero bills," Lone said.

Lone accused the CM and the ruling National Conference (NC) of going back on their election promise of providing relief in electricity tariffs.

Lone pointed out that the recent 6.8% tariff hike translates into an additional burden of over Rs 500 crore on consumers.

He said unsuspecting families were waiting for the promised 200 units of free electricity per month, but instead faced higher bills.

He added that in non-metered areas, household load was increased, raising bills by nearly 10%.

Lone further the free power promise was later restricted only to AAY ration card holders, covering about 200,000 families. (with KNO inputs)

High-Density Apples Fetch Up to Rs 200/kg, Boost Growers' Returns



Agencies

SRINAGAR: High-density apple cultivation is gradually transforming the traditional horticulture landscape of Kashmir, with growers reporting higher productivity, improved fruit quality and better returns compared to conventional orchard systems, as prices of high-density apples have touched nearly Rs 200 per kilogram in some markets this season.

Growers from Pulwama and Shopian said modern plantations have enabled them to make better use of limited land while reducing the waiting period for substantial returns.

Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, a grower from Pulwama, told KNO that traditional apple trees require considerable space and take several years before reaching full production capacity, whereas in high-density orchards plants are smaller, fruiting begins earlier and productivity is much higher, making the difference in returns clearly visible when quality apples fetch Rs 150 to Rs 200 per kilogram.

Mohammad Yousuf Reshie, a grower from Shopian, said high-density plantations could prove

particularly beneficial for farmers with small landholdings, as they allow many more plants to be grown on the same piece of land, giving small farmers an opportunity to produce a sizeable quantity of fruit. "The advantage becomes more evident during marketing, as high-density orchards can produce a higher volume of commercially desirable fruit, and if the market remains favourable, growers can earn significantly better returns," he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has been encouraging the transition towards high-density horticulture as part of efforts to increase productivity, modernise the apple industry and improve farmers' incomes. It has been extending support towards planting material, infrastructure and other components required for establishing high-density plantations to reduce the initial financial burden on farmers.

Officials and horticulture experts have stressed that government assistance, coupled with proper technical guidance, can help growers adopt modern systems while improving overall productivity.

Apni Party, PDP Protest Power Tariff Hike, Demand Rollback

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Apni Party and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders and workers on Monday staged separate protests in Srinagar against the government's decision to increase electricity tariffs by an average 6.83 per cent, demanding immediate withdrawal of the decision.

Mir also accused the ruling party of failing to honour its election promises, saying the government had promised 200 units of free electricity and free gas cylinders to households but had instead increased the power tariff.

Meanwhile, PDP leaders and workers also staged a protest against the tariff hike, at party headquarters accusing Omar Abdullah-led government of failing to address the concerns of ordinary consumers.

Talking to reporters, Mir said the government has increased power tariffs despite people facing unemployment, shrinking business op-

portunities and rising prices.

"It is unfortunate that, despite being fully aware that people are already facing severe financial hardships, the government has chosen to increase power tariffs," he said, demanding immediate withdrawal of the decision.

Mir also accused the ruling party of failing to honour its election promises, saying the government had promised 200 units of free electricity and free gas cylinders to households but had instead increased the power tariff.

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER MINI-SECRETARIAT KULGAM

ROOM NO 101 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TEL/FAX: 01931467195

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject: Invitation of applications from eligible Masters/Teachers for posting as Warden, Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Kulgam.

Reference:

1. Government Order No. 557-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated 09.05.2023, issued by the General Administration Department, J&K.

2. Office communication No. CEO/K/IMW/3036/2026 dated 05.08.2026 addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam regarding submission of panel for deployment as Warden, Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Kulgam.

Applications are hereby invited from eligible Masters/Teachers working in the School Education Department within District Kulgam for consideration for posting as Warden, Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Kulgam, against the vacancy that has accrued consequent upon expiry of the prescribed tenure of the incumbent Warden.

The process of selection/posting shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with the provisions of Government Order No. 557-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated 09.05.2023 and the policy framed thereunder for deputation of Wardens/Assistant Wardens/Tutors in Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostels.

1. Eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Be a Master/Teacher of the School Education Department presently working within District Kulgam.

2. Be willing to serve as Warden, Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Kulgam.

3. Possess a satisfactory service and career record.

4. Be free from any adverse vigilance status.

5. Be capable of effectively managing the academic, administrative, residential and welfare-related responsibilities of the Hostel.

6. Fulfil the other conditions prescribed under Government Order No. 557-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated 09.05.2023.

2. Documents to be enclosed

The application shall invariably be accompanied by the following:

• Detailed service particulars/service statement.

• Attested copy of the latest posting order.

• Attested copy of the latest service book entry/service certificate.

• Details of educational and professional qualifications.

• Statement of length of service/seniority.

• Details of administrative responsibilities/assignments, if any.

• Latest Annual Performance Reports/ACRs, as applicable.

• Certificate regarding satisfactory service record.

• Vigilance clearance, wherever available.

• Details of any disciplinary proceedings, if pending or contemplated.

• Written undertaking regarding willingness to serve as Warden on deputation.

• Any other document considered relevant by the competent authority.

3. Submission of Applications

The applications, complete in all respects, shall reach the Office of the Chief Education Officer, Kulgam, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice during office hours.

Applications may be submitted through the concerned Head of Institution/Zonal Education Officer, duly authenticated and accompanied by the requisite service particulars.

The applicant shall clearly superscribe the envelope/application as:

"APPLICATION FOR POSTING AS WARDEN, GUJJAR & BAKERWAL HOSTEL, KULGAM."

Applications received after the prescribed date or found incomplete shall not be entertained.

4. Scrutiny and Selection Procedure

The applications received shall be scrutinized by the Office of the Chief Education Officer, Kulgam.

'The eligible applicants shall thereafter be placed before the District Level Screening Committee constituted under Government Order No. 557-JK(GAD) of 2023 for examination and furnishing of specific recommendations in respect of each candidate.

The District Level Screening Committee comprises:

1. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam - Chairman/Convenor.

2. Chief Education Officer, Kulgam - Member Secretary.

3. Representative of the concerned Department - Member.

4. Representative of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) -

5. Parameters for Assessment

The candidature of each applicant shall be assessed strictly on the parameters prescribed under the Government Order, including:

a. Vigilance clearance;

b. Favourable character and antecedents report from CID;

c. Seniority/length of service;

d. administrative skills;

e. Suitability for the post;

f. Career record;

g. Willingness to serve; and

h. Proximity to the Hostel.

The mere submission of an application shall not confer any right upon the applicant for selection or posting. The competent authority shall have the final discretion to select the most suitable candidate on the basis of the prescribed parameters and recommendations of the District Level Screening Committee.

6. Deputation and Tenure

The selected candidate shall be posted as Warden, Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Kulgam, on deputation strictly in accordance with the applicable provisions of J&K CSR and the conditions prescribed under Government Order No. 557-JK(GAD) of 2023.

As per the said policy, the period of deputation shall be for a maximum period of three years only, upon expiry of which the official shall be deemed to have been relieved to his/her parent department, subject to the applicable Government instructions.

7. Important Conditions

1. The applicant must furnish correct and complete information in the application.

2. Any concealment of material facts, misrepresentation or submission of false information shall render the candidature liable to rejection and may also invite action under rules.

3. Candidates having adverse vigilance status, unfavourable character/antecedents or other material adverse entries shall not be considered eligible for recommendation.

4. The concerned Head of Institution/Zonal Education Officer shall ensure that the service particulars furnished by the applicant are duly verified before forwarding the application.

5. The competent authority reserves the right to reject any application, cancel the process or modify the schedule, if required, in accordance with Government rules/instructions.

6. No applicant shall claim posting merely on the basis of seniority, experience or submission of an application.

7. The final recommendation shall be based on the overall suitability of the candidate, keeping in view the parameters prescribed in the Government Order.

8. The decision of the competent authority regarding selection/posting shall be final and binding, subject to the applicable rules.

All eligible Masters/Teachers who are willing to undertake the responsibilities of Warden and fulfil the prescribed conditions are advised to avail the opportunity and submit their applications within the stipulated time.

No-CEO/K/IMW/ 3459-69/2026

Dated:-22/08/2026

Chief Education Officer.

Kulgam

DIPK-4933-26

DT: 24/08/2026

CJP Announces Sept 5 March in Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday called for a protest march in Delhi on September 5, accusing the Centre of failing to honour the promises made on July 25 to convince the outfit to withdraw its 36-day agitation against examination irregularities.

The march, to be held on Teachers' Day, will begin at India Gate and proceed towards the Delhi Police Headquarters, the CJP announced in a statement.

It said the march would be led by families of students who died by suicide following the cancellation of NEET exam and the subsequent re-test, and those who were allegedly subjected to police excesses during the July agitation.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the CJP National Working Committee on Monday, a month after the outfit called off its agitation following negotiations with the Centre.

"Our patience cannot be mis-taken for weakness. Our good faith cannot become an opportu-



nity for the government to betray the young people of this country," the CJP, which began as a satirical online platform before turning into a youth movement, said.

The CJP's agitation began at Jantar Mantar on June 20 over alleged irregularities in the examination system and the NEET paper leak and subsequently spread to other parts of the country. On July 20, a march to Parliament led by the outfit descended into chaos and violence as police cracked down on the protesters, leading to scores of injuries.

The CJP's agitation ended on July 25 after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned as the union Education Minister and the govern-

ment, following talks with CJP representatives, agreed to its other demands, including compensation for families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide, and withdrawal of FIRs against protesters.

The two sides had also agreed to hold further discussions on broader examination reforms.

CJP representatives Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka had announced the withdrawal of the protest at a joint press conference with Union ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh, saying they were ending the agitation in "good faith" on the understanding that the agreed terms would be implemented within the stipulated timeline.

Iran Reports New Front in Fight Against Metastatic Cancer

Trans Asia News

TEHRAN: Iranian cancer researchers have developed an FAPI-based approach to diagnose and treat advanced and metastatic solid cancers by targeting the tumour micro-environment, a strategy they say has shown encouraging results in patients with limited treatment options.

Professor Mohammad Esmail Akbari, a prominent Iranian cancer surgeon and researcher, said the approach was developed in 2024 in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

The technique focuses on fibroblast activation protein (FAP), which is expressed by certain cells surrounding tumours and is increasingly being studied internationally as a potential target for cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Researchers developed a compound known as FAPI and combined it with a radioisotope produced by the AEOI to create a targeted diagnostic and therapeutic agent, Akbari said.

"We have always been looking for the cancer cell itself, but we realised that the environment around the tumour, the micro-environment, also plays a key role in the progression of cancer," he said. The approach is designed to deliver radiation to FAP-expressing tissue surrounding the tumour, potentially allowing cancer cells to be attacked through their supporting environment.

Encouraging Results in Advanced Cases

Prof Akbari said the method was initially



used on patients with advanced metastatic cancers for whom conventional treatment options had been exhausted.

"We worked on patients who were completely at the end of the line and for whom there was no effective treatment," he said, claiming that some patients had experienced survival extensions of up to four years.

He said more than 500 patients in Iran have so far been diagnosed or treated using the approach and that long-term follow-up data is being compiled.

The treatment is also being used at several Iranian medical centres, including facilities in Bushehr, Tabriz and Mashhad, he said.

International Trials Underway

Prof Akbari said the research had attracted international interest, with studies published in major medical journals. He also claimed that four international pharmaceutical companies had invested about USD 45 million

in the approach and that clinical trials were underway at 51 medical centres worldwide.

The claims, however, require validation through large-scale, controlled clinical trials and independent replication.

FAPI-based imaging and radioligand therapy are already an active area of international cancer research. Recent scientific reviews describe FAP-targeted radioligand therapy as promising, particularly for patients with advanced cancers who have exhausted standard treatments, but note that much of the evidence remains based on small studies and early-stage clinical research.

What Could Make the Approach Significant

The significance of the Iranian work, therefore, may lie less in the invention of FAPI therapy itself and more in whether the particular treatment protocol developed by the researchers can demonstrate durable benefits in larger patient populations.

If the reported results are confirmed, the approach could add to the rapidly developing field of cancer "theranostics", which combines targeted diagnosis with targeted treatment.

The potential significance is considerable given the growing global burden of cancer. An estimated 20.6 million people were diagnosed with cancer worldwide in 2024 and 9.8 million died from the disease, according to the latest global estimates. The number of new cases is projected to reach about 34.4 million annually by 2050.

No Physical Boarding Passes for Immigration From Sept 1

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 24 (PTI) The Bureau of Immigration (BoI) on Monday announced that beginning September 1, international travellers can use e-boarding passes displayed on their smartphones during immigration clearance at Indian airports, as the procedure of physically stamping these documents has been eliminated.

The agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued the "important advisory" on its social media handle X, saying the move meant "less paper, fewer steps and smoother travel."

PTI first reported on August 22 about the BoI's move to eliminate physical stamping of passenger boarding passes at international airports in the country.

The BoI said in its post that start-

ing September 1, international travellers can "go digital" as e-boarding passes are now accepted.

"International travellers can use e-boarding passes displayed on their smartphones during immigration clearance.

"FTI-TTP (Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Program) enrolled travellers can also use them at e-gates," it said.

The announcement added that "boarding passes will no longer be stamped during immigration clearance."

The agency said physical boarding passes will, however, continue to be accepted.

A senior officer involved in airport security said the new e-boarding pass regime will also eliminate the need for stamping by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) before boarding.

Only 13 Pc Schools in India AI Ready: Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Only 13 per cent schools in India have achieved advanced, system-wide integration of artificial intelligence and 91 per cent teachers believe it is necessary for schools to establish clear parameters defining boundaries for use of AI by students in academic work, according to a new report by QS I-GAUGE.

QS I-GAUGE is an independent education-rating system that brings together the global experience and expertise of London-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds and the knowledge of Indian educational luminaries.

According to another QS I-GAUGE report on AI adoption in higher education, four in five faculty members say their institutions are ready but 78 per cent fear overuse will weaken students' independent thinking

and problem-solving.

The voluntary surveys drew responses from 1,209 teachers from 71 K-12 institutions across 21 states and Union Territories, and 1,118 faculty responses from 146 higher education institutions across 27 states and UTs.

Together, the reports examine institutional readiness, teacher capacity, governance, classroom use and concerns about integrity, privacy and excessive dependence on automation.

"Among schoolteachers, 88 per cent said their leadership regarded AI as vital to future-ready education and 86 per cent said their schools were prepared to offer structured professional development.

"Yet institutional readiness remained uneven: 25 per cent each were at the structured-implementation and exploration stages, 15 per cent at awareness,

14 per cent at partial implementation, 5 per cent at pilot stage and 3 per cent reported no readiness," the school education report said.

While 91 per cent school teachers wanted defined boundaries for student use, faculty-use protocols, cyber safety and academic-integrity frameworks were among the top identified priorities. Parents' leading concerns, as reported by teachers, were data privacy and cognitive dependence, both at 77 per cent, followed by increased screen time at 76 per cent.

"Assessment of institutional readiness reveals a fragmented landscape with only 25 per cent schools having initiated structured AI implementation, 25 per cent remaining in an exploratory phase and only 13 per cent achieving advanced system wide-integration," the report said.

US Proposes \$1.03 Lakh H-1B Application Fee

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: The US on Monday proposed a USD 103,265 fee for all H1-B visa cap-subject applications, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, the Department of Homeland Security said.

The new proposal from the DHS came a month after a federal appeals court rejected a plea to stay a district judge's order overturning the Trump administration plan to charge a USD 1,00,000 fee for H1-B visa applications.

"...DHS proposes to implement the USD 103,265 amount as a separate, additional H-1B fee rather than combining it with the existing H-1B petition fee," according to a notice published in the Federal Register.

It said the fee would apply

only to H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, but not to cap-exempt filings.

The proposed fee is specifically to recover the interagency costs described in this rule and having a standalone fee is intended to facilitate tracking, allocation, and reporting of the associated revenue, the DHS said.

For these reasons, DHS proposes to implement the USD 103,265 amount as a separate, additional H-1B fee rather than combining it with the existing H-1B petition fee, the notice said.

"Same number. New wrapper. Same playbook. Throw enough things at the wall to restrict legal immigration and eventually something might stick (this won't)," said Emily Neumann, a US-based immigration attorney.

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