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J&K Braces For 10-Day Hot, Humid Weather

Scattered rain, thundershowers likely at several places

MeT warns of flash floods & mudslides on Aug 31-Sept 1



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally hot and humid weather over the next 10 days, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers expected at scattered places, the Meteorological Centre said on Thursday.

According to the forecast, brief spells of rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours from August 28 to 30.

The weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid on August 31 and September 1, with light to moderate rain and thundershowers likely at many places. Brief spells of intense rain may also occur during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The MeT has cautioned that

intense showers at isolated locations on August 31 and September 1 could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides, particularly in vulnerable areas.

From September 2 to 7, the weather is expected to remain generally dry, although brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The Meteorological Centre advised people, particularly those living in vulnerable areas, to remain alert during periods of intense rainfall.

Farmers have also been advised to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations while keeping local weather conditions in view.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.3 degrees | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM Extend Raksha Bandhan Greetings

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, which will be celebrated on August 28.

In his message, Sinha described Raksha Bandhan as a festival that celebrates the enduring bond between brothers and sisters.

He said the sacred thread of rakhi symbolises unconditional love, affection and

trust, and expressed hope that the occasion would further strengthen social ties and promote unity and togetherness across all sections of society.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended his warm wishes to the people on the occasion.

Describing Raksha Bandhan as a cherished festival celebrating love, affection and mutual respect between brothers and sisters, Abdullah said it reflects enduring values of family bonds, trust, care and responsibility that strengthen | [More on P6](#)

FDA Directs 50-Metre Junk Food Buffer Around J&K Schools

Sale, marketing and advertising of foods high in fat, sugar and sodium barred near school gates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has directed the School Education Department to ensure strict implementation of food safety regulations in all government and private schools, including a ban on the sale, marketing and advertising of junk food within school premises and within 50 metres of school gates.

In a communication to the Directors of School Education, the FDA said the Food Safety and Standards (Safe Food and Balanced Diets for Children in School) Regulations, 2020, must be effectively implemented to ensure that



schoolchildren have access to safe, hygienic and nutritionally balanced food.

Under the regulations, schools are required to ensure

that food products high in saturated fat, trans-fat, added sugar or sodium are not sold or offered on their premises.

The restrictions also apply

to an area extending 50 metres in every direction from school gates, where the sale, marketing or advertising of such food products to schoolchildren is prohibited.

The FDA further directed that food services operating within school campuses must be run by food business operators registered or licensed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and must comply with prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements.

Such food facilities are also required to maintain Food Safety Display Boards and have Food Safety Supervisors wherever applicable.

The regulations | [More on P6](#)

Sujit Kumar Takes Over As IGP Kashmir

M K Sinha Moves To CID; Tejinder Singh Is Jammu Zone IG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior IPS officer Sujit Kumar on Wednesday took charge as Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, as part of a major reshuffle of senior police officers ordered by the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Kumar, a 2007-batch AGMUT cadre officer, formally assumed charge at the Kashmir Zone headquarters on Wednesday afternoon. He was serving as IGP, Security, J&K, before being posted as IGP Kashmir under Government Order No. 438-Home of 2026.

He succeeds V K Birdi, who is proceeding on central deputation and has been relieved of the charge of IGP Kashmir.

Senior | [More on P6](#)

'Verify Before You Share'

J&K Police Warn Job Seekers Of Recruitment Scams

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police have cautioned job seekers against cyber fraudsters allegedly using fake recruitment processes, suspicious verification requests and identity-collection tactics to target candidates.

Police said scammers may create seemingly genuine hiring processes and then ask candidates to complete unusual verification procedures or share sensitive personal information under the pretext



of recruitment.

Job seekers have been advised to verify the credentials of recruiters and companies before sharing any personal information and remain cautious about unusual

verification requests during the hiring process.

Police also advised candidates to check official company websites, email domains and the presence of the recruiting organisation before responding to job offers.

Candidates have further been cautioned against instant selection offers and messages creating pressure or urgency to provide information or complete verification.

Police said genuine job opportunities should not pressure candidates | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Seeks Withdrawal Of JKAS Officer's Posting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat has asked the General Administration Department (GAD) to withdraw the posting of a Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer in the Assembly Secretariat, citing a lack of requisite expertise to oversee the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project.

In a letter to the Commissioner Secretary, GAD, a copy of which is in possession of news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Assembly Secretariat sought revocation of the order appointing Bilal

Ahmad Mir, JKAS, as Deputy Secretary in the Assembly.

The Secretariat stated that Mir "lacks the requisite qualification to run the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project in the J&K Legislative Assembly."

NeVA is a digital initiative aimed at making legislative assemblies paperless and enabling legislative business to be conducted through a unified digital platform.

Instead of the JKAS officer, the Assembly Secretariat has recommended that the Information Technology Department depute a qualified IT professional for an initial period of six | [More on P6](#)

HC Asks Govt To Decide Fate Of KVIB 2016 Job Process

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the authorities to take a definitive decision regarding the stalled recruitment process for posts advertised by the Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) in 2016, either by completing the selection or taking appropriate action following an inquiry.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar passed the directions while disposing of a petition filed by Mahboob Ali Mir and eight others, who

had challenged Government Order No. 127-IND of 2019 dated June 28, 2019, cancelling all selections made pursuant to Advertisement Notice No. KVIB/01 of 2016.

The petitioners applied for the positions of Accounts Assistant/Junior Auditor and Junior Assistant/Record Keeper, subsequently appearing in written and type tests followed by interviews.

However, while selection lists were issued for several other posts, including Executive Officer, Publicity Officer, Assistant | [More on P6](#)

NITI Aayog Flags Education, Health & Job Gaps In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A NITI Aayog delegation led by its member M. Srinivas has stressed the need to improve educational outcomes and infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation made the observation during a meeting with J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here.

"The delegation highlighted the need to further improve educational outcomes and infrastructure, strengthen industry-academia linkages and employment opportunities,



address human-resource and infrastructure gaps in the health sector, and improve primary healthcare delivery," an

official spokesman said after the meeting.

In agriculture and allied sectors, emphasis | [More on P6](#)

IFFJK
2026

135 Films From 41 Countries, ₹96 Lakh Prize Purse

Floating screen at Dal Lake, masterclasses by leading filmmakers planned

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is set to host its first International Film Festival from September 7 to 10, with 135 films from 41 countries scheduled to be screened during the four-day event.

The International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK 2026) will feature films from diverse cinematic traditions, alongside competitions, masterclasses, cultural performances and industry

interactions.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday reviewed preparations for the festival and directed departments and agencies involved in the event to ensure close coordination for its smooth conduct.

The festival carries a total prize purse of 96 lakh across nine award categories. The Best Film award carries 25 lakh, while Best Director and Best Debut Film of a Director will receive 15 lakh each.

The Best Film – J&K Select



category carries a prize of ₹10 lakh. Best Actor (Male) and Best Actor (Female) will receive ₹8 lakh each, while Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Best Editing carry ₹5 lakh each.

India has the largest representation in the festival with 64 films, followed by France with 13 and Iran with eight. Argentina and Spain will contribute four films each, while Brazil, Germany, Russia and the United States will have three films each. | [More on P6](#)

Cinema Heavyweights to Judge J&K's Maiden Film Fest

From Cannes glory to an Oscar-winning sound artist, Jammu and Kashmir's maiden international film festival is bringing together a jury packed with some of the biggest names in cinema. The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Thursday announced a five-member jury for the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10.

The jury features acclaimed cinematographer and filmmaker Santosh Sivan, Oscar- and | [More on P6](#)



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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES, BUDGAM

NOTICE FOR INVITING OBJECTIONS

Objections are invited from the stakeholders/ applicants regarding the selection of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & "Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)" Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Yojana (PMMSY) Schemes in District Budgam. The District Level Steering Committee meeting was convened in pursuance to Additional District Development Commissioner Budgam letter No. DDCB/Fisheries/2026-27/6217-28 Dated 21-08-2026. The selection of beneficiaries for various Fisheries related activities/components was conducted through Draw of Lots by the designated District Level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam with reference to Govt. Order No. 944-JK (GAD) of 2020 dated 15-10-2020 at New Conference Hall, DC office Budgam on 25-08-2026 at 11.00 Noon. The objections (if any) regarding operation of selection / waiting list shall be received in District Fisheries Office Budgam by or before 03-09-2026 during office hours. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated time period.

01. List of Selected beneficiaries under PMMSY Scheme for the component Fish Value Add Enterprise (Gen. Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Naseer Ahmad Parray	Abdul Majeed parray	Zanigam (site at Zanigam)	8492887889	Selected 1
02	Mohd. Shaheen Sofi	Gh. Hassan Sofi	Kremshore (site at Zooribagh)	9103806504	Waiting 1
03	Mohd. Altaf Khanday	Mohd. Jamal Khanday	Watred (site at Doodhpathri)	6006608872	Waiting 2

02. List of Selected beneficiaries under PMMSY Scheme for the component Fish KIOSK (Gen.Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Haq Nawaz Shafi	Mohd. Shafi Kalas	Dragger Kachwari (site main market Khansahib)	6006498216	Selected 1
02	Nissar Ahmad Gujjar Dinda	Altaf Hussain Gujjar Dinda	Zoogu Kharien (site at Arizal)	9906111650	Selected 2
03	Showkat Ahmad Dinda	Mushtaq Ahmad Dinda	Raiyar Ich (site at Arizal)	7051590129	Waiting 1
04	Mohd. Qasim Gujjar Bokda	Mohd. Akbar Gujjar	Ringzabal Arizal (Site at Arizal)	9797897665	Waiting 2
05	Irfan Farooq Gojar Piswal	Farooq Ahmad Gojar	Kachwari (site at Bassantwooder)	9797666093	Waiting 3

03. List of Selected beneficiaries under the scheme DAJGUA for the component Three-Wheeler with Ice Box including e-rickshaws for Fish Vending (S.T. Category Only)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Mohd. Iqbal Bokda	Mohd. Qasim Bokda	Ringzabal	7006936944	Selected 1
02	Mohd. Yousuf Paswal	Ghulam din Paswal	Ringzabal	7006936944	Selected 2
03	Aijaz Ahmad Gojar Bokda	Mohd. Qasim Gujjar Bokda	Ringzabal	6006821420	Waiting 1

04. List of Selected beneficiaries under the scheme DAJGUA for the component Motorcycle with Ice Box (S.T. Category Only)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Aijaz Ahmad Kasana	Mohd. Abdul Kasana	Ringzabal	6006821420	Selected 1

Sd/

Assistant Director Fisheries
District Budgam

DIPK-5036/26
dated: 27-08-2026

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: - Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

Public Notice

The registrar Births and Deaths BDO Pattan has submitted case file pertaining to birth of Kulsooma Akhter D/o Abdul Khaliq Khan R/o Wanigam Bala Distt Baramulla having verified the date of birth as 10-11-1991 and the event has been shown to be occurred at Home .

In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained
fko Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Esma Yousuf, D/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir, R/o Kanigam, District Shopian, hereby declare that my correct and actual name is ESMA YOUSUF, which is recorded in all my personal and official documents except my Aadhaar Card.

My Aadhaar Card has inadvertently been issued in the name of USMA JAN under Aadhaar No. 8175 6421 3983, which is incorrect due to a clerical error.

I hereby declare that ESMA YOUSUF is my true and correct name. I am publishing this notice for information of the general public and for submission before the concerned authorities for correction of my name in the Aadhaar Card.

Any person having any objection in this regard may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Deponent:
ESMA YOUSUF
D/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir
R/o Kanigam, District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rafiq Ahamad Ganie, S/o Abdul Rashid Ganie, R/o Bongam, District Shopian, hereby declare that my correct and actual name is Rafiq Ahamad Ganie.

However, my name has been inadvertently recorded as Rafiq Ah Ganiale on my Aadhaar Card bearing No. XXXX-XXXX-3597, which is incorrect.

The discrepancy has occurred due to a clerical error. My correct name, Rafiq Ahamad Ganie, is recorded in my other personal and official documents.

I have therefore approached the concerned authorities for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection in this regard may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Deponent:
Rafiq Ahamad Ganie
S/o Abdul Rashid Ganie
R/o Bongam, District Shopian

fko

From The Office Of The Advocate Ishrat Nabi

LIC No 396/22
6006181233

In the case of:

1. Sheikh Tabish S/o Sheikh Mukhtar R/o Umer Colony-A, Near Salfia Masjid, Botshah Mohalla, Lal Bazar, Srinagar.
2. Nidha Bazaz D/o Mehraj-ud-Din Bazaz W/o Sheikh Tabish R/o Umer Colony-A, Near Salfia Masjid, Botshah Mohalla, Lal Bazar, Srinagar.
3. Shahid Zahgeer S/o Abdul Salam Zahgeer R/o Firdous Lane, Buchpora, Srinagar.
4. Khalid Zahgeer S/o Abdul Salam Zahgeer R/o Firdous Lane, Buchpora, Srinagar.
5. Shabir Zahgeer S/o Abdul Salam Zahgeer R/o Firdous Lane, Buchpora, Srinagar.

CAVEATORS

VERSUS

Public at Large / Non-Caveators

The Caveators have reason to believe and apprehend that the Non-Caveators may file a suit, writ petition, application or any other proceedings before the Hon'ble Court or any other competent/subordinate Court, based on distorted facts, misrepresentation and a concocted version of the facts, and may succeed in obtaining an interim or other relief to the prejudice of the Caveators, causing them irreparable loss, injury and inconvenience. It is, therefore, just and proper that the Caveators be afforded an opportunity of being heard before any order is passed in such proceedings. Hence, this Caveat.

fko

Election for Intizamia Committee Masjid-i-Bilal (Hanafia), Mohalla Naqshband, Umar Colony-B, Lane No. 3, Lal Bazar, Srinagar

PRESS NOTE

On 16th August (Sunday) 2026, a special meeting of the members (Households) associated with Masjid-i-Bilal was held to elect the office bearers of the new Intizamia Committee. Majority of the members (associated with the Masjid) participated in the meeting. Earlier all the four executive members of the former Committee offered their resignation voluntarily which was appreciable.

After holding a threadbare discussion the participants insisted upon the former office bearers to continue for another three years as nobody else was willing to contest. Out of four former Executive members, only three agreed to contest and they were re-elected with majority vote. The fourth executive member was elected unanimously.

After completion of the election process a new committee comprising of the following members was elected for three years w.e.f. 16-8-2026.

Executive Members	
1.	Ajaz Ahmad Kitab – President
2.	Syed Ahmad Siddiqui – Vice-President
3.	Showkat Ahmad Basu – General Secretary
4.	Altaf Hussain Khan – Treasurer
General Members	
1.	Mohamad Saleem Bhat
2.	Tariq Ahmad War
3.	Mohamed Uzair Bhat
4.	Imtiyaz Ahmad Zaz
5.	Feroze Ahmad Bhat

Sd

President

inf Intizamia Committee Masjid-i-Bilal (Hanfia)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name and DOB of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Maskan Showket while her correct name is Muskan Showkat and Correct DOB is 07-2-22011. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Showkat Ahmmad Lone
S/O Abdul Rashed Lone
R/o Malmanchihuma Beerwah

bmrg

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE KUPWARA

ATTENTION PLEASE

The Candidates whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost his 10 th Class Marks Certificate of Secondary School Examination issued by BOSE with the following particulars
Name :- Nuzhat Ramzan
Parentage:- Mohammad Ramzan Hajam
Mothers Name:- Afrooza Begum
Residence:- Ganapora Langate .Distt .KUPWARA
10 th Class Roll No:- 128031010
Session:- Annual Regular 2024

Reg No:- 222801
0000370017

DOB:- 06.07.2009 Result Qualified Class 10th. Marks 302/500
Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate Marks Certificate before the same is processed and issued in the candidate anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Asstant Secretary, BOSE sub office Kupwara or undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above referred Marks certificate bearing Roll no :- 128031010. are be treated as cancelled, SD/-

Asstant Secretary
J&K BOSE SUB OFFICE KUPWARA

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora.

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sarwa Begum D/o Abdul Sidiq Mir R/o Sariwarpora A/p Nehalpora . The date of birth as per Age certificate issued by BMO pattan is 08/06/1969. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Musrat Gull D/o Gh Mohd Mir R/o Babagund Mamoosa with verified date of birth 08/06/2000 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

mcb Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Firdous Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Jabar Dar, R/o Haigam, Tehsil Khoie, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I have applied for change of consumer name in the PDD electricity records against Consumer No. 0213020006028, presently registered in the name of Abdul Jabar Dar S/o Mohammad Kamal Dar, R/o Haigam, Tehsil Khoie, District Baramulla.

I have requested that the consumer name be changed from Abdul Jabar Dar to Firdous Ahmad Dar. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid change may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Firdous Ahmad Dar
S/o Abdul Jabar Dar
R/o Haigam, Tehsil Khoie, District Baramulla

ird

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Muskan Tabsum D/o: Zakir Hussain R/o Chiterkote Tangdhara Kupwara is applying for DEE Class Government Contractor Card at the Office of the Chief Engineer JKPDC Bemina. Anybody having any objection may contact above Office within seven days from the date of this advertisement after which no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Ahad peer S/o... Ghulam Mohammad peer R/o... Hardushiva Dangerpora , District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I have applied for change of consumer name in the PDD electricity records against Consumer No. 0213030018525, presently registered in the name of Peerzada Abdul Mateen Akhoon S/o...Peerzada Abdul Ahad Akhoon R/o...Hardushiva Tashil...Dangerpora Sopore .

I have requested that the consumer name be changed from Peerzada Abdul Mateen Akhoon to Abdul Ahad peer . Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid change may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Ahad peer
S/o... Ghulam Mohammad peer
R/o... Hardushiva Dangerpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0203010002429 and Installation No.: 21437-RI, presently registered in the name of SEEMA KHAN W/o ALTAF AHMAD KHAN, R/o H. No. 780, Sector 2F, Haider Colony, Bemina, Srinagar, is proposed to be transferred in favour of FURKHAN RASHID YADOO S/o Late ABDUL RASHID YADOO, R/o H. No. 780, Sector 2F, Haider Colony, Bemina, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection to the proposed transfer may submit the same before the Sub-Division, Watal Kadal, within one week from the date of publication of this notice

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Gh Mohamad bhat to Gh Mohd Bhat

In future, I will be known as Gh Mohd Bhat if any person has any objection, he/she may contact the Passport office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Khan S/o Sher Wali Khan, R/o Balhama Thakanpora, Tehsil Rohama, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter, Saniya Nazir, has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6566 2871 9424 as "Sania Nazir" instead of her correct name "Saniya Nazir", as reflected in her school records.

I have applied for correction of her name in the Aadhaar records from "Sania Nazir" to "Saniya Nazir". Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Khan
S/o Sher Wali Khan
R/o Balhama Thakanpora, Tehsil Rohama
District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Janid, F/o Shazad Ahmed, R/o Nowshera Nariana, Tehsil Nowshera, Post Office Narian, District Rajouri, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2697 4448 7712 as "Sajid Ahmed", which is incorrect.

His actual and correct name is "Shazad Ahmed". I have applied for correction of his name in the Aadhaar records from "Sajid Ahmed" to "Shazad Ahmed" and for publication of the same in the Government Gazette.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Janid
F/o Shazad Ahmed
R/o Nowshera Nariana, Tehsil Nowshera
Post Office Narian, District Rajouri

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muhammad Owias Naik S/o Abdul Majid Naik, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Date of Birth Certificate as "Muhammd Owais Naikoo S/o Ab Majid Naikoo", which is incorrect.

My correct name is "Muhammad Owias Naik S/o Abdul Majid Naik."

Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction may submit the same before the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Baramulla, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Muhammad Owias Naik
S/o Abdul Majid Naik

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my wards name from (old name)

Naila to (new name) Naila Fayaz . In future She will

be known as (new name)

Naila Fayaz.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may

contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days.

After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advrt

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID: 0203030000506 registered in the name of Ali Mohmmad Wani to be transferred in favour of

Farooq Ahmad Wani, S/o Ali Mohmmad Wani R/o Kaka sahib shrine ,Srinagar. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line Adv

اطلاع عام

برخاص وعام کو ذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے کی رجسٹرڈ زیر تکمیل نمبر 02060100011762 جو کہ میرے سر کے نام پر بین الاقوامی طور پر رجسٹرڈ ہے۔ اب اس کو میرے نام یعنی نصیر احمد گوہری کے نام پر کر دانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر داخلہ کرنا چاہیے۔ ورنہ ڈی ڈی بیڈ گام کے پیش پیش کریں۔ معاذ کد رنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نصیر احمد گوہری ولد غلام احمد گوہری ساکن بازار عطرہ بدگام۔ MBC



Boulevard Gets a Festival Makeover, But Rest Remains Neglected

The Smart City facelift loses sheen; cycle tracks crack, tiles come loose as garbage, and shabby fencing and blocked drains scar Srinagar’s iconic waterfront

KO City Desk

Srinagar: With the city preparing to host the first International Film Festival at the SKICC, the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has swung into action to spruce up the areas around the venue and Lalit Ghat.

But just beyond the festival spotlight, large stretches of the iconic Dal Boulevard continue to present a very different picture — one of waste, neglect and haphazard development.

LCMA on Wednesday inspected the areas around SKICC and Lalit Ghat and ordered an intensive cleanliness drive ahead of the September 7-10 festival.

Four machines, including three harvesters and a Water Master, have been deployed to remove aquatic weeds and floating material around the designated areas.

The exercise is aimed at ensuring that the surroundings of SKICC and Lalit Ghat remain clean and presentable for national and international visitors.

But just beyond the immediate

festival zone, several stretches of the Dal Boulevard continue to tell a different story.

Garbage dumps, blocked water channels, shabby fencing, haphazard roadside activity and deteriorating infrastructure have remained visible along the waterfront despite repeated complaints and reminders.

The situation raises a broader question: Why does Srinagar’s most iconic boulevard receive sustained attention only when an international event is approaching?

From G20 makeover to post-event neglect

The boulevard had received a major facelift ahead of the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar in May 2023, when the city was under intense international scrutiny.

The waterfront was spruced up, infrastructure was showcased and the boulevard was presented as part of Srinagar’s new urban image.

But nearly three years later, parts of that makeover are visibly showing signs of deterioration.

The much-publicised cycle



track, constructed as part of the Smart City intervention, has developed cracks at several places,

while tiles have come loose or are missing from sections.

Electric poles and trees con-

tinue to obstruct portions of the track, raising questions about the project’s design as well as subsequent maintenance.

The deterioration has also fuelled the impression that the boulevard was prepared primarily to impress visitors during the G20 event, rather than developed as infrastructure requiring sustained maintenance after the event ended.

The latest preparations for another international gathering have revived that concern.

The cameras leave, the problems remain. The issue is not merely cosmetic.

The Dal Boulevard is among the most important public spaces in Srinagar and one of the first landscapes encountered by tourists travelling along the city’s eastern waterfront.

Yet portions of the road are increasingly marked by an assortment of makeshift and poorly maintained features.

Read full story on Kashmirobserver.net

CM Charts Five-Year Plan to End Srinagar’s Waterlogging Woes

Directs time-bound action to strengthen drainage infrastructure



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the drainage sector of Srinagar city, with a focus on addressing waterlogging, strengthening stormwater infrastructure and putting in place both immediate and long-term measures to improve the city’s drainage resilience.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Fazlul Haseeb gave a detailed presentation on the drainage profile of Srinagar and outlined a comprehensive five-year integrated roadmap to address the key infrastructural and environmental challenges affecting stormwater management in the city.

The presentation highlighted that Srinagar currently has around 680 km of stormwater deep

drainage network, while the city faces a deficit of nearly 2,500 km of drain length in view of future development envisaged under Master Plan 2035. Around 15 per cent of the existing stormwater network is presently not functioning at optimum hydraulic capacity due to inadequate drain dimensions, ageing infrastructure, silt deposition and solid-waste ingress. The review also highlighted the impact of rapid urbanisation on the city’s natural drainage system and stressed the need for conservation and restoration of remaining natural drainage corridors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that, to the best extent possible, the drainage system must be strengthened so that the city does not face inundation after few hours of rainfall.

Srinagar’s Proposed Flyover, Ring Road Projects under Review

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review various proposed road projects for Srinagar aimed at improving urban mobility, easing traffic congestion and strengthening the city’s transportation network.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Chief Engineers of I&FC and R&B, and officers from PHE, NHAI, Police, Traffic and KPDCL, among other concerned departments.

At the outset, the Superintending Engineer, PWD, presented replies to the observations raised during the previous meeting regarding the proposed Parimpora-Dalgate Flyover, along with

a detailed analytical report on the project.

While reviewing the report, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Commissioner SMC to submit the final report of the committee constituted under his chairmanship to assess the project’s likely impact on traffic decongestion and improved mobility.

He instructed to incorporate assessments, concerns and inputs from all stakeholder departments regarding the flyover.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized that the project should be evaluated through a comprehensive and integrated assessment, taking into account its impact on the overall transportation network rather than examining it in isolation. He stressed the need for detailed technical and stakeholder evaluation before taking the project forward.

Former SMC Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Passes Away

Observer News Service

Srinagar, August 27: Ghazanfar Ali, former bureaucrat-turned-politician who served as Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), passed away on Thursday night at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, after a prolonged illness.

According to family sources, Ali suffered a major heart attack on May 18, 2026, following which he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of SMHS Hospital. He remained under treatment for some time and was later discharged after his condition improved.

However, his health dete-



riorated again on Thursday. Despite medical intervention, he breathed his last at around 10 pm at the hospital. His death has left his family, relatives, friends and well-wishers in deep shock and grief. Condolences poured in from people across different sections of society, who expressed sorrow over

his passing and solidarity with the bereaved family.

Gazanfar Ali had a long association with public administration and politics. He served as Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and was known for his involvement in public affairs and engagement with different sections of society.

He later joined the Awami Itihad Party and unsuccessfully contested the Assembly elections on the party’s ticket.

Following news of his demise, colleagues, acquaintances and political associates remembered him and conveyed condolences to his family during the difficult hour.

Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir

Office of the Chief Canning Instructor Kashmir(Srinagar)

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - Extension of date for receipt of application invited for undergoing Six Month training course in the art of fruit and vegetable preservation.

Due to a low volume of applications received within the initially stipulated time frame, and to ensure ample opportunity for all eligible youth across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to establish their livelihood, the last date for submission of application forms for the Six Months Training Course at the Fruit and Vegetable Craft Centre, LalMandi, Srinagar, is hereby extended up to 03-09-2026. Accordingly, the revised schedule for the selection process and commencement of training is ordered as under:

Last date for receipt of application forms	03-09-2026.
Date of Personal Interview / Screening	05-09-2026 (11:00 AM).
Display of final Selection List	08-09-2026.
Commencement of offline classes	09-09-2026.

All other terms, eligibility conditions, and documentation requirements featured in the original advertisement notice shall remain strictly identical. Candidates must bring their original academic and domicile credentials at the time of the interview. Field functionaries are directed to optimize outreach to maximize student enrollment.

Sd/-
K.S. Sodhi
Chief Canning Instructor
Kashmir (Srinagar)

DIPK-5047/26
dated: 27-08-2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Notice						
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railways, Jammu for and on behalf of The President of India invites sealed Single Packet Application for prescribed for the undernoted STBA (Station Ticket Booking Agent) work:						
SN	Station Name	Station code	Category of Station	EMD required (in Rs.)	Application Form Cost (in Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Palampur Himachal	PLMX	NSG4	10000/-	1180/-	One Years
2	Kopar Lahar	KPLR	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
3	Chhina	CHN	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
4	Chhan Arorian	CHNR	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
5	Budhi	BDHY	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
6	Kangra	KGRA	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
7	Kandrori	KNDI	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
8	Unchi Bassi	UCB	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
9	Bajnath Paprola	BJPL	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
10	Khuda Kurala	KZX	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
11	Nagrota Suriyan	NGRS	NSG6	2000/-	1180/-	Three Years
Applications will be received only in Sealed Packet in Commercial Branch, DRM Office, Jammu between 10:00 to 15:00 hrs on 17.09.2026. For further details please visit on Railway's website nr.indianrailways.gov.in No. 01/STBA/Policy/Comml/JAT Date: 25.08.2026 2962/2026						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION BIJBEHARA

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e-mail: xen-stdbijbehara@jk.gov.in,

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

e-NITNO: STB/32 of 2026-27; Dated: 25/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from "A" Class Electrical Contractors issued by the Electrical inspectorate of Govt of Central Inspectorial organization of Govt. of India/ other state Govt. In case bid submitted joint venture firm, any of partner should possess "A" class electrical license for “Construction of 33 KV bay for Augmentation of 1 x 10 MVA to 10+6.3 MVA Receiving Station Chowgam” as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this tender document.The details are as under:

#	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (IN Rs.)	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
1.	Construction of 33 KV bay for Augmentation of 1 x 10 MVA to 10+6.3 MVA Receiving Station Chowgam	4014374.00	1000	80288.00
2	Publishing Date & Time	25.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
3	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	25.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
4	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	25.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
5	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	14.09.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
6	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	25.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
7	Bid Submission End Date & Time	15.09.2026 (1500 Hrs)		
8	Bid opening date & Time	16.09.2026 (1500 Hrs)		
9	Venue of opening Bids	STD Bijbehara		
Please Read Standard Bidding Document Carefully				

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

Sd/= Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Bijbehara

NO:STB/Ts/4628-31
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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobsvr.net

Ruhullah-Abdullah Showdown

Aga Ruhullah Mehdi’s confrontation with the National Conference has exposed a larger struggle over political promises, representation and the limits of power in post-2019 Kashmir.



Muhammad Arbaaz Niazi



another mandate without its symbol, Srinagar will confront Farooq Abdullah’s question directly.

Voters will have to decide whether they backed Ruhullah himself, the NC, the political position he represented, or some combination of all three.

If Ruhullah remains within the party, the NC will face another question: how long can it accommodate a popular parliamentarian who has become one of its most persistent public critics?

The NC should resist reducing Ruhullah to ambition. His criticism draws strength from a genuine concern that the 2024 electoral promise is being narrowed by the realities of government.

Ruhullah, meanwhile, should resist assuming that agreement with his criticism automatically translates into support for his political future. Kashmir’s voters have rarely been so easily categorised.

A voter can admire a politician and still support his party. Someone can agree with a speech while questioning the speaker’s motives.

Kashmiri political judgement often contains these contradictions because voters have learned to separate political symbolism from political trust.

That is why Ruhullah’s next move matters more than the present noise.

He can turn dissent into organisation, constitutional argument into a wider programme and personal popularity into a broad constituency.

Or he can remain primarily the politician who became prominent by challenging his own leadership.

The larger question will survive either outcome.

Who does an elected representative ultimately owe loyalty to: the party that gave him the ticket, the voters who gave him the seat, or the political promise on which he sought their trust?

Kashmir has no settled answer. Ruhullah’s confrontation has forced that question into public view at precisely the moment when the NC is trying to govern with powers far narrower than the political expectations attached to its mandate, while Delhi retains decisive authority over the constitutional questions Kashmir considers fundamental.

Ruhullah may become the face of that tension, or he may become one more politician consumed by it.

His real test has only begun.

Kashmir will judge him less by how loudly he rebels than by what he builds with the political space his rebellion has created.

The author studies socio-economics, environmental issues, public policy, and education. Reach him at arbazniyaz011@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

A City Held Hostage by Traffic

Srinagar has turned congestion into an economic expense, and the bill is becoming far too large to ignore.

A University of Kashmir study estimates that traffic jams on six major routes cost the city’s economy about 6.99 crore a day.

That amounts to roughly 2,550 crore a year, a staggering price for a city that still treats traffic as an inconvenience rather than an economic crisis.

The figure becomes more revealing when viewed through daily life.

A shopkeeper loses potential customers when roads become difficult to access. Workers spend productive hours inside buses and cars. Students lose classroom time, patients face delays and delivery vehicles burn additional fuel while inching through crowded corridors. Tourists who come to experience Srinagar spend precious hours watching traffic instead.

Such losses expose a deeper failure in urban planning.

Srinagar has added vehicles faster than it has built a system capable of moving people efficiently. Road widening, junction improvements and new infrastructure can ease particular bottlenecks, although those gains disappear when population growth, private vehicles and commercial expansion continue at the same pace.

Public transport should be at the centre of the city’s response. Srinagar needs frequent and dependable bus services, dedicated lanes on busy corridors, properly organised terminals and stronger links between residential neighbourhoods and commercial districts.

Such measures can move far more people using far less road space than a city built around private cars.

Parking presents another immediate opportunity. Vehicles occupying roadside space reduce the effective width of already crowded streets. Srinagar can reclaim that space through designated parking facilities, firm enforcement and sensible pricing.

Such measures would also encourage short-distance commuters to consider buses, walking and other forms of local transport.

Urban planning must follow the same logic. Schools, offices, hospitals, markets and housing concentrated along a handful of corridors create predictable pressure. A better distribution of public services and commercial activity can reduce the daily concentration of vehicles while bringing essential services closer to neighbourhoods.

The 6.99-crore figure should therefore become a benchmark for policy.

Authorities can measure congestion before and after transport interventions, publish the results and identify which projects actually save commuters time. Public money should follow evidence rather than the political appeal of another road project.

Srinagar has a choice before it. It can keep treating traffic as the price of growth, adding infrastructure whenever congestion becomes unbearable.

Or it can recognise that a city loses economic value when movement becomes inefficient.

Kashmir has always tested politicians who want an easy relationship with power.

A candidate can win on a party symbol and still face a harder question once the celebrations end: whose voice does he actually represent?

That question has become sharper since 2019, as voters have grown more willing to separate an individual politician from the organisation behind him.

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi now stands at the centre of that debate.

His confrontation with the National Conference has moved well beyond an internal party dispute, and has exposed a deeper anxiety over the distance between electoral promises and governmental power, particularly after the NC returned to government in 2024.

Ruhullah’s critics see a politician cultivating his own constituency through dissent, but his supporters see an elected representative refusing to dilute positions that helped win him public support.

Both interpretations contain enough truth to make the controversy politically significant.

The immediate confrontation began when Farooq Abdullah asked Ruhullah to resign from the Lok Sabha and seek a fresh mandate if he believed his victory belonged to him rather than the NC.

Ruhullah has indicated that he will respond in the coming days while continuing to express his regard for the party president.

The courtesy is intact, but the political divide has become unmistakable.

Ruhullah won Srinagar by more than 1.8 lakh votes in 2024. The result plainly belonged partly to the NC. Its organisation, symbol and political history gave his campaign formidable institutional strength.

But elections also turn candidates into individuals.

Ruhullah campaigned, spoke, answered voters and built a public persona of his own. The scale of his victory gave him a parliamentary seat alongwith political capital.

That capital did not appear overnight.

Ruhullah resigned as the NC’s chief spokesperson in 2020 after differences over the party’s response to the post-August 5 political reality. His criticism of the party’s political language therefore predates his

present confrontation with its leadership.

The charge that he discovered dissent only after discovering its electoral value becomes harder to sustain.

Still, convictions and political ambition can exist in the same person. That is the uncomfortable part of Ruhullah’s story.

Omar Abdullah now governs, and his daily political calculations involve Delhi, bureaucracy, electricity, salaries, roads, budgets and the frustrations of administration.

Ruhullah operates from Parliament, where he can keep the larger constitutional dispute at the centre of his politics.

He has criticised the leadership for narrowing the agenda before the NC’s Delhi protest on statehood in July, arguing that the 2024 mandate went beyond statehood. He has also questioned the government over unfulfilled election promises and aspects of its governance.

That difference gives Ruhullah political room that Omar Abdullah does not possess.

Government turns slogans into decisions, budgets and compromises.

Opposition, or even internal dissent, allows a politician to keep the larger grievance alive.

Ruhullah’s detractors can dismiss this as convenient, but voters may see a politician willing to question his own party when its conduct falls short of its campaign promises.

That instinct has particular force in Kashmir, where political organisations have historically expected discipline and loyalty.

Ruhullah has disturbed that arrangement.

He has challenged the leadership publicly, questioned what he sees as a dilution of the party’s constitutional position and indicated that he could resign within months if the internal situation fails to improve after he takes the dispute to a certain point.

His rebellion also creates a danger for him.

A politician can become so identified with dissent that dissent itself becomes the political programme. Anger can mobilise people quickly, but governing ideas take longer to build.

Kashmir’s Blockchain Bet

Blockchain is already entering J&K’s land records and product authentication systems, giving the Union Territory a chance to turn verification into an economic advantage.



Sri Varshith Kumar Reddy E

Kashmir’s economic problem has often begun with a simple question: Who owns this land, where did this product come from, and can a buyer trust the answer?

Those questions have cost investors time, weakened artisan incomes and complicated the sale of products whose names carry global recognition.

Blockchain cannot solve Kashmir’s disputes or manufacture credibility, but it can make records harder to alter and claims easier to verify.

J&K has begun that experiment. Its next step should be turning scattered government applications into a deliberate economic strategy. The clearest example lies in the land registry.

The administration has expanded its blockchain-based digital land records system to Srinagar after an earlier rollout in Jammu. Tourism-heavy areas are especially important because boutique hotels, homestays and eco-resorts are drawing fresh investor interest.

The Srinagar system also connects with GIS mapping, giving planners a combined picture of ownership and land use.

A prospective buyer can examine an ownership history digitally rather than spend months assembling information from paper records and

court proceedings.

Such verification can change how investors calculate risk before committing capital.

The same logic applies to Jammu and Kashmir’s products.

Saffron, Basmati rice, Bhaderwah Rajmash and five other agricultural products already hold geographical indication status, while Kashmiri Ambri apple and Kashmiri pheran are among products moving toward GI recognition.

The administration has also announced QR-code labels for GI-tagged crafts, recording the manufacturer, artisan identity and material specifications. Blockchain can take that system further by creating a tamper-resistant record through the production chain.

A buyer scanning a packet of saffron could trace its provenance rather than rely on packaging and reputation alone.

Pashmina presents an equally important case.

Local artisans work with Ladakhi cashmere fibre to produce a product whose name commands international recognition while counterfeit goods continue to damage its value.

A verified digital record linking fibre, producer, artisan and finished shawl could make authenticity part of the product itself.

That changes the economics of imitation because the buyer gains a quick way to distinguish a documented Kashmiri product from a false claim.

The scale of Kashmir’s agricultural economy makes this more than a technology story.

Apple production generates close to 12,000 crore a year and supports roughly 3.5 million people, around 27 percent of J&K’s population. Exports have fallen 26 percent over three years even as output increased 3.4 percent.



A verified digital record linking fibre, producer, artisan and finished shawl could make authenticity part of the product itself. That changes the economics of imitation because the buyer gains a quick way to distinguish a documented Kashmiri product from a false claim.

That difference points toward problems involving market access, buyer confidence and supply-chain verification rather than a shortage of fruit.

Digital markets are already gaining ground. E-NAM transaction values in J&K rose from 14 lakh in 2020-21 to more than 670 crore this financial year.

Tourism presents a similar opportunity, as J&K recorded 1.78 crore visitors in 2025, while total arrivals between 2023 and 2025 reached 7.85 crore, almost twice the figure recorded during the preceding three-year period.

The administration aims to raise tourism’s contribution to GSDP from 7 percent to 15 percent within five years.

Such growth creates more transactions among visitors, homestay operators, houseboat

owners, guides and permit authorities.

Smart contracts could place payments in escrow until a service is delivered, reducing disputes between tourists and operators. Trekking permits in ecologically sensitive destinations such as Pahalgam and Gulmarg could also gain from verifiable digital records.

J&K already has the beginnings of a startup ecosystem capable of building these systems.

The New Jammu & Kashmir Start-up Policy 2024-27 initially targeted 2,000 recognised startups by 2027, a goal later raised to 2,800 at the AS-CEND J&K summit in Srinagar this July.

Recognised startups reached 1,446 by January 2026. A 250 crore venture fund and seed support through the national Fund of Funds scheme provide additional capital. Incubators at IIT Jammu, SMVDU Katra, IUST Pulwama and SKUAST Kashmir connect young companies with research and technical talent throughout the Union Territory.

The disparity lies in policy direction.

J&K’s startup framework supports entrepreneurship through seed funding, co-working facilities and mentorship, while blockchain remains absent as a specific priority.

That omission looks increasingly dated because the administration itself has already deployed blockchain for land records.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology’s Blockchain India Challenge has also targeted applications involving land registries, supply chains and identity systems. Local startups working on artisan traceability, tourism payments or property verification should have a clear route into that ecosystem.

J&K’s Union Territory status makes coordination especially important.

The Lieutenant Governor’s administration, Central ministries and institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India have overlapping roles where digital identity, payments and central bank digital currency enter the picture. Digital Rupee welfare pilots already operate in Gujarat, Puducherry and Chandigarh.

J&K’s subsidy and horticulture procurement programmes make it a logical candidate for a similar experiment, although the administration has yet to formally seek inclusion.

Blockchain should therefore be treated as economic infrastructure rather than a fashionable technology label.

Kashmir has land titles to verify, products to authenticate, transactions to document and a growing tourism economy seeking credibility at scale.

The technology cannot settle contested ownership, replace courts or guarantee honest conduct. It can create a durable record that allows strangers to verify claims without relying entirely on personal relationships.

That difference is crucial for an economy defined by decades of uncertainty.

Trust becomes economically valuable when it can travel beyond the person who makes a claim. Kashmir now has the chance to build that capability into its land, agriculture, handicrafts, tourism and startup systems.

The question is whether decision-makers will connect the experiments already underway into a coherent economic architecture, or leave them as isolated demonstrations of what the technology can do.

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

In Delhi's Dust, I Saw Kashmir

As India's young examination aspirants turned a crisis of merit into a movement, the streets of the capital brought back to me a landscape I had thought belonged only to home.



Mohammad Anamul Haque Ahanger

Standing a little away from the crowd, I found myself looking at the dust more than the banners. Somewhere in that dust and din of Delhi's dissent, I saw an image of my own homeland. It was an unexpected recognition. Delhi had its own reasons for being there, its own vocabulary and its own arguments, but certain gestures felt strangely common: a crowd gathering around a grievance, roads becoming uncertain, ordinary journeys interrupted, phones suddenly becoming less useful, and young people discovering that public space can become a place of awakening. The protest had grown rapidly after Sonam Wangchuk, the Ladakhi activist who had been fasting at Jantar Mantar, was taken to Safdarjung Hospital in an early-morning operation. His removal seemed intended to ease the gathering. Instead, it gave the protest another emotional charge. Tens of thousands of students, examination aspirants and Gen Z activists poured toward Jantar Mantar and Janpath, turning the capital's afternoon into a long, unsettled evening. The human details were harder to forget than the numbers. A visually impaired young government employee, returning from work along her usual Janpath route, found herself caught inside the swelling crowd. The temporary suspension of mobile Internet meant that she could not call a cab or use transit applications. Buses struggled through the congestion. An elderly man nearby faced the heat and density with similar difficulty. The protest had begun as a demand about examinations, while its effects had spread into the lives of people whose day had nothing to do with NEET. Police officers were also beginning to show the strain of the day.

Some had worked for more than sixteen hours in intense heat, dealing with dehydration, exhaustion, minor injuries and the unpredictable pressure of crowd movement. Looking at them, I was reminded that large demonstrations rarely contain a single human story. They gather many stories together and leave them rubbing against one another. The political story had begun with an examination paper. Its deeper roots lay in the enormous emotional and financial investment India has placed in competitive education. For millions of young Indians, examinations such as NEET represent a narrow passage toward a more secure future. Families spend years of savings on coaching, books, accommodation and repeated attempts. Students live in cramped rooms in coaching centres, separated from home and suspended between hope and exhaustion. A medical college seat or a government position can mean a profound change in the economic direction of a family. That promise becomes unstable when the institutions administering these examinations face repeated administrative failures, delayed results and paper leaks. The National Testing Agency became the focus of this anger. The NEET crisis affected around 22 lakh aspirants, turning what might have appeared as a technical failure into a question of faith in merit itself. At midnight on July 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the country through a selfie video. He said action against the paper-leak network had already led to key arrests and cited the Re-NEET conducted in record time. He said executive orders for fast-track courts had been finalised, with discussion scheduled for the Cabinet on July 24 and a bill planned for Parliament on July 27. His message addressed the institutional machinery. The young people outside were asking a more elemental question: what happens to a generation that spends its youth preparing for a test and then discovers that someone else may have received the answers? Their political language was strikingly their own. Traditional party structures held little attraction. Opposition leaders attempting to enter Jantar Mantar encountered students wary of speeches and cameras. The young protesters



Kashmir's muted response to the Delhi protests could appear strange to someone watching from elsewhere. I read it as a form of accumulated knowledge.

understood that political parties could turn an educational grievance into another contest between factions, reducing a question of merit to a question of electoral arithmetic. Their movement looked different from the Anti-Corruption agitation of 2011, which eventually produced a political party, from the Anti-CAA sit-ins of 2019, and from the farmers' protest of 2020-21, which rested upon established agrarian organisations. This generation seemed to prefer fluidity. Instagram became one of its principal meeting places, followed by X and WhatsApp. "Get Ready With Me" reels showed students packing water bottles, painting placards and heading toward the protest. Videos of police pursuits appeared with Subway Surfers soundtracks and Bollywood songs. Manga imagery, Marvel costumes and pocket copies of the Constitution appeared side by side. Even insult became material.

After unemployed youth were described by some institutional voices as "parasites" and "cockroaches," protesters created the Cockroach Janta Party. Their placards turned anger into wit: "You Called Us Cockroaches, Now Watch Us Survive Your System." Another read, "NTA = No Transparent Accountability." A third said, "Do Not Tell Us To Be Patient; Our Youth Does Not Have a Re-Evaluation Date." The same theatrical instinct appeared elsewhere. In Patna, students faced water cannons during a heatwave. Near Mumbai's Shivaji Park, Riya Ahir, a 27-year-old model and entrepreneur, stood before a police transport van in pouring rain while seeking the release of detained protesters. Their gestures were playful in form and serious in purpose. Watching these scenes, I kept returning to Kashmir. The valley has its own vocabulary for disrupted journeys and

interrupted communication, though I found myself resisting the temptation to draw the comparison too plainly. The resemblance lived in smaller things: the instinct to check the road before moving, the sudden importance of a working phone, and the way a crowd can alter the meaning of an ordinary street. Kashmir's muted response to the Delhi protests could appear strange to someone watching from elsewhere. I read it as a form of accumulated knowledge. Young Kashmiris have long understood that public dissent carries consequences that can reach far beyond the day of a gathering. The memory of the 2019 Anti-CAA protests sparks a sense of caution. A police case can follow a young person into education and employment, leaving its imprint even after the placards have disappeared. The Delhi protesters, meanwhile, articulated four principal demands:

the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, 1 crore compensation for families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide after the paper-leak crisis, the release of Sonam Wangchuk and an end to criminalising hunger strikes, and withdrawal of pending FIRs, alongside protection for peaceful demonstrators. Even the courts entered the movement through fragments. Students circulated reports of proceedings in the Supreme Judicial Chambers, including an oral observation attributed to the Chief Justice of India during urgent mentions. Some protesters interpreted it as a dismissal of their concerns. A subsequent clarification explained the procedural context and affirmed respect for the country's youth. By then, the first version had already moved through the gathering. That small episode seemed significant to me because it revealed how quickly distance can grow between institutions and the people waiting outside them. A sentence spoken inside a courtroom can acquire a different life on a pavement. As darkness gathered over Janpath, I watched students holding hand-painted signs beneath the lights. Around them were exhausted police officers, stranded commuters, office workers and people trying to find their way home. The protest had begun with a paper and had expanded into something harder to grade. Education in India has always promised mobility, recognition and a chance to alter the circumstances into which a person was born. Nelson Mandela called education the most powerful weapon with which to change the world. On Janpath, that idea seemed less like a quotation than a question. Could the Republic still make young people believe that effort would be seen? Standing in the Delhi dust, I thought again of Kashmir. I had gone there to watch a protest about examinations. Instead, I found myself looking at home through the faces of strangers. — The author is a Political Science graduate from Amar Singh College, Srinagar, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Jamia Millia Islamia. He can be reached at inamahangar29@gmail.com.

The Cost of Following the Crowd

A culture of imitation is filling Kashmir's markets and classrooms with similar choices, while distinctive talent struggles to find room.



Khalid Nabi

In 2005, in Gevas, a district in eastern Turkey, a shepherd watched a sheep step toward the edge of a cliff. The animal went over. Then another followed, and another. Soon the flock had become a procession toward the drop. About 1,500 sheep eventually plunged from the cliff, following the animal ahead of them. The image resonated with me because something of that instinct can be recognised in Kashmir, where imitation has become a powerful force in both economic life and the way young people imagine their futures. A successful idea rarely remains singular for long. Once somebody finds a formula that appears to work, others often reproduce it before asking whether the same conditions exist for them. In parts of Srinagar and Anantnag, the pattern is visible. A young entrepreneur opens an attractive café after studying the market, developing a concept and taking a calculated risk. Within months, similar cafés appear nearby. A departmental store gains attention, and neighbouring



businesses begin adopting the same format. A dry-fruit venture takes off, and relatives, acquaintances and former classmates enter the same line of business. The instinct is understandable. Success provides a visible example, while an unfamiliar idea demands research, patience and a tolerance for uncertainty. Copying removes much of that intellectual work. The assumption becomes simple: if one person can make money from a particular business, another person should be able to reproduce the same result. But markets rarely behave so neatly. Ten similar shops on one street eventually compete for the same customers. Prices fall, margins shrink

and family savings absorb the losses. Some shutters eventually come down, leaving behind premises that once represented ambition and investment. As one observation puts it, "When ten people open the exact same shop on the same street, it becomes economic suicide born of copy-cat ambition." The same instinct becomes more consequential when it enters the household. Kashmiri parents have long compared children with cousins, neighbours and rishtadaars, often steering them toward careers that appear respectable because somebody else's child has already succeeded there. Many young people willingly

follow their peer group into the same academic stream, coaching centre or competitive examination, sometimes choosing popular path over an honest assessment of their own abilities. The question that should begin the process, "What am I actually good at?", can give way to another: "What is everyone else doing?" A student with an aptitude for something unusual may enter a field with little personal interest. Months or years later, poor performance becomes evidence of failure, even when the original choice came through pressure, comparison or imitation. Burnout can follow, along with the painful sense that a life has been spent pursuing somebody else's definition

of success. Kashmir's gardens provide a useful counter-image. Walk through Shalimar or Nishat and the pleasure comes partly from variety. Deep reds lie beside bright yellows and softer purples. Flowers belonging to the same species still produce different hues. Nobody expects a garden to succeed by making every bloom identical. Young Kashmiris possess a similar range of abilities and inclinations. One may have the instincts of an entrepreneur, another the patience of a researcher, another the imagination of a designer, craftsman or writer. An economy gains strength when such differences produce different enterprises, skills and forms of work. That shift begins with a more demanding type of independence. Entrepreneurs can study local gaps and build businesses around problems that remain unsolved rather than reproducing the shop next door. Parents can examine the person sitting at the dinner table rather than the child living in the neighbour's house. Students can assess their own aptitude before allowing a friend group to determine their direction. The lesson from that Turkish cliff is simple enough to travel far beyond the shepherds who witnessed it. A flock can move with astonishing certainty toward a destination chosen by someone else. A society has the greater capacity to stop, look around and choose its own direction. — The author is a postgraduate in Biochemistry from the University of Kashmir. He can be reached at khalidnabi07@gmail.com.

A student with an aptitude for something unusual may enter a field with little personal interest. Months or years later, poor performance becomes evidence of failure, even when the original choice came through pressure, comparison or imitation.

FCI Orders Probe Into Viral Video Over ‘Anti-India’ Remarks

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Food Corporation of India on Wednesday ordered a probe into a viral video purportedly showing a female employee making objectionable remarks against India, and said the corporation would issue a show-cause notice to her on Thursday.

In the video, the woman, believed to be a manager/quality control official with the FCI, can be heard saying, "India's occupation of Kashmir is unjust, and it will remain unjust."

FCI General Manager I K Choudhary said the corporation has taken the matter seriously and efforts are underway

to ascertain if the woman in the video is its employee and if the voice in the clip is hers.

"I will issue her a show-cause notice tomorrow seeking her response, following which a thorough inquiry will be conducted. If she admits that the video is hers, or if the probe establishes that she was the person seen in the video, we will take the strictest possible action," Choudhary told reporters.

Stating that the corporation conducts police verification of all its employees, Choudhary said that if the investigation establishes that the woman is an FCI staffer and that she made the remarks, strict action would follow.

However, Choudhary also said that it would be premature to conclude that the video or the voice in it belonged to the employee before the inquiry is complete.

The purported remarks in the video have sparked a debate on social media, more so because the accused woman is believed to be a Central government employee.

In the video, the woman also purportedly says that taking a government job does not mean that a person becomes integrated into the mainstream.

"If we are part of a resistance movement, it does not mean that we stop being human beings. We have our needs, and

for those needs, you may need to have a job. If you get a good job, you take it," she is heard saying.

She also says that getting a job would not change her "stand on India", adding, "India's occupation of Kashmir is unjust, and it will remain unjust."

The woman also refers to deaths in Kashmir over the past three decades and says, "We cannot buy them in exchange for a job; we cannot sell them for a job."

The authenticity of the video and the identity of the woman featured in it could not be independently verified.

Northern Army Commander Reviews Security in South Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Thursday reviewed security scenario and operational preparedness of the troops in south Kashmir, and directed them to remain proactive and mission-ready to sustain operational dominance. During his interaction with the troops, the Army commander admired them for their professionalism and indomitable spirit.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, visited South #Kashmir to review the security environment and operational preparedness of deployed troops. He was briefed on evolving

security dynamics, operational challenges and measures undertaken to strengthen the security grid," the Army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

It said deliberations focused on technology integration for enhancing surveillance, intelligence and operational awareness to render a swift and decisive response to emerging threats.

"In a motivational interaction with the troops, the Army Commander commended them for their professionalism, high morale and indomitable spirit. He exhorted them to remain proactive, adaptive and mission-ready to sustain operational dominance," the Northern Command added.

IUST Hosts Session on Tourism, Hospitality Management

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGG&PA), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised an insightful industry-academia interaction session for the students of B-VoC Tourism and Hospitality Management. Mr. Khalid Nazir, Senior Consultant, Corporate Guest Relations, The Lalit New Delhi, and The Lalit Suri Hospitality School, Delhi NCR, was the distinguished guest speaker for the session.

The interaction session provided students with valuable industry perspectives on the evolving hospitality and tourism landscape, emerging career pathways, professional competencies, guest relations, and the diverse opportunities available across the sector.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Braces For

Celsius and a minimum of 16.7 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

Among other stations in the Kashmir division, Qazigund recorded a maximum of 27.2 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 24.7 degrees, Kupwara 30.1 degrees, Kokernag 26.8 degrees and Gulmarg 20.3 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 33 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 24.3 degrees. Banihal recorded 30.1 degrees, Batote 25.9 degrees, Katra 30 degrees, Bhaderwah 29.1 degrees and Kathua 33.1 degrees. Udhampur received the highest rainfall in the Union Territory during the past 24 hours, recording 51 mm, while Kathua received 24.2 mm, according to the weather bulletin.

The Met has urged residents to remain cautious during episodes of intense rainfall and follow local weather advisories, particularly in areas vulnerable to flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

FDA Directs

also require schools to designate meal times to promote healthy eating habits and provide safe drinking water free of cost to all students.

School authorities, including principals and headmasters, along with the bodies responsible for managing the institutions, have been tasked with regularly inspecting food premises and monitoring the quality, safety and hygiene of food served to students.

The FDA said schools may also appoint a Health and Wellness Ambassador or constitute a Health and Wellness Team to serve as a nodal mechanism for monitoring the availability of safe, balanced and hygienic food.

The administration has accordingly called upon the School Education Department and school authorities across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure strict compliance with the food safety regulations.

Sujit Kumar Takes

officers of the Kashmir Zone were present during Kumar's assumption of charge and extended greetings to the newly appointed police chief.

Kumar has served in several key positions in Jammu and Kashmir, including in the Kashmir Valley, and has experience in counter-insurgency operations, security and law-and-order management.

A native of Patna, Kumar is an alumnus of Delhi University's Hindu College. He has also served on central deputation with the Special Protection Group (SPG) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

He is a recipient of the President's Police Gallantry Medal and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

The reshuffle has also brought changes to several senior positions in the police administration, with the police chiefs of both Kashmir and Jammu zones being replaced.

M K Sinha, who was serving as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Headquarters, has been transferred and posted as ADGP, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), J&K replacing Nitish Kumar. Kumar has been posted as ADGP, J&K Armed Police.

Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu Zone, has been transferred and posted as IGP, Headquarters, J&K, while Tejinder Singh, IGP CID, has been appointed IGP, Jammu Zone, replacing Tuti.

Uttam Chand, IGP Police Operations and Services, PHQ, has been posted as IGP Railways, J&K, replacing Vivek Gupta. Chand will continue to hold the additional charge of IGP Operations and Services until further orders.

Vivek Gupta has been posted as IGP Security, J&K, vice Sujit Kumar.

Shakti Kumar Pathak has been designated as Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau.

At the district and field level, Mubassir Latifi Ameer has been posted as Deputy Inspector General, IR Kashmir, while Sahil Sarangal has been transferred from Handwara and posted as SSP Pulwama.

Sunny Gupta has been posted as SSP Kishtwar, replacing Nareesh Singh, while Tahir Saleem Khan has been posted as SSP Handwara.

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah has been posted as Staff Officer to IGP Kashmir Zone, while Nareesh Singh has been posted as SSP Rajouri.

The transfers and postings have been ordered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in the interest of administration and with immediate effect.

J&K Police Warn

into sharing sensitive information without proper verification. (KNT)

J&K Assembly Seeks

months to oversee the implementation and execution of the NeVA project.

According to the recommendation, the deputed officer would remain stationed at the Assembly Secretariat while retaining lien and cadre rights in

the parent department. The officer's salary would be drawn on the basis of attendance certified by the Assembly Secretariat.

The posting of the JKAS officer had earlier led to protests among Assembly Secretariat staff, who alleged that the move undermined the autonomous character of the legislature.

Several legislators had also raised concerns over what they described as government "interference" in the functioning of the Assembly.

The latest communication from the Assembly Secretariat comes amid these concerns and seeks a specialised IT resource for the implementation of the NeVA project. (KNO)

NITI Aayog Flags

was placed on irrigation, modernisation of horticulture, reduction of post-harvest losses, cold-chain and processing infrastructure, livestock services, value-chain development and stronger market linkages, he said.

"For accelerating economic growth and employment generation, NITI Aayog suggested promotion of sector-specific industrial clusters, strengthening of MSMEs and employment-intensive manufacturing, improvement in logistics and export infrastructure, promotion of green mobility and development of a stronger innovation and startup ecosystem in the Union territory," the spokesman said.

The presentation of the delegation also highlighted measures for sustainable urban development, including improved water security, sewage treatment, river rejuvenation, faster implementation of AMRUT 2.0 and PMAY-U, improved urban roads and expansion of public transport.

"The tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir was also discussed, with emphasis on improving last-mile connectivity and visitor amenities, promoting homestays, and leveraging the UT's infrastructure for MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) and event tourism," he added.

The spokesman said the NITI Aayog delegation also highlighted the importance of timely completion of connectivity projects, improved water conservation and irrigation infrastructure, and greater utilisation of renewable energy potential, particularly through decentralised solar energy and PM-Surya Ghar.

During the meeting, the Srinivas-led team presented a comprehensive assessment of the development landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the achievements, key sectoral gaps and possible interventions for accelerating the socio-economic development of the UT.

The assessment covered major sectors, including education, skill development and employment, health and nutrition, agriculture and horticulture, industry and MSMEs, urbanisation, tourism, infrastructure connectivity, water resources, and renewable energy and power.

Sinha appreciated the comprehensive sectoral assessment and shared the significant development initiatives undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years.

He said the government of India and the J&K administration are working together towards the vision of "Viksit Jammu Kashmir", with sustained emphasis on infrastructure creation, improved public service delivery, employment generation, investment and inclusive socio-economic development.

Sinha suggested that NITI Aayog may undertake a focused assessment and identify actionable measures for making the Dal Lake cleaner and ensuring its long-term ecological sustainability.

HC Asks Govt To

Executive Officer, Field Publicity Officer and Junior Statistical Assistant, no selection lists were issued for the posts of Accounts Assistant/Junior Auditor and Junior Assistant/Record Keeper.

The petitioners had earlier approached the court, which directed the authorities to proceed with the selection process. During subsequent contempt proceedings, however, the government cancelled the entire selection process through the impugned order.

The court noted that the cancellation order of June 28, 2019, had already been quashed in connected litigation and that the decision had attained finality. A Division Bench had also ordered reinstatement of candidates whose selection process had culminated in appointments, while allowing the authorities to conduct a fresh inquiry in accordance with law.

The court, however, observed that the present petitioners stood on a different footing as the selection process for the posts they had applied for had not culminated in the issuance of selection lists or appointment orders.

The court held that no direction could, therefore, be issued for their selection or appointment.

At the same time, the court observed that with the government order cancelling the selection process having been quashed, the authorities were required to proceed with the process as if

the cancellation order had never been issued.

Accordingly, the Court directed the authorities to take a decision regarding the fate of the selection process initiated under the 2016 advertisement, either by taking it to its logical conclusion or by taking any other action deemed appropriate after conducting an inquiry into the matter.

LG, CM Extend

the social fabric.

He expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every household and further strengthen the spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

135 Films From

Films from countries including South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Qatar, Colombia and Türkiye will also feature in the festival programme.

A floating screen is being installed on Dal Lake near the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), providing an open-air screening experience against the backdrop of the lake.

The festival will also feature a three-day master-class series for aspiring filmmakers, students and cinema enthusiasts. The programme will include sessions with director Vidhu Vinod Chopra, editor Namrata Rao, sound designer Baylon Fonseca, actor and National School of Drama alumnus Chitrnanj Tripathi, filmmaker Supriyo Sen and cinematographer Anil Mehta, among others.

A workshop by Canon is also planned to showcase camera equipment and technology to students and cinema enthusiasts. During the review meeting, Director Information and Public Relations Shreya Singh briefed officials about the festival's international participation, programming and outreach plans.

The event will also feature opening and closing ceremonies with performances by national and local artists, aimed at showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage alongside contemporary artistic expression. Officials said publicity and branding for the festival is being undertaken through social media, national and local media platforms and outdoor promotional campaigns.

Dulloo directed the divisional and district administrations and other concerned agencies to ensure professional arrangements covering hospitality, protocol, venue management, security, civic amenities, transportation and public outreach.

He also asked the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) to make efforts to bring more acclaimed filmmakers, actors and other prominent personalities from the film industry to Jammu and Kashmir.

The maiden IFFJK is being positioned as an effort to put Jammu and Kashmir on the international cinematic map and showcase the region's culture, stories and creative talent to audiences in India and abroad.

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The administration has envisaged IFFJK as an annual international event, with the inaugural edition intended to establish standards for programming, organisation and audience engagement.

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Cinema Heavyweights

BAFTA-winning sound designer Resul Pookutty, German filmmaker and curator Dorothee Wenner, Japanese media entrepreneur and documentary filmmaker Keiko Bang, and National Film Award-winning filmmaker and educator Himansu Sekhar Khatua.

Sivan, a founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers, has directed films including The Terrorist and was honoured with the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute at the Cannes Film

Festival in 2024.

Pookutty, who won both the Academy Award and BAFTA for his work on Slumdog Millionaire, is also a Padma Shri and National Film Award recipient. He has served on the executive committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Wenner brings three decades of experience in international cinema and has been associated with the Berlin International Film Festival since 1990 as a programmer and delegate for India and Sub-Saharan Africa. She is also a founding jury member of the Africa Movie Academy Awards.

Bang, founder and CEO of Bang Singapore Pte Ltd, has produced more than 50 award-winning documentaries and worked with governments, broadcasters and media organisations in over 25 countries. She is also a prominent advocate of international co-productions across Asia. Khatua, an FTII alumnus and former director of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, is a National Film Award-winning filmmaker and educator. He has worked on acclaimed films including Shunya Swaroopa and Ishanou and has mentored generations of filmmakers.

The jury will assess entries across the festival's international, national and Jammu and Kashmir-focused competition and thematic sections.

Organisers said the panel's diverse international experience would bring an independent and globally informed perspective to the evaluation of films.



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CM Calls for Stronger Primary Healthcare as J&K Eyes Quaternary Care

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir's push towards advanced quaternary healthcare must go hand in hand with strengthening primary and secondary healthcare services across the Union Territory.

Addressing the valedictory function of the three-day Quaternary Healthcare and Research Summit at SKICC here, Omar said a robust healthcare system at the grassroots was essential to reduce the burden on premier tertiary institutions such as SKIMS.

"Providing quality healthcare to our citizens is one of the fundamental obligations of the government," he said, adding that upgrading advanced institutions alone would not address the pressure they face unless weaknesses in the lower tiers of the healthcare system were addressed.



The Chief Minister said referral institutions were often burdened with routine procedures that should ideally be handled at primary and secondary levels, defeating the purpose of the existing healthcare structure.

He said strengthening basic healthcare facilities, particularly in rural areas beyond Jammu and Srinagar, was crucial while simul-

taneously developing specialised quaternary care.

Omar said the government's objective was to ensure that patients from J&K need not travel outside for advanced treatment and assured that every possible effort would be made, within financial constraints, to provide SKIMS with the infrastructure required for its next phase of de-

velopment.

He also stressed the need to retain and attract skilled medical professionals by improving facilities and infrastructure, calling for efforts to create a "reverse brain drain" and encourage doctors from J&K working outside the region to return.

"Our doctors, nurses and paramedical staff are second to none,"

he said, adding that better infrastructure could help harness J&K's considerable medical talent for strengthening its own healthcare system.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that recommendations emerging from the summit would translate into practical action rather than remain a theoretical exercise.

The summit, organised by SKIMS under the aegis of NITI Aayog in collaboration with leading institutions including AIIMS New Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh, focused on scaling tertiary healthcare into an advanced quaternary healthcare ecosystem.

On the occasion, Omar released a book and a SKIMS souvenir and presented awards to winners of various academic competitions.

Health Minister Sakeena Masood Itoo and other senior officials, medical experts and faculty members were present.

Rights Restoration Key to Congress Joining Government: Karra

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Stating that Congress would maintain its "principled stand" and would continue to raise public issues, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday said the party would not join the government until the Centre restores "snatched rights" of J&K people.

While talking to reporters here, Karra, said, "Congress is on principle stand since the last one year and won't accept cabinet berth until the Central government restores the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir which were snatched from the people."



The JKPCC Chief said there is no doubt that the National Conference is interested in including Congress in the cabinet, but reiterated his party's position on the issue.

He referred to assurances given by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi regarding the party's support for the fight for restoration of rights.

Karra said Congress stands with the National Conference, but would continue to raise issues affecting the people. "There is no doubt that we are with the NC. Whenever NC faces any threat from BJP it will find Congress standing by its side," he said. -(KNO)

PARAS Health Announces Free Specialist Health Camp in Magam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: PARAS Health Srinagar, in collaboration with SJ Polyclinics and Diagnostics, is organising a free health camp offering specialist consultations and hearing care services on August 28 and 29, 2026, at SJ Polyclinics and Diagnostics, Magam.

The two-day camp will provide free specialist consultations, hearing tests and hearing-aid trials, along with special discounts on hearing aids for senior citizens and paediatric hearing assessment tests.

Specialist consultations will be available from Dr Yawar Haider, Consultant, Sports & Orthopaedic Surgery, on August 28 from 3 pm, while Dr Misbah-ul-Bashir Masoodi, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and Dr Tabish Maqbool, Consultant, ENT & Head and Neck Surgery, will be available on August 29 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Priority registration is compulsory. The camp will be held at SJ Polyclinics and Diagnostics, Magam, Alfalah Complex, opposite Just Bukhara Restaurant.

Rather Seeks Early Reopening of Yousmarg, Cites Tourism Livelihoods

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker and Charar-i-Sharief MLA Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday called for the early reopening of Yousmarg, saying the prolonged closure of the tourist destination has affected the livelihoods of thousands of people dependent on tourism.

Speaking to reporters at Nagbal, Rather said horse owners, hotel operators, tea vendors and other local stakeholders were facing difficulties due to the suspension of tourism activities at Yousmarg.

He said he had taken up the matter with Deputy Commissioner Budgam and urged him to personally visit the tourist

destination to assess the situation. Rather expressed hope that Yousmarg would reopen within the next few days.

The Speaker also acknowledged persistent concerns over internet connectivity and the absence of an ATM facility at the tourist destination, saying efforts were underway to address both issues.

Rather said he had earlier raised the internet connectivity issue with BSNL officials and would continue to pursue the matter for its early resolution. He added that the ATM issue had also been taken up with the concerned bank authorities.

He expressed hope that internet services would be restored and an ATM facility made operational at Yousmarg soon.



Seasonal Influenza May Rise, Health Authorities Issue Advisory

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: With seasonal respiratory infections, including influenza, likely to increase during the monsoon and winter months, health authorities have urged patients, attendants, visitors and healthcare workers to adopt preventive measures to limit the spread of infection in hospitals.

The advisory, issued in the interest of patient and healthcare-worker safety under the Institutional Infection Prevention and Control Programme at SMVDIME, Kakryal, Reasi, stresses that seasonal influenza, including Influenza A/H1N1, is generally mild and self-limiting in most cases. However, officials said timely recognition of symptoms and appropriate medical care remain

important, particularly for vulnerable patients.

According to the advisory, accessed by Kashmir Observer, people experiencing fever, cough, sore throat, runny or blocked nose, body ache, headache, marked fatigue, vomiting or diarrhoea should take precautions before entering a hospital.

"Anyone experiencing respiratory symptoms should wear a well-fitting mask before entering a healthcare facility and inform reception or medical staff about their symptoms," the advisory states.

Patients and visitors have also been advised to maintain proper cough etiquette, clean their hands frequently and avoid unnecessary contact with vulnerable patients. Attendants have been asked to

restrict their presence to those essential for patient care and avoid unnecessary movement between different patient-care areas.

Health authorities have particularly cautioned against visiting vulnerable patients while suffering from an acute respiratory illness.

The advisory also highlights the dangers of self-medication with antibiotics for flu-like symptoms. Since influenza is caused by a virus, antibiotics do not treat the infection.

People have been advised not to take medicines such as azithromycin, amoxicillin-clavulanate, cefixime or other antibiotics merely because they have fever, cough or other influenza-like symptoms.

"Antibiotics should be used only when a qualified clinician identifies an ap-

propriate indication," the advisory states, warning that unnecessary antibiotic use can contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

Healthcare professionals have been asked to follow standard precautions, use appropriate personal protective equipment, maintain hand hygiene, identify respiratory symptoms at an early stage and follow established triage and isolation protocols.

The advisory also calls for adequate ventilation, regular environmental cleaning and appropriate restriction or cohorting of visitors and patients wherever clinically required. Healthcare workers experiencing significant occupational exposure have been advised to report it and seek timely medical evaluation if symptoms develop.

 GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.				
Subject:	Selection of candidates for the post of Assistant Professor, Accountancy and Taxation Banking Corporation (Commerce Business and Management) in the Higher Education Department—Verification/appointment thereof.			
Reference:	Recommendations from J&K PSC vide letter no. PSC/DR-HE/AP-Accountancy & Taxation/2023(7819262) dated 07.08.2026.			
NOTICE				
The J&K Public Service Commission has vide letter No.PSC/DR-HE/AP-Accountancy & Taxation/2023 (7819262) Dated 07-08-2026, furnished the select list/recommendations for the post of Assistant Professor, Accountancy and Taxation Banking Corporation (Commerce Business and Management) advertised vide Notifications No.17-PSC (DR-P) of 2023 Dated 15.05.2023 and accordingly the following candidates are hereby directed to submit their E-mail IDs and Contact Number details as per Annexure-A in the Higher Education Department, Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar in person or on E-mail-id: hedjk.dispatch@jk.gov.in within a period of seven (7) days positively for uploading the same on the Employee Verification System (EVS), failing which it shall be presumed that they are not willing to take up his appointment as Assistant Professor, Accountancy and Taxation Banking Corporation (Commerce Business and Management) in the Higher Education Department and they shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice :-				
S.No.	Name	Parentage	Address	Category
1.	Vikram Singh	Kamail Singh	77 VPO Nandpur Ramgarh	ALC/IB
2.	Towfeeq Ahmad Hajam	Gh. Rasool Hajam	82 Check pora Manzgam D.H Pora	RBA
Annexure-A to the Notice Dated. 25.08.2026.				
Name	Parentage	Address	Email ID	Mobile No.
No. HED-GAZ/42172025-04(7715244) Dated: 25.08.2026.				
DIPK-5027-26 DT: 27/08/2026		(Syed Ishrat Parvez) Under Secretary to the Government		

PDP Protests Proposed Power Tariff Hike

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) workers staged protests in Pulwama and Shopian districts on Thursday against the proposed 6.83 per cent increase in electricity tariffs in Jammu and Kashmir, demanding withdrawal of the hike and fulfilment of commitments made to people during elections.

In Pulwama, the protest was held at the district headquarters under the leadership of PDP District President Ghulam Mohammad Shahoori, with party workers and supporters raising slogans against the proposed tariff increase.

The protesters said the hike would further burden ordinary households, small businesses, farmers and other consumers already facing rising living costs and economic difficulties.

Addressing the media, Shahoori said the protest was also aimed at reminding the National Conference-led government of its electoral commitments, particularly the promise of providing 200 units of free electricity.

He said that instead of increasing the burden on consumers, the government should take concrete measures to provide relief to people and fulfil the commitments made during the election campaign.

In Shopian, scores of PDP workers staged a separate protest at the party office under the leadership of District President Ajaz Mir. (Observer News Service)

FIR Registered Against Five Shopkeepers over Roadside Obstruction

SRINAGAR: Police have registered an FIR against five shopkeepers for allegedly creating roadside obstructions at Jehangir Chowk in Srinagar, affecting the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

According to officials, the shopkeepers had placed matting outside their shops, allegedly occupying space along the roadside and obstructing the free movement of the public and vehicular traffic. The obstruction was also stated to have increased the risk of accidents at the busy location.

Police have initiated proceedings under law against these shopkeepers, who according to officials had been obstructing movement of traffic and people on daily basis. (Observer News Service)

Army Soldier Drowns in Gurez River

BANDIPORA: An Army soldier drowned in the Kishanganga River near Tarbal village in Gurez area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Ashiq Hussain Khan.

Following the incident, a rescue operation was launched, during which the soldier's body was retrieved from the river.

The body was subsequently shifted to Dawar Hospital for medico-legal formalities. Police have registered a case to ascertain the circumstances under which the soldier drowned in the river. [KNT]

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KUPWARA  019551-3221002								
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER								
e-NIT No. IFCDK/ 06 of 2026-27						Dated: 27-08-2026.		
For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tender (in Single Cover System) on Percentage (%) basis is invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be opened in the office of Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Kupwara:								
(Amount in ₹)								
S No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Earnest Money or Bid Security	Cost of T. Doc	MH of Account	Time for completion	Class of Contract	T.S No & Date
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01.	Strengthening of critically damaged and breached spots on Lashtiyal khul RD 340-1879m at spots, Tazwari khul RD 1010 to 1019m and Khumriyal khul RD 1800 to 3100m at spots by way of cc wall with bed treatment, R-wall /Toe walls in Kalaroose area and construction of damaged lining wall on Dudwari canal at RD 500 m.	₹6833224.00	₹136664.00	₹1600.00	4701-UT Capex	160 Days	AAY	This office No. 14/ TS/ Kup/2026-27, Dated: 18-08-2026
02.	Gama khul Kalaroose-Construction of steel flume at RD 3700 m and culverts at RD 1030 m and strengthening of critically damaged breached spots RD 3500 to 4900 m at spots bwo R-wall with bed treatment	₹5825252.00	₹116505.00	₹1600.00	4701-UT Capex	140 Days	AAY	This office No. 19/ TS/ Kup/2026-27, Dated: 18-08-2026
03.	Dehgam khul-Construction of R wall/ channel on minor from RD 500-1500 m at spots at Margi D/S steel flume	₹586023.00	₹11720.00	₹300.00	4701-UT Capex	15 Days	CEE/ DEE	This office No. 15/ TS/ Kup/2026-27, Dated: 18-08-2026
04.	Checkwari Canal- Construction of Retaining wall for Hayan at RD - 0 of upstream of Hayan flume	₹1652057.00	₹33041.00	₹800.00	4701-UT Capex	35 Days	BEE/ CEE	This office No. 16/ TS/ Kup/2026-27, Dated: 18-08-2026
05.	Dehgam khul-Construction of toe wall along with jacketing for protection of near headworks RD 0 to 600 m	₹1457947.00	₹29159.00	₹600.00	4701-UT Capex	30 Days	BEE/CEE /DEE	This office No. 17/ TS/ Kup/2026-27, Dated: 18-08-2026
06.	Replacement of damaged pipe outlets of various storage tanks in Lolab	₹1951269.00	₹39025.00	₹800.00	4701-UT Capex	40 Days	BEE/CEE	This office No. 18/ TS/ Kup/2026-27, Dated: 18-08-2026
Position of AAA: Accorded vide District Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Kupwara H.Q, Handwara's order No. 15/DSE/HH/DB of 2026-27, Dated: 10-08-2026 issued vide endstt. No. DSE/HH/DB/902-03, Dated.10.08 & order No. 17/DSE/HH/DB of 2026-27, Dated: 11-08-2026 issued vide endstt. No. DSE/HH/DB/906-07, Dated.11.08.2026.Position of Funds: Approved under current years (2026-27) 4701-UT Capex Plan.								
The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement portal https://www.jktenders.gov.in , as per schedule of dates given below:								
0 1 .	Date of issue of Tender Notice	27-08-2026						
0 2 .	Date of start of downloading bid	27-08-2026 from 17:00 Hrs.						
03.	Bid submission start Date Technical/ Financial	27-08-2026 from 17:00 Hrs.						
04.	Bid Submission end date	21-09-2026 upto 16:30 Hrs.						
0 5 .	Date and time of opening of Tender	22-09-2026 at 11:30 AM						
Note: The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in the online submission of bids due to any reason whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to thoroughly read and understand the instructions provided in Annexure-A as well as the General Conditions of Contract detailed in Annexure-B prior to submitting their bids. Submission of the tender shall be deemed as conclusive evidence that the bidder has read, understood, and accepted all terms and conditions stipulated therein.								
No: IFCDK/CS/2159-70. Dated: 27-08-2026. DIPK-5055-26 DT: 27/08/2026						Sd /- Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Kupwara.		

Scientists Probe Ice-Rock Avalanche Behind Nepal Floods



Press Trust of India

KATHMANDU: Scientists are examining how a possible glacial collapse and ice-rock avalanche may have triggered the devastating flash floods along Nepal's Bhote Koshi River, with preliminary assessments indicating that debris may have temporarily blocked the Lhende River and created a landslide dam that subsequently gave way.

The catastrophic flood swept down the Bhote Koshi in Rasuwa district on Wednesday, killing hundreds and destroying bridges and other infrastructure along the river corridor, as it gushed downstream, causing havoc in multiple districts.

Initial speculation after the sudden surge near the Nepal-Tibet border crossing in Rasuwagadhi included a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) and an avalanche.

However, scientists analysing satellite imagery now believe a large mass of ice and rock may have fallen into the Lhende River, temporarily blocking its flow and creating a landslide dam that subsequently gave way, The Kathmandu Post reported.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority has also identified an ice-and-rock avalanche as the leading explanation, according to the report.

Satellite imagery analysed by scientists showed what appeared to be a large avalanche about 20 km north-east of the Rasuwagadhi border crossing. The debris appears to have entered the

Lhende River, a tributary of the Bhote Koshi, triggering a powerful, debris-laden flood, the report said.

Rijan Bhakta Kayastha, a climate researcher and professor at Kathmandu University, was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post that an avalanche appeared to have blocked the Lhende River before the flood broke through.

"We suspect an avalanche on the Nepal side blocked the Lhende," Kayastha said. "An earthquake occurred at around the same time, but we do not yet know whether it helped trigger the avalanche." The US Geological Survey (USGS) initially recorded what it classified as a magnitude 4.4 earthquake in Tibet at 8:37 am on Wednesday, about 47 km north of Gosainkunda.

It later revised its assessment, saying analysis of long-period seismic waves showed that the seismic energy had been generated by a glacial collapse and debris flow, not an earthquake. The event was subsequently classified as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event.

The debris reportedly blocked the Lhende River, causing a temporary lake to form before the blockage gave way and sent a torrent of mud and boulders towards the Bhote Koshi.

Sarthak Shrestha, a remote sensing and geoinformation associate at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), said the evidence so far pointed to an avalanche on the Nepal side as the main trigger.

NEPAL-TIBET FLOODS

Toll Surges to 362; 1,500 Missing as Threat Looms

Press Trust of India

KATHMANDU: The death toll from the massive Nepal-Tibet flash floods rose to 362 on Thursday, including 359 in Nepal and three in neighbouring Tibet, as rescuers launched a desperate race against time to trace hundreds still missing, including 290 Indian nationals.

An ice-rock avalanche triggered by a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, and damaging hydropower projects.

A fresh flood threat persisted downstream after a new barrier lake formed near the source of the Bhote Koshi river system, with authorities warning that a possible breach could trigger another surge in the river and downstream areas.

Nepal authorities reported 910 people missing, as rescuers searched river corridors clogged by mud and debris and families crowded hospitals in a desperate hunt for loved ones.

The disaster also left 558 people missing in Tibet, officials said, taking the number of people reported missing on the two sides of the border to 1,468. The disaster has also triggered an urgent effort by India to trace its nationals, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) saying 290 Indian nationals remain uncontactable.

New Delhi is making "urgent efforts" to ascertain their whereabouts and coordinate their rescue, the ministry said.

The MEA said 84 Indian nationals had been rescued, including 63 workers employed at the under-construction Trishuli-I run-of-river hydroelectric project and 21 from Tamil Nadu.

Around 200 Indian nationals on the Tibet side have sought assistance for evacuation, the MEA said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, after a high-level meeting attended virtually by India's envoys in Kathmandu and Beijing, said urgent efforts were underway to ascertain the status and well-being of Indians in the flood-affected areas.



He said the ministry was coordinating with the Nepalese side, other ministries, state governments, tour operators and relevant authorities.

India has also stepped up relief assistance to Nepal. After sending 10 tonnes of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) material on Wednesday, it sent another 37.5 tonnes of HADR material, medicines and food packets on Thursday in a military transport aircraft, taking the total dispatched to 47.5 tonnes.

Chinese authorities estimated that about 2 million cubic metres of water had accumulated in the new barrier lake by Thursday morning, with another 3 million cubic metres potentially flowing into it over the next three days, raising concerns that the natural barrier could breach.

The lake has formed near the confluence of the Chhochen Khola and Purepu Tsangpo rivers, which originate in Tibet and flow into Nepal as part of the Bhote Koshi river system.

Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology said it had received information from Chinese authorities about the lake and warned of a continuing risk of flooding in the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river areas. It urged people to stay away from riverbanks and remain in safe places. Travellers, security personnel and search-and-rescue teams were also advised to remain alert.

Chinese authorities are monitoring the lake and carrying out flood simulations and risk assessments. A Chinese rescue team with com-

munications and detection equipment has reached Gyirong to assess the upstream blockage, which officials fear could cause a secondary disaster and complicate ongoing rescue work.

Nepalese security personnel have so far evacuated more than 800 people from affected districts, while helicopters, drones and ground teams continue to search isolated settlements, riverbanks and downstream areas.

The floods first devastated Rasuwa district, about 160 km from capital city Kathmandu, after the ice-rock avalanche and debris flow near the Nepal-Tibet border. A torrent of water, mud, rocks and debris tore through settlements including Timure and Rasuwagadhi before surging downstream through the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river system.

A preliminary assessment by Nepalese authorities and a revised analysis by the US Geological Survey (USGS) have identified a glacial collapse and debris flow, rather than an earthquake, as the trigger for the disaster. The ice-rock avalanche struck the Lhende River, temporarily blocking its flow before the natural barrier gave way and unleashed a massive surge downstream into the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river system.

Nepal's disaster management authority said a debris-laden flood occurred in the Lhende River following an ice-rock landslide near the Nepal-China border, about 20 km northeast of Rasuwagadhi border city. The same flood subsequently entered the Trishuli river after passing through Timure, it said.

Pakistan-Kuwait Sign Deal to Enhance Defence Cooperation

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kuwait on Thursday signed an agreement to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, including in areas such as training, capacity building and border management.

The 'Protocol Agreement-2026' was signed during a meeting between Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and a high-level Kuwaiti delegation led by Defence Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah at the Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.

The delegation was accompanied by Kuwait Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Gen Khalid Al-Shriaan.

According to an official statement, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, with particular focus on bilateral defence relations, security cooperation and further strengthen-

ing defence ties.

The new agreement significantly enhances the existing military cooperation framework established under the 'Defence Cooperation Agreement-2023', it said.

"Under the new agreement, the Armed Forces of Pakistan will extend assistance to the Armed Forces of Kuwait in diverse fields, including training, capacity building, border management and other mutually agreed areas of defence collaboration," it said.

The agreement reflects the deep trust, mutual respect and shared strategic interests underpinning the longstanding defence relationship between the two brotherly countries, the statement said.

The Pakistan Army, in a separate statement, said the Kuwaiti delegation also met Field Marshal Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Cong Challenges Ex-CDS' China Role Claim

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday raised questions over former chief of defence staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan's remarks on the issue of China-Pakistan collusion during Operation Sindoor, wondering whether there is a "deeper plan" by the Modi government to "change the narrative" to please China.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh shared on X video clips of Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Rahul Singh's comments from 2025 and of Chauhan's remarks from earlier this week.

"On July 4 2025, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Rahul Singh had revealed the very disturbingly deep nature of the Pakistan-China jugalbandi during Operation Sindoor. On August 25, 2026, the former Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan made

his own revelations on this jugalbandi -- which are simply opposite to what Lt. Gen Singh had said. The nation is confused," Ramesh said on X.

"What is going on here? Is there some deeper plan to change the narrative? Is this part of the calibrated capitulation to China on the part of the Modi government that has been in clear evidence for a long while since the PM's infamous clean chit to China on June 2020 and the record trade deficits with China that his Government has presided over? The nation needs to know," he said.

In his remarks in 2025, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Rahul Singh had said that China used the four-day India-Pakistan conflict in May like a "live lab" to test various weapon systems and was providing all possible support to Islamabad, in line with its ancient military strategy of killing the adversary with a "borrowed knife".



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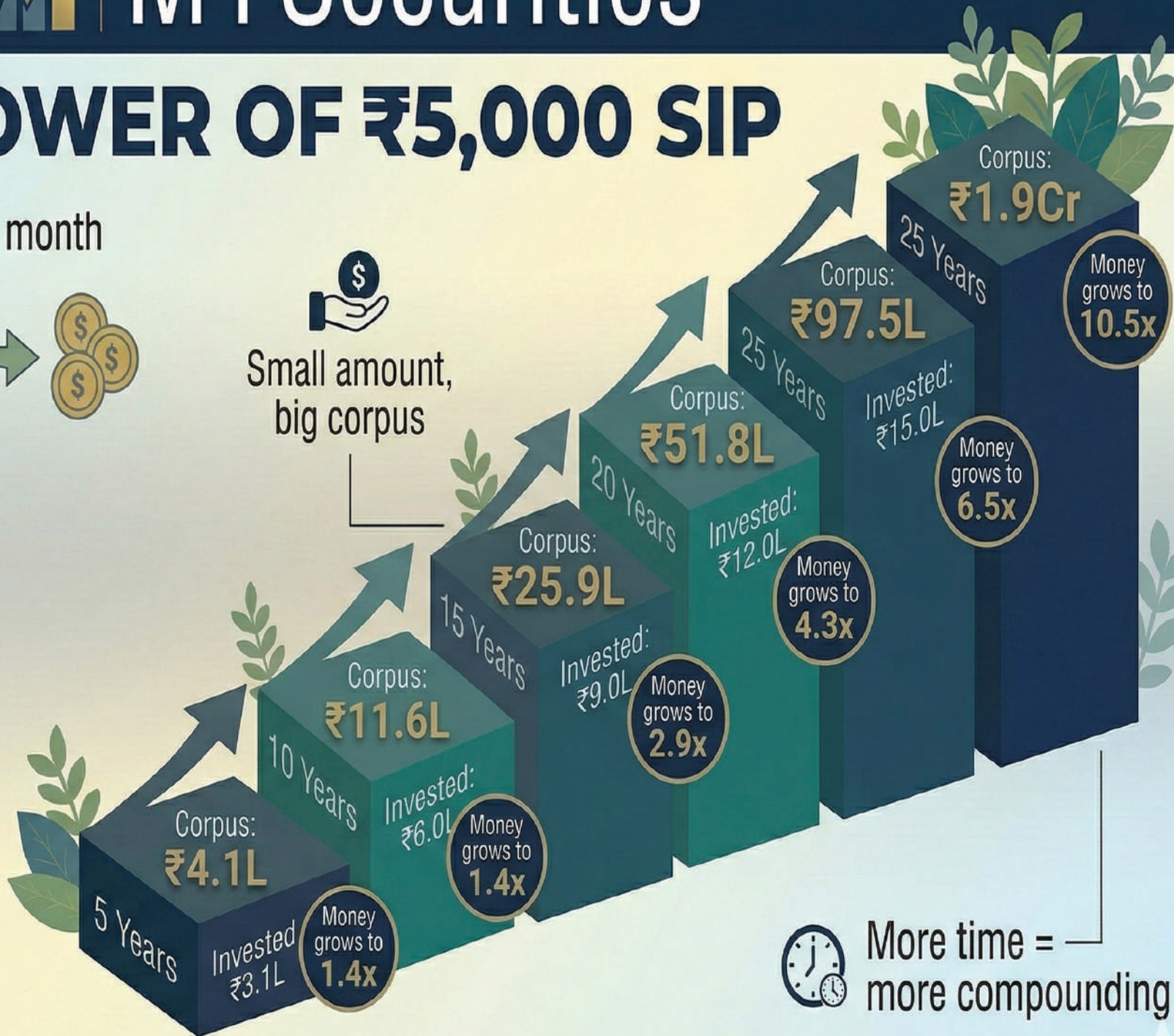
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