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Kishtwar Rape-Death Probe Goes To Crime Branch



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The probe into the alleged rape and subsequent death of a 15-year-old tribal girl in Kishtwar has been handed over to the Crime Branch, even as the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea seeking an independent investigation into the circumstances leading to her death.

The teenager was allegedly sexually exploited by her school teacher over several months, resulting in her pregnancy. She died on August 20 during a pregnancy termination procedure.

Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch, Sarah Rizvi, confirmed that the agency had received communication from Police Headquarters regarding the transfer of the case.

"We are in the process of taking over the case," she said.

The case was initially being investigated by a Special

Investigation Team constituted by the police. Six people have so far been arrested in connection with the case, including the alleged main accused, the school headmaster, and a nurse. A daily-wage sanitary worker posted at District Hospital Kishtwar has also been arrested, according to the plea.

The government has suspended the teacher, while the daily-wage worker has been dismissed from service.

The transfer to the Crime Branch comes amid demands for a comprehensive probe into not only the alleged sexual exploitation of the minor but also the sequence of events that preceded her death.

The High Court will hear on Monday a petition filed on behalf of the girl's father, a resident of Chatroo village in Kishtwar district, by senior advocate Deepika Pushkar Nath.

"The matter has been listed for hearing | [More on P6](#)

Six Arrested So Far In SIT Probe Headmaster, his brother, nurse & sanitation worker among those held

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: ix persons have so far been arrested in connection with the alleged rape and subsequent death of a 15-year-old tribal girl in Kishtwar, as the Special Investigation Team (SIT) continues its probe into the circumstances surrounding the case.

The arrests include the school headmaster accused of sexually exploiting the minor, his brother, a nurse at District Hospital Kishtwar and a daily-wage sanitation worker posted at the hospital. The government has suspended the teacher, while the sanitation worker has been dismissed from service. According to | [More on P6](#)

J&K Can Create An Entire Era Of Champions: LG Sinha

Says J&K should move from participation to hosting global sporting events

Urges wider access to coaching, academies and scientific training across the UT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to create "an entire era of champions" if its young athletes are provided sustained support, scientific training and opportunities at the grassroots level, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday, calling for the Union Territory to move beyond participation and eventually host international sporting events.

Sinha made the remarks while addressing National



Sports Day celebrations at the Shalimar Campus of SKUAST Kashmir, where he paid tribute to hockey legend Major

Dhyan Chand and underlined the role of sports in building discipline, resilience, unity and a spirit of nation-building among youth.

Describing sports as "life's most honest teacher", the Lieutenant Governor said the playing field offered no shortcuts and tested an individual's character through hard work, opportunity and perseverance.

"Sport is life's most honest teacher. The playing field never lies; rather, it tells you precisely where you stand today and

what you must do to become better tomorrow. There are no shortcuts in sports," he said.

Sinha said sports should not be viewed merely in terms of medals, arguing that they help young people develop resilience, learn from failure and rise again with greater determination.

He said the focus in Jammu and Kashmir should be on creating a broad-based sporting ecosystem in which talent is identified and nurtured well before athletes reach elite levels. | [More on P6](#)

'Health Services Anytime, Anywhere'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for a transformation of healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir around the vision of "Health Services Anytime, Anywhere", stressing that innovation and technology must be used to make quality medical care accessible, affordable and equitable for all.

Sinha was speaking after inaugurating the third edition of the CII Jammu and Kashmir Health Conclave in Srinagar, where he highlighted the potential of telemedicine, artificial intelligence, drone-based delivery of medical supplies and solar-powered cold chains to improve healthcare access, particularly in remote and | [More on P6](#)

Major Srinagar Revamp Civil Secretariat Among 21 Offices Proposed For Relocation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has proposed shifting 21 major government offices and public institutions from central Srinagar to the city's peripheral areas as part of the Srinagar Master Plan-2035. This move aims to ease congestion, improve mobility, and open up prime urban land for alternative public uses.

The proposal covers a range of administrative, security and public institutions currently located in densely populated parts of the city. Their existing premises have been earmarked for possible redevelopment as tourism facilities, public spaces, parking areas and other community infrastructure, according to an ETV Bharat report.

The Srinagar Master Plan-2035 was prepared by the Town Planning Organisation



Kashmir and approved by the then State Administrative Council on February 13, 2019. It was subsequently notified by the Housing and Urban Development Department on March 7, 2019, before the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in August that year.

One of the most significant proposals is the relocation of the Civil Secretariat to Nowgam along the National Highway

Bypass, roughly 10 kilometres from its present site. The existing Secretariat premises would continue to function until a final decision is taken on shifting the complex.

The proposed relocation plan also includes the Forest Department, Old Assembly Complex, Old Secretariat Complex, offices of the Divisional Commissioner and Deputy | [More on P6](#)

HC Upholds Rejection Of Daily Workers' Regularisation Pleas

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has upheld a single bench judgement dismissing two petitions filed by a group of daily-rated workers seeking regularisation under SRO 520 of 2017.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice (Acting) Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani dismissed two intra-court appeals filed by the workers, who had sought inclusion in the list of Permanent Daily Labourers/Temporary Daily Labourers (PDLs/TDLs) prepared by the authorities. Their non-inclusion in the list, they contended, deprived them of the opportunity to seek regularisation under SRO 520 of 2017.

While upholding the October 31, 2025, judgement of the single | [More on P6](#)



Lush maize fields spread across the slopes of Dudran village in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, with traditional homes nestled against the forested mountains. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Srinagar Hits 33.5°C, More Hot Days Ahead

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir continued to experience above-normal temperatures on Saturday, with Srinagar recording a maximum of 33.5 degrees Celsius, while the Meteorological Centre forecast generally hot and humid weather over the coming days.

According to the weather forecast accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), scattered rain and thundershowers are likely during the early morning and afternoon hours on August 30.

On August 31 and September 1, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places, with brief intense or heavy showers possible in a few districts of the Jammu division.

The weather is likely to remain generally dry from September 2 to 10, although brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather department has cautioned that brief intense showers in localised areas during August 31 and September 1-2 could trigger | [More on P6](#)

High Sugar, Salt, Fat Foods May Get Red Warning Labels

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed prominent red-coloured warning labels on the front of packaged food products that are high in added saturated fat, added sugar and salt, telling the Supreme Court that the move is aimed at helping consumers make informed choices.

In a compliance affidavit filed before the apex court, the food regulator said it has proposed a red-coloured hexagonal warning label for products that are high in any two or more of the three specified nutrients of concern, based on thresholds prescribed under the Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024, issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN).

The proposed warning would carry declarations such as "High Fat", "High Sugar", "High Salt" and, where applicable, "Highly Sweetened Beverage", allowing consumers to identify such products at a glance.



The FSSAI said the proposed front-of-pack warning is intended to provide a "simple, prominent and easily comprehensible" indication of products containing high levels of specified nutrients of concern.

The affidavit was filed in compliance with an August 13 order of the Supreme Court, which was hearing a plea filed by public charitable trust 3S and Our Health Society seeking mandatory front-of-package warning labels on packaged foods.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Rajiv Shankar Divvedi, has sought directions to the Centre, states and Union territories for implementation of mandatory front-of-package warning labels (FOPL).

During the | [More on P6](#)

PM Arrives In Tashkent On 2-day Visit

Press Trust Of India

Tashkent: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Uzbekistan on Saturday, where he will hold delegation-level talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, aiming to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

President Mirziyoyev welcomed PM Modi on his arrival at the airport in Tashkent. This is PM Modi's fourth visit to Uzbekistan.

"Landed in Tashkent to a warm welcome by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Grateful to him for the special gesture. This is my fourth visit to Uzbekistan, reflecting the depth and growing momentum of our bilateral relations," PM Modi posted on X after his arrival.

He visited Yangi Uzbekiston Park and laid a wreath at the Independence Monument after arrival. President Mirziyoyev accompanied | [More on P6](#)

Haj 2027

17 J&K Organisers Clear Eligibility, Quota Yet To Be Allotted

Agencies

Srinagar: Seventeen Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) from Jammu and Kashmir have been cleared as eligible for registration under the Haj 2027 framework, with the Ministry of Minority Affairs yet to begin allotment of pilgrim quota.

The Ministry, in its final list issued under Notice No. HAJ-15/2/2026-HAJ-MoMA, said the applications received through the HGO Portal were examined by the scrutiny committee against prescribed eligibility requirements, including documentation, financial criteria and other policy conditions.

The 17 eligible J&K operators include one Category-I non-lead operator, two Category-I operators and 13 Category-II applicants.

Of the Category-II applicants, nine are experienced operators

while four are new entrants.

Among the Category-I operators listed are Labaika Haj & Umrah Service, Alkhuddam Hajj & Umrah Services and Al Hayat Hajj and Umrah Travel Services.

The experienced Category-II operators include Raj Baba Tour and Travels, Al Gazali Tours & Travels, Gazi Tours & Travels, Al Haramain Hajj and Umrah Services and M/S Universe Travel Corporation, among others.

Khadim Al Mecca Tour & Travels Pvt. Ltd., Anabia Holidays and Tourism, M.G. Tours & Travels and Leena Travels are among the new Category-II applicants cleared under the framework.

The Ministry has also issued directions to selected Lead HGOs regarding formation of Combined Haj Group Organisers (CHGOs).

Under Clause 4.4 of the Haj Group Organiser | [More on P6](#)



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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents
scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship Programme 2026-30

Description: A promising engineering career should not be limited by financial constraints. The IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship Programme 2026-30, an initiative by IDFC FIRST Bank, supports deserving first-year B.E. and B.Tech. students from modest family backgrounds with financial assistance of up to 1 lakh per year for four years. The scholarship aims to ease the cost of engineering education and help students continue their studies and pursue their career aspirations with confidence. Eligibility: Must be an Indian citizen. Open to students enrolled in the first year (academic year 2026-27) of their B.Tech or B.E. program. Must have secured admission to one of the FIRST IMPACT empanelled colleges. The gross annual family income from all sources must be less than or equal to INR 6 lakh. Applicants must have a valid mobile number linked to their Aadhaar number. IDFC FIRST Bank employees and their family members are not eligible to apply.



Prizes & Rewards: INR 1,00,000 per year for up to four years.
Last Date to Apply: 20-09-2026
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IFBES2
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.

cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-2026-301787580725.png

Scholarship Name 2: OakNorth Scholarship and Mentorship Programme 2026-27

Description: The OakNorth Scholarship and Mentorship Programme 2026-27 supports underprivileged women pursuing STEM degrees. It is available to female students from Jharkhand and Bihar who have completed Class 12 and are enrolled in a STEM undergraduate program at government institutions. Eligibility: Open to domiciled students of Jharkhand or Bihar. Only female students are eligible to apply. Applicants must be pursuing the 1st-year of a graduation degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects at a government university or college in India. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 75% marks in Class 12. Annual parental income must not exceed INR 3,00,000 from all sources. Prizes & Rewards: INR 30,000 (one-time, fixed amount)
Last Date to Apply: 20-09-2026
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ONSS5
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.
cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/oaknorth-2026-271787580810.png

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hafizullah Mir, F/o Mysar Hafeez Mir, R/o Tilagam, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Kreeri, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as "Mysir Ahmad Mir" in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2952-3270-2380, which is incorrect. His actual and correct name is "Mysar Hafeez Mir." Therefore, I have applied for correction of his name in the concerned records and 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 the prescribed period.
Hafizullah Mir fko
F/o Mysar Hafeez Mir
R/o Tilagam, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Kreeri, District Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank account as Mubina Akhter while my correct name is Mubeena Jan. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Branch Manager of Concerned JK Bank within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mubeena Jan
Ac. No: 00900401000000773 bmg

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 Faizan Ahmad Najar S/o Bashir Ahmad Najar R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan having verified the date of birth as 09-02-2014 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

Notice is hereby given to the General Public, Banks, Financial Institutions, traders and all concerned that I, P. Srinivasa Rao, S/o Subha Rao, R/o Budshah Bridge, Srinagar, have reported the theft/loss of cheque books/cheque leaves pertaining to the following accounts:
• HDFC Bank: A/c No. 1091202000437 – P. Srinivasa Rao
• IndusInd Bank: A/c No. 200999503791 – Nivasa Trader
• IndusInd Bank: A/c No. 0136041446050 – P. Srinivasa Rao
• SBI: A/c No. 20044926598 – Nivasa Trader/P. Rao
• SBI: A/c No. 3831901593 – P. Srinivasa Rao
• J&K Bank: A/c No. 00024010000-28988 – P. Srinivasa Rao
• J&K Bank: A/c No. 01030401000-81310 – P. Srinivasa Rao

Canara Bank: A/c No. 2169 (2070201002169) – NIWASA TRADERS, Exchange Road, Srinagar
The said cheque books/cheque leaves are not in my possession and have not been authorised for use by any person. The General Public, Banks and all concerned are hereby cautioned not to accept, deposit, negotiate, discount or encash any cheque from the aforesaid missing cheque books. Any person dealing with such cheques shall do so at his/her own risk, and the undersigned shall not be responsible for any loss or liability arising from their unauthorised use. Anyone having information regarding the same is requested to contact the undersigned or the concerned Police Station.
P. Srinivasa Rao
S/o Subha Rao
R/o Budshah Bridge, Srinagar
Cell: 8899029651 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Raaef Mir To Mohamad Raaef Mir. In future I will be known as **MOHAMAD RAAEF MIR**. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days, after 07 days no objection will be accepted.

**MOHAMAD RAAEF MIR S/O FAYAZ AHMAD MIR
R/O USMANABAD UPPER ASHPER, SOPORE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ms Umayya Mir To Ms UMMAYA MIR. In future I will be known as **MS UMMAYA MIR**. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days, after 07 days no objection will be accepted.

**UMMAYA MIR D/O FAYAZ AHMAD MIR
R/O USMANABAD UPPER ASHPER, SOPORE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ms HOOR FAYAZ To Ms HOOR ZARA. In future, I will be known as **MS HOORZARA**. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days, after 07 days no objection will be accepted.

**HOOR ZARA D/O FAYAZ AHMAD MIR
R/O USMANABAD UPPER ASHPER, SOPORE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 834780547200 the name is entered as ROZEY D/O GHULAM HUSSAIN BHAT and Date of Birth 20/04/1998 while my actual name and D-O-B is ROZEYYA BANO D/O GH. HUSSAIN BHAT D-O-B 18-12-1997. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
ROZEYYA BANO
D/O GH. HUSSAIN BHAT fko
R/O GOJRA BUDGAM.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV,

Pampore Kashmir 192121, e-mail: tlmd4.pampore@jk.gov.in

EXTENSION NOTICE-3

In view of poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening date of NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/03 of 2026-27 Dt. 16-07-2026 for "Replacement of 08 No. old/Obsolete Hydraulic Circuit Breakers at 220/132KV Grid Station Pampore is further extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	08-09-2026 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	09-09-2026 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document/NIT/BOQ can be downloaded from websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in.

sd
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-1503/26
dated: 29-08-2026

GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER SHOPIAN

Subject:- Tentative Selection List of Newly approved Behak Centre of Zone Shopian- Badapathri

Notice

Whereas, the Director, Samagra Shiksha, vide letter No. Edu/PD/SmS/Quality/5939-53/2023-24 dated 30-08-2023, and the Chief Education Officer, Shopian, vide letter No. CEO/SPN/SmS/Seasonal/7458-63 dated 07-06-2024, have accorded approval for the establishment of new Behak/Seasonal Centres under Zone Shopian; and Whereas, the Zonal Education Office, Shopian, issued Advertisement Notices No. 01 of 2024 dated 28-06-2024 (vide Endstt. No. ZEO/SPN/2981/24 dated 28-06-2024) and No. 02 of 2024 dated 29-06-2024 (vide Endstt. No. ZEO/SPN/24/8982-B), along with Corrigendum No. ZEO/SPN/2024/2987 dated 02-07-2024, published in leading newspapers, inviting applications from desirous candidates; and Whereas, a committee was constituted vide Zonal Education Office, Shopian's Order No. ZEO/SPN/3040-43 dated 11-07-2024 to scrutinize the application forms and prepare the merit list in accordance with the guidelines in vogue; and Whereas, the said committee recommended Ten (10) Behak/Seasonal Centers out of the Twenty-Five (25) newly approved Seasonal Centers in two instances whose tentative selection lists were issued/published vide No.: ZEO/SPN/2025/4515 dated: 16.07.2025 and No.: ZEO/SPN/2025/4649-53 dated: 27.08.2025 for invitation of Objections and the said Seasonal Center i.e., Badapathri existed at S.No. 7 of the Tentative Selection List issued vide No.: ZEO/SPN/2025/4515 dated: 16.07.2025 in which Saima Jan D/o Lal Hussain Khatna R/o Heerpora Shopian was tentatively selected as Seasonal Education Volunteer for the said Seasonal Center on the basis that the candidate belonged to the local community. Whereas, the office received objection from one applicant namely Yasmeena Jan D/O Nazir Ahmad Chowhan W/O Mohammad Iqbal Bajran R/o Kahtohallan Nakka on 21-07-2025 stating that the Selected Candidate i.e., Saima Jan D/o Lal Hussain Khatna R/o Heerpora Shopian doesn't possess any valid Doko Document which is the primary criteria for selection of Seasonal Education Volunteers, Whereas, the matter to be taken up with the Forest Department Division Shopian and accordingly verification report was requested from the said department vide this office communication No.: ZEO/SPN/2025/4629 dated: 25.08.2025. Whereas, Divisional Forest Officer, Shopian Forest Division, vide Communication No.: Lease/25-26/809-10 dated: 04/09/2025 conveyed that Mishri Bajran S/o Sooba Bajran R/o Kahtahallan Shopian has been granted Seasonal Grazing Rights in Behak/Doke at Bada Pathri Compartment No. Rb-25 at P/H Kathahallan under Community Forest Rights and Yasmeena Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Chowhan R/o Kathahallan is Daughter-in-Law of Mishri Bajran married with Mohd Iqbal Bajran S/O Mishri Bajran R/O Kathahallan. The communication also conveyed that Saima Jan D/O Lal Hussain Khatana R/O Heerpora is not enjoying Grazing Rights in Compartment No. Rb-25 Whereas, the matter was again taken up with the committee and after detailed scrutiny of the documents, the committee recommended cancellation of tentative selection of Saima Jan D/o Lal Hussain Khatna R/o Heerpora Shopian and recommended tentative selection of Yasmeena Jan D/O Nazir Ahmad Chowhan W/O Mohammad Iqbal Bajran R/o Kahtohallan Nakka as Seasonal Educational Volunteer at Seasonal Center Badapathri Whereas, the mere inclusion of a candidate in the tentative selection list does not confer any right to selection, unless the documents submitted by the candidate are duly verified and authenticated by the issuing authority; and Whereas, the mere possession of Dhok documents does not confer any right to selection, unless it is physically verified by the competent committee that the candidate actually resides in the same behak where he/she has been selected, and the documents are duly verified by the concerned authority; and Whereas, The following criteria was followed by the constituted committee while devising the merit list:
1. Candidates belonging to local community and resides in the same behak (first Preference)
2. 10+2 (50 points on Prorata Basis) Graduation(05 points on Prorata basis) & Post Graduation (05 Points on prorata basis)& B.ed (10 Points on Prorata basis)
3. Past Experience of running Behaks Centres (@25=05 Points per year for maximum 05 years) & Student availability= 05 Points (@01 point for 04 students having relation/link with the family of concerned candidate) total=100 points

Annexure A

S.NO	Name of Behak	Name & Parentage	Residence	DOB	Cat	Qualification	Points	Remarks
						10+2 Grad PG B.Ed.	10+2 Grad PG B.Ed Exp Total	
1	Badapathri	Yasmeena Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Chowhan W/O Mohammad Iqbal Bajran	Kathahallan Naka Shopian	10-07-2000	ST	51 0 0 0	25.5 0 0 0	25.5 Considered on Behak Documents

Now therefore, in order to invite objections from the stakeholders, the Tentative selection list of the Behak/Seasonal Centre Badapathri, as above, is hereby published
No. ZEO/SPN/2026/6543
DIPK-5091/26
Dated:- 29-08-2026

Sd/-
Zonal Education Officer,
Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Rafiq Ah Ganaie while my correct name is Rafiq Ahmad Ganie. 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 office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rafiq Ahmad Ganie
S/o Abdul Rashid Ganie
R/o Bongam fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from old name (Ishtiyaq Ayoub Wani)to new name (Ishtiyaq Ayoub) in future i will be know as (Ishtiyaq Ayoub) If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file them in the passport office srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ishtiyaq Ayoub
S/O Mohd Ayoub Wani
R/O Kiloora Malikgund,Distshopian fko

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL MINI MIRACLES CRECHE CUM PREPARATORY SCHOOL BUDGAM MANAGING BODY

S.no	Name & Parentage	Qualification	Desig
1	Mymoona Ali D/O Lt. Ali Mohd Wani R/O Budgam	M.a. B.ed	Chairman
2	Sumaira Shafi W/O Umair Kaisar Khan R/O Ompora	M.a. B.ed	Principal
3	Kousar Ali Malik S/O Lt.ali Mohd Malik R/O Budgam	B.a	Organiser
4	Mehmooda Ali W/O Dr.mohsin Ali R/O Ichgam	M.a. B.ed	Supervisor
5	Asma Shafi D/O Mohd Shafi Sofi R/O Ichgam	Msc	Advisor / Secretary
6	Sakeena Aijaz D/O Aijaz Hussain R/O Budgam	M.a	Member
7	Mohd Rafiq Bhat S/O Ali Mohd Bhat R/O Reshipora Budgam	9Th	Member

In This Regard If Any Body Having Any Objection Shall Be Submitted To The Office Of The Ceo Budgam With In A Period Of 7 Days.
mcb

Sd/- Pricpal

Imam Hussain (A.S) Hospital Expands Specialised Healthcare Services

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated the Department of Radiology, including CT Scan, along with the Division of Non-Invasive Cardiology and Medical Oncology at Imam Hussain Multispecialty Hospital, Hamdania Colony, Bemina, Srinagar.

The newly operationalised services mark a significant step towards expanding access to specialised and affordable healthcare facilities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those belonging to economically weaker sections.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister appreciated the Imam Hussain Hospital Foundation for its sustained contribution to the healthcare sector and for providing medical services on a no-profit, no-loss basis.

The hospital, which has been functioning since 1990, has

progressively expanded from its initial healthcare initiatives, including a Blood Bank, into a multispecialty healthcare institution offering a range of specialised medical and surgical services.

The Minister said that strengthening diagnostic and specialised treatment facilities closer to the people is essential for ensuring timely intervention and reducing the need for patients to travel long distances for advanced healthcare.

The hospital authorities informed that during 2025-26, the institution provided OPD services to approximately 20,000 patients. Around 700 surgical procedures, including major oncology surgeries, were also performed during the last 14 months.

The hospital further conducted approximately 2,500 dialysis sessions, while around 500 dialysis sessions were provided free of cost to patients before the hospital was linked with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).



Srinagar Gears Up for J&K's First International Film Festival

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday reviewed preparations for the upcoming first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJ&K), directing all concerned departments to ensure foolproof and meticulous arrangements for the successful conduct of the event.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Garg stressed the need for close coordination among stakeholders, effective venue management and the smooth execution of events planned as part of the festival.

He directed designated nodal officers to remain stationed at their respective venues and maintain constant coordination with all departments and agencies, saying their on-site presence would help ensure the prompt resolution of issues and streamline arrangements.

Emphasising that there should be no gaps in preparations, the Divisional Commissioner called for comprehensive venue management, proper sequencing of events and detailed crowd-management

plans at both SKICC and INOX.

He also reviewed arrangements for night screenings, floating cinema, the gala dinner and other activities proposed during the festival, issuing necessary directions for their smooth conduct.

The Tourism Department was asked to finalise brochures and audio-visual content highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential for promotion during the festival. The Handicrafts and Handloom Department was directed to prepare information material for guests and participants regarding stalls, crafts and artisans.

The Higher Education Department was asked to establish dedicated registration desks for students participating in the festival, while the RTO Kashmir was directed to sensitise hired drivers about the festival schedule, sight-seeing and tour packages, and the need to ensure timely participation in scheduled programmes.

The meeting was informed that films from 40 countries will be screened during the festival, underlining its international character and significance.

Garg directed all departments to extend full support to the event

management team and stressed the need for effective micro-traffic management and robust security arrangements while ensuring minimum inconvenience to guests, participants, filmmakers and the general public.

He also directed the concerned agencies to put in place comprehensive arrangements at the airport and establish attractive selfie points at the SKICC back lawns and INOX premises.

To strengthen inter-departmental coordination, the Director Information was asked to ensure close coordination among all concerned departments, while the Joint Director Information Kashmir was directed to remain stationed at SKICC as the single-point nodal officer for coordination and communication. The Divisional Commissioner further called for a comprehensive dry run ahead of the festival to identify and address any shortcomings, stressing the need for seamless communication among all stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Information, heads of departments and designated nodal officers.

Mirwaiz Calls for Unified Push to Restore J&K's Rights

Press Trust of India

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Saturday asserted that political parties from Jammu and Kashmir should make efforts for restoration of statehood and Article 370, saying it is their moral responsibility to raise their voice for the rights of people.

"Our rights were snatched away by force. Our statehood was abolished, we were made a Union territory. The government should uphold the promises made to people prior to the elections," Farooq told reporters here.

The preacher also termed alleged threats to Kashmiri Pandits residing in the Valley "deeply unfortunate".

"We have consistently reiterated that Kashmiri Pandits are an integral part of our society, history, culture, and our future. They are not outsiders, they belong here. We have always advocated for their return and will continue our efforts, as should the government," he asserted. Lashing out at the NC-led gov-

ernment, the Mirwaiz accused it of losing sight of its priorities. They have been unable to instill confidence in people regarding their "snatched" rights, the splitting of Jammu and Kashmir, and the "complete disregard" for constitutional commitments, he added.

He said the Centre had essentially revoked all the promises made to Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. "They revoked all constitutional guarantees. So, it is the moral responsibility of mainstream political parties to stand up for these issues. They must raise their voice for restoration of rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and present a unified voice in this regard," he added.

On Srinagar MP Ruhullah Mehdi's decision to quit the Lok Sabha and the National Conference (NC), the Mirwaiz hailed the parliamentarian as a staunch voice committed to raising people's issues, and urged all organisations and parties of Jammu and Kashmir to follow suit.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV,

Pampore Kashmir 192121, e-mail: tlmd4.pampore@jk.gov.in

EXTENSION NOTICE-3

In view of poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening date of NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/04 of 2026-27 Dt. 16-07-2026 for "Replacement of old/Obsolete Hydraulic Circuit Breakers at 220/132KV Grid Station Zainakote is further extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	08-09-2026 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	09-09-2026 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

--sd-- Executive Engineer, TLMD-IV Pampore

Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kulgam.

Tel/Fax No. 01931260163

Subject: Invitation of short-term quotations for supply of Electrical sheep wool Clipper for the year 2026-27

NOTICE

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir short term quotations are invited from interested/registered Companies/dealers for supply of following items during the current financial year. The interested companies/dealers shall submit the quotations mentioning the rates/cost to this office by or before 07-09-2026 4pm. The quotations will be opened on the next working day (08/09/2026) by the constituted committee.

1. Electrical sheep wool Clipper.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The quotation must be submitted in properly sealed envelope.

2. The rates should be written legible without any cutting, overwriting

The department reserves the right to reject the quotation of any company without assigning any reason thereof.

No. DSHOK/Stores/2026-27/1910-15
DIPK-5093/26 Dated: 29/08/2026.

District
Sheep Husbandry Officer
Kulgam

اِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَاِنَّا اِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS



DR. MOHAMMAD SHAFI BHAT

(1941-2026)

With profound grief and heavy hearts, we announce the sad demise of our beloved Dr. Mohammad Shafi Bhat, resident of Bagh-e-Mehtab, Srinagar (formerly resident of Sonawar Bagh), who returned to his Creator on Saturday morning at around 9:45 AM at SKIMS, Srinagar, after a brief battle with cancer. He was 85. His death has devastated his family, friends and acquaintances who knew him as a noble man.

A graduate of the 3rd batch of Government Medical College, Srinagar, the deceased worked in the State Medical Service for several decades before moving to Madinah Al-Munawwarah, where he served for over two decades. He returned to Kashmir in 2003, after which he lived in retirement, away from active medical practice.

Known for his integrity, soft-spoken nature, courteous behaviour and dedication to his profession, he was laid to rest on Saturday afternoon.

FATEHA & CONDOLENCE DETAILS

Fateha (Congregational Prayers): Tuesday, 1 September 2026, at 9:00 AM

Venue: Ancestral Graveyard, Gupkar, Sonawar (near Kashmir Nursing Home)

Condolence Meeting: Immediately after Fateha, at the family residence

Address: Nund Reshi Lane, Sector B, Bagh-e-Mehtab, near Water Tank

BEREAVED

Dr. Mehmood-un-Nisa (Wife)
Omar Shafi (Son)

Dr. Nayeema Shafi & Dr. Arshad Wani
Daughter & Son-in-Law

Dr. Humaira Shafi & Dr. Rashad Shafi
Daughter & Son-in-Law

Dr. Mohammad Ismail Bhat (Brother)
Khalid Bashir Ahmad (Brother)

May Allah grant him Jannat-ul-Firdaus and grant the bereaved family patience and strength.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

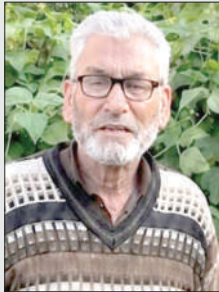
HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 16 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1448	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4: 35
	ZUHR	12:32
	ASR	5:11
	Magrib	7: 04
	ISHA	8: 28

- 257 - St Sixtus II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1125 - Duke Lotharius of Supplinburg elected king of Germany
- 1146 - European leaders outlaw crossbow, intending to end war for all time
- 1363 - Beginning of the Battle of Lake Poyang; two Chinese rebel leaders Chen Youliang and Zhu Yuanzhang are pitted against each other in what was one of the largest naval battles in history during Mongol-led Yuan Dynasty
- 1464 - Pietro Barbo elected to succeed Pope Pius II as Pope Paul II
- 1481 - 2 Latvian monarchs executed for conspiracy to Polish king Casimir IV
- 1574- Guru Ram Das became the Fourth Sikh Guru/Master.
- 1645- Dutch & Indians sign peace treaty (New Amsterdam (NY))
- 1673- Leopold I, Spain, Netherlands & Lutherans form anti-French covenant
- 1721- Russian/Swedish Peace of Nystad, ends North Sea War
- 1751- George Frideric Handel completes oratorio "Jephtha"
- 1757- Battle at Gross Jagerndorf: Russian army beats Prussia [OS=Aug 19]
- 1776- Continental Army evacuates Long Island and falls back to Manhattan, NYC
- 1791- Thomas Jefferson responds to Benjamin Banneker's letter on the issue of slavery writing that "no body wishes more ardently to see a good system commenced for raising the condition" of blacks "to what it ought to be" [1]
- 1799- Batavian fleet surrenders to British navy during Anglo-Russian invasion of Holland
- 1800- Gabriel Prosser leads a slave rebellion in Richmond, Virginia
- 1813- Battle of Kulm: French forces defeated by Austrian-Prussian-Russian alliance
- 1835- City of Melbourne, Australia, is founded
- 1836- The city of Houston is founded by Augustus Chapman Allen and John Kirby Allen
- 1843- 1st time African-Americans participate in a national political convention (Liberty Party)
- 1850 -Honolulu, Hawaii, becomes a city
- 1860- 1st British tram begins operating in Birkenhead
- 1861 -John Frémont issues proclamation freeing slaves of Missouri rebels
- 1862- Battle of Altamont-Confederates beat Union forces in Tennessee
- 1862- Second Battle of Bull Run in Manassas, Virginia, ends with a Confederate victory over Union forces
- 1873- Austrian explorers Julius von Payer and Karl Weyprecht discover the archipelago of Franz Joseph Land in the Arctic Sea.
- 1890- President Benjamin Harrison signed the first U.S. law requiring inspection of meat products
- 1896- Eight provinces in the Philippines are declared under martial law by the Spanish Governor General Ramon Blanco. Including provinces of Batangas, Rizal, Cavite and Nueva Ecija

SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Nazir Ahmed Lone** S/o Ali Mohammad Lone R/o Posh Bagh Colony Miskeen Bagh, Srinagar who left for the heavenly abode on **Wednesday 26th Aug 2026**. We pray that Almighty Allah grants the departed soul eternal peace and highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous (Ameen). Fateha Khawani will be held on **30th of Aug, 2026 (Sunday)** at their ancestral graveyard in Malkha near Gandola, Srinagar at **10:00 AM**. Ladies are requested not to bring anykind of eatables with them.

BEREAVED FAMILY

PARVAIZ AHMAD LONE (SON)
CONTACT NO.7889342746



Hamid Rather

Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's decision to leave Parliament and the basic membership of the National Conference has turned an internal ideological confrontation into a larger question for Kashmir: can a new political culture emerge from the ruins of an old one?

Whether Ruhullah eventually launches a political movement is almost secondary. The real test lies in what type of politics he builds around it.

Kashmir has seen parties change names, flags and alliances while the deeper habits of political life remain largely intact. A new organisation can easily become another container for an old idea.

That is precisely what this moment should avoid.

A persistent distance has grown between Kashmiris and those elected to speak for them. Discussions in homes, universities and marketplaces often hold a sharper language of justice, esteem and aspiration than the language heard inside legislatures.

Politicians frequently speak in the vocabulary of expediency, while citizens speak about what they believe should have a place in public life.

Representative democracy weakens when that distance becomes routine.

An elected representative occupies more than a constitutional seat. The office holds the responsibility of giving public voice to concerns that voters themselves may struggle to articulate from the floor of a House.

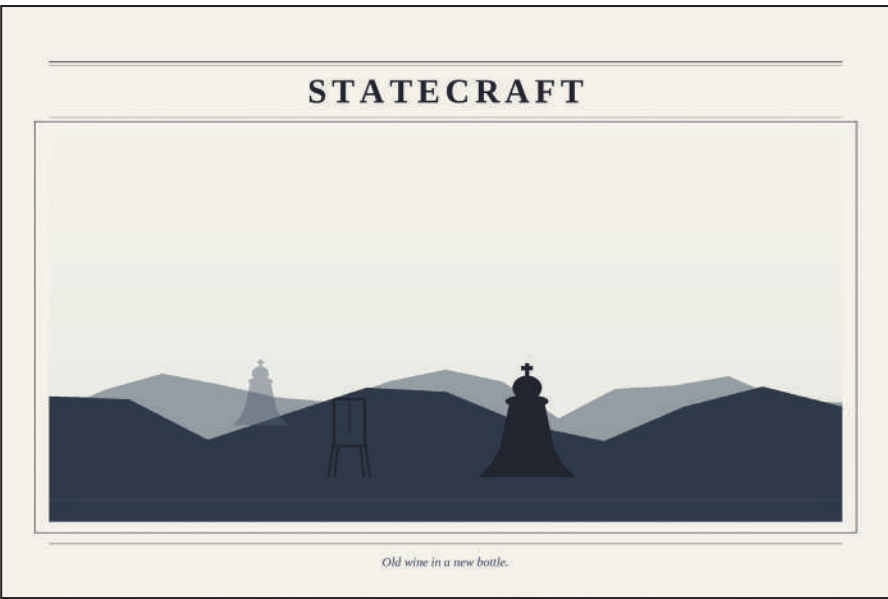
Ruhullah has acquired credibility partly because he has been willing to remain close to his stated convictions even when those convictions have created political isolation.

Agreement with his positions is a separate question. Consistency in public life has become unusual enough to command attention.

That credibility also creates a higher obligation. A new party built around Ruhullah alone could reproduce the very culture his politics has challenged. New offices and fresh manifestos would mean little if the organisation depended on familiar patronage networks, recycled leadership and personal loyalty.

Kashmir has seen enough political renovation that changes the signboard while preserving the building.

The younger generation is looking for something different. Its demand is less about finding another electoral vehicle than finding representatives with intellectual depth,



A New Political Move

Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's reported break with the National Conference could become a test of whether a new generation can enter public life without inheriting the habits of the old.

moral integrity and independence of thought.

The expectation extends beyond inherited political names and leaders selected through proximity to power.

Such a shift would also change who gets invited into politics.

Kashmir has lawyers, researchers, teachers, entrepreneurs, doctors, journalists and social workers who have spent years working on public problems without entering electoral politics. Their absence from legislatures says something about the recruitment system itself.

Political life has often rewarded familiarity and connections, while competence remains outside the gates.

Experience has value, particularly in government, where finance, administration and public institutions demand practical knowledge. Modern governance also calls for familiarity with economics, constitutional law, public policy, technology, environmental sustainability and institutional management.

Expertise can be learned, but character is formed through conduct.

A new movement should therefore make its recruitment philosophy part of its political programme.

cal programme.

Competence should carry greater weight than lineage, integrity should precede electability, and leadership should become an open door rather than an inheritance.

Ideas would have to accompany that change in personnel.

Karl Mannheim's observation that new historical periods develop forms of organisation suited to their circumstances provides a useful lens for Kashmir.

Twenty-first-century demands sit awkwardly inside political structures inherited from an earlier era. A system organised around patronage struggles to satisfy citizens seeking participation and transparency.

An organisation centred on unquestioned personalities leaves little room for internal debate.

Ruhullah's real challenge, then, would be to construct an ideology rather than assemble an electoral coalition.

Four principles could provide its foundation: authentic representation, constitutional dignity, meritocratic governance and internal democracy.

Legislators should remain accountable to public sentiment rather than party convenience. Civil liberties, democratic rights and the rule of law should guide political conduct rather than appear as occasional slogans. Public appointments and opportunities should follow competence and integrity.

A movement seeking democratic government should practise democracy within its own ranks.

Kashmir's recent political experiments provide useful lessons here.

Altaf Bukhari demonstrated organisational ability, but his project struggled to develop an ideological narrative capable of generating lasting emotional legitimacy. Sajad Lone's politics has faced a related difficulty in establishing a consistently persuasive ideological identity capable of sustaining public trust.

These experiences suggest that electoral strategy alone rarely creates durable political allegiance.

A new movement should resist becoming an election machine. Its larger task should be the creation of a leadership school.

Winning seats can establish an organisation, but producing leaders can establish a political tradition.

Politicians often calculate electoral advantage, while statesmen think about the demands of history. Politicians gather followers, but statesmen prepare successors.

A confident organisation should be able to produce leaders who eventually disagree with its founder. An insecure one produces loyalists.

That distinction brings the question back to Ruhullah.

His decision, if it proceeds, will be judged first through the familiar language of party politics: who follows him, how many seats he can win, which alliances he might form.

Those questions will dominate the immediate headlines. The larger measure will be harder to see.

It will emerge in the people he recruits, the principles he refuses to dilute, the internal democracy he permits and the political generation he helps bring into public life.

Kashmir has plenty of intelligent people. What remains scarce are pathways through which intelligence, integrity and courage can enter politics without first passing through the old gates of patronage.

That is why the choice before Ruhullah is larger than a party switch.

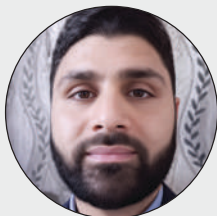
Kashmir can have another political organisation with a new name, or it can begin building a different political culture.

The first would change the cast. The second could change the politics.

The author is a lawyer, policy consultant, and young political leader practicing at the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He can be reached at hamidrather111@gmail.com.

Nepal's Warning

Nepal's recent floods expose the same pressures of climate stress, urban sprawl and blocked waterways that already threaten the Jhelum and the glaciers that feed it.



Peerzada Aarif

The rivers in Nepal rose without ceremony this season, and swallowed roads, villages and the ordinary calculations of people who had lived beside them for generations.

Those floods came in a landscape that looks familiar to anyone who has watched the Jhelum climb its banks or seen winter snow fail to settle on the higher ridges of Kashmir.

The two regions sit inside the same mountain system. What happens to one tells the other what is coming.

Kashmir already registers the same strain. Seasonal cycles have grown erratic. Sudden downpours replace the older, steadier rains. Cloudbursts and flash floods appear where they once remained rare. Landslides cut through slopes that held longer in earlier decades.

Winter brings less reliable snowfall, temperatures climb, and the glaciers that store the region's freshwater respond by shrinking.

These ice fields are not distant scenery. They feed the rivers that supply homes, fields and towns. When they thin, the margin for error shrinks with them.

Below the glaciers the wetlands, lakes and ponds that once absorbed excess water continue to lose ground. Encroachment pushes into their edges, pollution settles into their beds, and unmanaged building spreads across what used to be natural storage.

The buffers that once slowed a heavy rain now hold less. The result shows up first in the smaller channels and then in the main rivers.

The Jhelum and its tributaries illustrate the problem in concrete form.

Pollution and waste dumping load the water, construction along the banks narrows the channels, and natural drainage routes that once carried surplus rain now meet obstacles.

A short, intense downpour that earlier decades could absorb becomes a flood that reaches houses and markets.

The river does not invent the crisis. It records the choices made along its course.

Development in these mountains has treated the landscape as open inventory. Roads cut through slopes, buildings rise on floodplains, and urban growth expands without enough regard for how much water the system can hold or how quickly it can move.

The carrying capacity of the Himalayas is finite. Ignoring that limit turns ordinary rain into disaster.

Nepal has just demonstrated the cost. Kashmir does not need to wait for the same demonstration on its own soil.

Practical steps exist and remain underused. Early-warning systems can give communities time to move. Scientific monitoring of the most vulnerable glaciers can track rates of loss and identify the streams most at risk.

Strict enforcement against further encroachment can protect the remaining wetlands and river margins. Active restoration of degraded water bodies can return some of the storage capacity that has been lost.

These measures work only when environmental limits enter daily decisions about permits, construction and public works. They also require public understanding that the mountains are not an endless resource.

The people who live with the consequences are not abstractions.

Farmers watch the timing of snowmelt shift and adjust planting calendars that once felt reliable. Families in low-lying neighbourhoods measure the river's rise against the height of their doorsteps. Shopkeepers in towns along the Jhelum clear stock when water approaches the road. Students miss school when landslides block the routes.

The distance between policy language and these daily calculations remains wide. Closing that distance means treating ecological limits as ordinary facts of governance rather than special topics reserved for after a catastrophe.

Nepal's floods have already written the next chapter for any Himalayan valley that continues on the present path. Kashmir still has the chance to write a different one.

The mountains will not wait for perfect consensus. They will respond to the next heavy rain with the channels and storage that remain.

The choice is whether those systems will be stronger or weaker when that rain arrives.

The author is a teacher and freelance writer from Baramulla. He can be reached at aarifpeerzada1@gmail.com.

The Other Psychology of Kashmir

Alongside the study of violence lies another question: what allows people exposed to suffering to choose empathy instead of cruelty?



Zobiya Bhat

The first news of a killing has a way of changing the air in a room.

Someone reads the headline aloud, a name becomes a face, and questions follow about the life that has ended and the circumstances that brought it there.

When such news returns often enough, the mind begins to place it somewhere else, perhaps at the edge of consciousness, where it can be seen without being fully felt.

This is one of the strange accommodations of living with violence. The heart does not necessarily become harder. It may simply learn to close a door that once stood open.

Kashmir has lived for decades with this difficult architecture of memory.

Violence has entered homes through photographs, names, absences and stories told by parents to children who were born after the events themselves.

An older sibling remembers someone a younger one knows only through a family story. Someone who never came home remains present in the space left behind.

The event belongs to another time, but memory has its own calendar. It can place the past inside the present without announcing that it has done so.

This is why Kashmir should be understood as a society that has lived in the presence of killing, rather than through the actions of those who kill. The distinction is more than semantic.

A person who witnesses violence does

not become violent by witnessing it. Trauma does not write a fixed script for the life that follows.

The same wound can lead one person toward anger and another toward an unusual tenderness toward the pain of others.

Perhaps the more revealing question is what keeps most people from crossing that distance.

Human beings carry suffering in different ways. Some withdraw into themselves, many become angry or fearful, while others seem to turn outward, as though their own experience of loss has made another person's loss harder to ignore.

Family, friendship, education, community, moral values and a sense of belonging can all become small anchors when the surrounding world feels uncertain.

The psychological distress reported among young people in Jammu and Kashmir belongs within this picture. Unequal access to mental-health services adds to the burden of prolonged uncertainty, grief and social disruption.

Such suffering shows the toll on young minds. It does not provide a map to violence.

That difference becomes especially important when mental illness is used as a stand-in for an explanation of killing.

Most people experiencing mental-health difficulties are not violent. Pain and cruelty belong to different territories, even when public discussion places them side by side.

A society can respond to trauma, isolation, grief, anger and hopelessness without turning those experiences into a diagnosis of danger.

The landscape has changed further with the arrival of the phone as a second window onto the world.

A young person in Kashmir can inherit memories at home and encounter images of violence online within the same day. Political narratives, grief, anger and ideological messages can gather around a searching mind with remarkable speed.

Social media alone cannot explain why



The psychology of the tormentor can tell us how cruelty becomes possible. The psychology of the person who suffers and still refuses cruelty may tell us something more difficult and more useful: how violence fails to reproduce itself.

someone becomes violent. Grievance does not automatically become violence, while trauma does not take that road by itself. Alienation can remain alienation.

The troubling turn comes when such experiences meet an ideology that divides human beings into categories, enemies and symbols, while promising belonging to those willing to accept its terms.

By the time violence becomes an act, something may already have happened in the inner world.

A person may have spent years learning to see another human being as an abstraction rather than a person. Dehumanisation creates a distance in which cruelty becomes easier to imagine.

That distance is where prevention has its earliest work.

Families, schools and communities inhabit that space long before a security institution does.

A teacher can remain a point of contact, a family can give grief a language other than anger, friendship can make belonging possible without hostility, and psychological

support can help someone live with pain before pain begins speaking through another vocabulary.

Security is usually imagined through the visible world of policing, surveillance, borders and physical protection. There is another form of security, less visible and perhaps harder to measure, that exists inside a generation's imagination.

It concerns whether a young person grows up believing violence is inevitable or believing that anger and injustice can find another language.

Much of Kashmir already speaks that second language, though it rarely makes the news.

Parents educate their children, teachers teach, doctors treat patients, and young people study, work, create and imagine lives beyond conflict.

These acts have little spectacle. Their very ordinariness gives them a different type of significance.

They show that suffering can stop with the person who experiences it.

The psychology of the tormentor can tell us how cruelty becomes possible. The psychology of the person who suffers and still refuses cruelty may tell us something more difficult and more useful: how violence fails to reproduce itself.

Kashmir's deepest inheritance, then, may lie somewhere between memory and choice.

The past remains in family stories, names, grief and the minds of those who grew up hearing what happened before they were old enough to understand it.

Memory can pass from parent to child without passing along the desire to repeat the wound.

Perhaps that is the quieter work of a society living after violence: to remember the dead without teaching the living to become them.

The author is a student and independent writer from Kashmir who writes on gender, governance, education and social issues. She can be reached at bhatozobiya2@gmail.com.

The Photograph and the Flood

A group photograph from 1998 contains the beginnings of a human network that resurfaced during Kashmir's devastating floods.



Syed Nissar H. Gilani

A photograph taken in May 1998 shows a group of young revenue officers from Jammu and Kashmir standing on the grounds of the Officers Training College in Jaipur, now the Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration.

The occasion was technical: a course on satellite imagery for land records, part of a push to move Indian states away from hand-drawn maps and toward modern surveying.

Sixteen years later, several of the men in that photograph became the reason help reached Dal Lake at all.

When catastrophic floods submerged parts of Srinagar and the lake itself in 2014, one of the men who travelled there with a team of Jaipur businessmen carrying relief supplies was Professor Hassan, who had taught disaster management to that same batch of officers back in 1998.

He came because a former student asked him to, and because a bond formed over lectures in a Rajasthan classroom sixteen years earlier still held.

Neither any department dispatched him, nor any memorandum of understanding between states covered the trip. It happened because a room full of strangers had once spent weeks becoming something less formal and more durable

than colleagues.

This is the part of civil service training that never shows up in a government audit: the personal network built during a shared course, one that later moves people and supplies faster than any official channel between two states.

The technical syllabus in Jaipur has likely been superseded many times over by newer surveying software. The friendships it produced were still active enough to answer a flood many years on.

The training itself was ordinary in the way that reveals the most.

Field teams split up to study Collector offices and record rooms, and found that much of Rajasthan's historical land settlement paperwork was kept in Urdu, nearly identical to Jammu and Kashmir's own registers apart from a few local terms.

At the Jaipur district record room, though, the Jamabandi registers were caked in so much dust that the officers had to abandon their study of them altogether.

The young Deputy Commissioner on duty, himself from Kashmir, was so embarrassed by the state of the archive that he suspended the record keeper responsible on the spot.

A single official, confronted with visible neglect, chose accountability over excuse.

It is a small scene, but it says something larger about the gap between what land records are supposed to preserve and what actually happens to them once no one outside the department is watching.

Away from the record rooms, the same course produced its own small comedy of survival.

Four officers shared one air-conditioned hut against a Jaipur summer that none of them, used to the cooler Kashmir Valley, had a body prepared for.

One morning a colleague found



What Jaipur 1998 suggests is that the real output of a training program is not always the certificate at the end of it. Sometimes it is a professor who, decades later, drives to a flooded lake because he still thinks of a former student as his own.

the narrator half inside the cool bedroom and half leaning into a washroom with a broken exhaust fan, trying to shave in the only light

available.

A fellow officer, Maqbool Wani, solved it by walking to the local market and buying a small hand

mirror. Another roommate, a heavy smoker named Hafiz, gave up cigarettes on the spot after seeing what the smoke did to the others in that

closed room, and kept the promise for the rest of his life.

None of this appears on any training certificate, but all of it is what the officers actually remember.

Weekends took the group to Ajmer Sharif, where a cannon shot before Friday prayers startled a delegation unfamiliar with the local custom, and to Pushkar's Brahma Temple, the forts and the Hawa Mahal of Jaipur, and the Albert Hall Museum with its Persian carpets and stone sculpture from an empire's worth of craftsmanship.

One colleague bought a marble replica of the Taj Mahal large enough to require its own transport arrangement back to Jammu.

Several of the people in that photograph are gone now: Hafizur-Rehman, Katoch, Sardar Mohan Singh Wazir, Dr. Kavida, who ran the institute at the time.

But none of that changes what the course built while they were alive, arranged in the first place by Sushma Choudhary, then Financial Commissioner and the first woman IAS officer of the former Jammu and Kashmir state, who kept pushing young revenue officers toward exactly this kind of exposure.

Governments tend to treat in-service training as overhead, the first line item softened when budgets tighten, because its output cannot be measured on the same spreadsheet as a completed survey or a digitized register.

What Jaipur 1998 suggests is that the real output of a training program is not always the certificate at the end of it. Sometimes it is a professor who, decades later, drives to a flooded lake because he still thinks of a former student as his own.

— The author is a former civil servant from the administrative service. He can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com.

The Photograph That Brought a Saint Home

The return of a 16th-century image of Thirumangai Alvar shows how a photograph, patient research and institutional cooperation can recover more than an antiquity from a broken history.



Muskan Shafi Malik

A photograph taken in a Tamil temple in 1957 eventually helped bring a bronze saint home.

The images showed Thirumangai Alvar in worship at Shri Soundararajaperumal Kovil in Tamil Nadu.

Decades later, the same bronze was sitting in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, having passed through a British collector and a Sotheby's auction.

On March 3, 2026, the museum formally handed it to Indian authorities at the High Commission of India in London. In August, the bronze reached Tamil Nadu and returned to its temple in a public reception and procession.

The story is striking because the object survived the disappearance that severed it from its first home.

Its path back was reconstructed through archival photography, provenance research, material analysis and cooperation between institutions in Britain and India.

The episode also raises a larger question about sacred art: when a ritual image leaves the place and community for which it was made, what exactly is lost?

Thirumangai Alvar occupies a special place in the Tamil Vaishnavite tradition.

Traditionally counted among the twelve Alvars, the poet-saints whose hymns became foundational to Sri

Vaishnavism, he is generally placed by modern scholarship in the eighth or ninth century, while devotional traditions assign him a much earlier date.

Hagiographical accounts remember him as Kaliyan, a chieftain and warrior who became an ardent devotee of Vishnu.

His verses form an important part of the Nalayira Divya Prabandham, the revered collection of roughly 4,000 Tamil devotional poems.

The bronze therefore represented more than a historical figure rendered in metal. It belonged to a living religious tradition whose memory extends through poetry, worship and temple practice.

The Ashmolean dates the solid-cast bronze to the sixteenth century, although earlier cataloguing placed it in the fifteenth. Its workmanship belongs to the long South Indian tradition of lost-wax bronze casting, a craft refined over centuries.

Such temple bronzes acquire meaning through use as much as through craftsmanship.

Processional images can be consecrated, dressed, taken beyond the sanctum during festivals and presented to devotees through darshan, the reciprocal act of seeing and being seen by the sacred image.

A museum visitor encounters the bronze primarily through looking. A devotee encounters it through ritual, movement, memory and worship.

The change of setting therefore changes the experience of the object itself.

The photograph from 1957 became the key to recovering that earlier life. It had been made through the photographic documentation associated with the Institut Français de Pondichéry and the École française d'Extrême-Orient.

At the time, it was simply part of a record. Years later, it became evidence.

Sometime after the photograph



was taken, the bronze disappeared from the temple. By 1967, it was in the collection of British collector Dr. J. R. Belmont and was being offered at Sotheby's. The Ashmolean later acquired it through the auction.

The museum has said it purchased the object in good faith and had no knowledge of its illicit history. The precise route by which the bronze left the temple and entered Belmont's collection remains incompletely documented.

That gap matters precisely because provenance research has to distinguish established evidence from assumption.

The decisive breakthrough came in November 2019, when an independent French scholar alerted the Ashmolean to research linking its bronze with the 1957 photograph. Visual details of the sculpture could be compared between the archival

image and the museum object, establishing that they were the same bronze.

The discovery set off a wider investigation involving the Ashmolean, Indian authorities, the Archaeological Survey of India, the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing and other specialists.

India submitted its formal repatriation claim in March 2020. Ashmolean representatives travelled to India in 2022 and met officials and specialists involved in the case. Material analysis was also commissioned, adding scientific evidence to the archival record.

The case shows how provenance research has changed. An object's history can emerge through photographs, scientific examination, auction records, institutional archives, field research and the knowledge held by custodial communities.

Here, a photograph became especially significant because it preserved

proof of the bronze's presence in its temple before its disappearance.

The return itself took years. Oxford's University Council approved restitution on March 11, 2024. The Charity Commission for England and Wales granted regulatory authorisation in December 2024. The formal handover followed in London in March 2026.

The London ceremony, however, was only one stage in the story. The bronze's reception in Tamil Nadu gave restitution a different character.

An object that had spent decades as a subject of museum scholarship and display was once again placed within the landscape of its religious life.

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The case shows how provenance research has changed. An object's history can emerge through photographs, scientific examination, auction records, institutional archives, field research and the knowledge held by custodial communities.

FSSAI Bans Everest, Laljee From Selling Hing Powder

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday said it has prohibited Everest Food Products Pvt Ltd and Laljee Godhoo from selling hing powder, which it found to be sub-standard.

In a social media post, the

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) informed that it has issued prohibition orders against Everest Food Products and Laljee Godhoo and Company as their products 'hing powder' were found to be sub-standard.

In the case of Everest, FSSAI

has prohibited the sale of compounded asafoetida (hing powder) variants with immediate effect.

"The samples of Compounded Asafoetida (Hing Powder) were found to be 'Misbranded and Sub-standard' by the Food Analyst of the primary food

laboratory," the regulator said.

The articles were found to be in contravention of the provisions of the FSS (Food Products and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, wherein the alcohol soluble extract obtained was 0 per cent against the prescribed standard of not less than 5 per cent.

"The samples of Yellow Hing Powder (Compounded Asafoetida) and Black Hing Powder (Compounded Asafoetida) were also found to be Sub-standard, with Alcoholic Extract reported at 3.29 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively," it added.

The regulator has asked the company to submit an action plan to rectify continued malpractice of selling substandard compounded hing/asafoetida and ensure sale of standard products as licensed under the FSS Act, 2006.

It warned of further action

if the company do not rectify mistakes.

In the matter of Laljee Godhoo, FSSAI said the company has been prohibited from selling hing powder, which it found to be sub-standard and adulterated, in contravention of FSSAI law.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kishtwar Rape-

on Monday," Nath said.

The petition had sought transfer of the investigation to the Crime Branch, besides an inquiry into the alleged intervention of a panchayat after the girl's pregnancy came to light and an alleged attempt to pressure her father into reaching a compromise.

Nath said the plea sought an independent investigation into the entire chain of events surrounding the minor's death.

"We have sought an independent investigation not only into the alleged rape of the minor but also into the entire chain of events that followed, leading to her death," she said.

The alleged panchayat intervention has been highlighted as a key aspect of the petition. According to the plea, people allegedly associated with the principal accused became involved after the pregnancy came to light and a panchayat was convened.

The girl's father alleged that he was "chastised and pressured" to remain silent and accept a compromise, while money was allegedly offered to him in return.

He said he rejected the proposal and insisted that the accused and others be proceeded against in accordance with law.

The petition further alleged that the father was subsequently made to affix his thumb impression on a blank document under duress, without knowing its contents or intended use.

The plea has sought identification and examination of all those present at the alleged panchayat, an inquiry into the circumstances in which the document was prepared and the thumb impression obtained, besides examination of the alleged source and purpose of the money offered.

According to the petition, the girl's family came to know about her pregnancy only after she developed a serious medical condition.

The plea traces the subsequent events from her examination at the Public Health Centre in Chatroo and an ultrasound at Kishtwar to treatment at District Hospital Kishtwar, her transfer to Doda, the delivery of a dead male child and her subsequent transportation towards Punjab before her death on August 20.

The petition has sought a detailed probe into the alleged attempts to terminate the pregnancy, the procurement and administration of medicines, the role of people who transported or accompanied the girl, the treatment provided to her at different health facilities and the circumstances surrounding her death.

It has also sought preservation and examination of hospital records, ultrasound reports, medical prescriptions, ambulance records, GPS and location data, CCTV footage, call-detail records, electronic communications, financial records and forensic and DNA evidence.

The plea has further sought an inquiry into hospital records in which the minor was allegedly recorded as the wife of a 13-year-old boy, as well as identification of the person or persons who provided such information.

It has also called for examination of possible administrative, institutional or statutory lapses concerning the girl's safety at school and the manner in which the matter was handled and reported after her pregnancy came to light.

The police had constituted the SIT after the girl's death, and the investigation has so far led to six arrests.

The proposed Crime Branch investigation will now cover the wider circumstances surrounding the case, including the allegations of an attempted compromise, the involvement of various persons and the medical events preceding the minor's death.

The development comes amid demands for a prompt and thorough investigation and strict action against all those found responsible.

Six Arrested So

police, the investigation found that the teacher, allegedly in conspiracy with his brother, administered medicines purportedly to terminate the girl's pregnancy. She was first taken to a public health centre in Chatroo and later shifted to District Hospital Kishtwar, allegedly with the involvement of the accused sanitation worker.

The girl subsequently delivered a stillborn and died on August 20. Police said the nurse's alleged role in the termination of the pregnancy subsequently emerged during the investigation, leading to her arrest.

The SIT has said it is conducting a thorough, scientific and evidence-based investigation into the circumstances leading to the minor's death and the role of every person connected with the case. Further arrests will be made wherever warranted by evidence, police said.

J&K Can Create

The Lieutenant Governor said every Gram Panchayat should be able to harness the power of sports, while academies in smaller towns should provide opportunities to young athletes who may otherwise have limited access to professional facilities.

He also called for scientific training to be made available to athletes across the UT, saying talent from rural areas should receive the same quality of preparation as athletes training at major Centres of Excellence.

Sinha stressed that the sporting ecosystem needed to extend beyond athletes themselves, with universities and institutions developing expertise in sports science, management and technical facilities to produce

trained coaches, physiotherapists, managers and other professionals.

He said Jammu and Kashmir should aspire not only to send athletes to national and international competitions but also to host major sporting events.

"It is a resolve filled with infinite possibilities. Our achievements in sports over the past six years prove that if young people are prepared for sports with dedication, the region will create an entire era of champions," Sinha said.

He also called upon corporate houses to support athletes from the stage of talent identification rather than stepping in only after they win medals.

Sinha said the making of a champion was a collective process involving coaches, parents, support staff and society as a whole, and urged all stakeholders to contribute to building a stronger sporting culture.

Addressing young people, the Lieutenant Governor said they should lead by example, compete with dignity, accept defeat gracefully and inspire others to pursue excellence.

He also called upon youth to use sports to transcend differences of language and faith and strengthen the bonds of unity.

Sinha urged successful sportspersons to give back to society by mentoring younger athletes and helping the next generation access opportunities that could support their sporting journeys.

He also commended the participation of youth in the Drug-Free Campaign and linked sporting activity with the broader goal of building a healthier and more confident society.

"A healthy India is a fearless India. A sporting India is a confident India. And a confident India is an invincible India," he said.

Recalling Major Dhyan Chand's legacy, Sinha said the hockey great represented discipline, dedication and determination and had demonstrated the importance of setting a goal and pursuing it with commitment.

"Whatever field we stand in, whether it is the field of sports, science, or public service we must identify our goal, move towards it, and achieve it together," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the National Sports Day pledge and felicitated top-performing sportspersons of the 69th National School Games.

Memoranda of Understanding were also exchanged between the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation and Common Services Centres for promotion of sports in the Union Territory.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Department, Department, Ashwani Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; SKUAST Kashmir Vice Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg; IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo; Director General, Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta; senior officials; representatives of sports organisations and foundations; and a large number of sportspersons and youth.

'Health Services

high-altitude areas.

Extending his greetings to Ujala Cygnus for its new "Peace and Wellbeing Foundation", the Lieutenant Governor described the conclave as an opportunity for stakeholders to collectively rethink healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere.

Citing the example of an ASHA worker using tele-consultation to connect patients in remote villages with district hospitals, Sinha said telemedicine could help overcome geographical barriers and extend timely medical care to communities far from major health facilities.

He said technology should ultimately serve people and called for Jammu and Kashmir to become a "laboratory" for low-cost, high-impact healthcare innovations.

"From telemedicine to drone-delivered blood units, AI-powered diagnostics to solar cold chains, the roadmap for the future of healthcare is clear: accessible, affordable, equitable healthcare for all should be our prime objective," he said.

Sinha identified rising healthcare expenditure as one of the major challenges confronting health systems and called for greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention and regular screening to reduce dependence on expensive treatment.

"We need to move beyond a system that treats illness to one that protects and promotes health. We must prioritise regular screening, easy access to primary healthcare services and timely treatment," he said.

He also called for an expansion of training capacity in medical and nursing education and greater use of telemedicine to extend healthcare to rural and remote areas.

At the same time, he stressed the need to improve the working conditions and wellbeing of healthcare professionals.

"We need to expand training capacity in medical and nursing education and ensure access to health services in rural and remote areas through telemedicine. Most importantly, we must also take care of the wellbeing of our health workers. Better staffing, reduced administrative burden and mental-health support are fundamental requirements of a strong health system," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the expansion of healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, including two new AIIMS, 10 medical colleges, two State Cancer Institutes and specialised facilities such as Bone and Joint and paediatric hospitals.

He also referred to the growth of nursing, paramedical and pharmacy education, with 52 nursing colleges, 23 paramedical colleges and five pharmacy colleges, describing these developments as important steps towards equitable healthcare.

"With new AIIMS, medical colleges, and digital health missions, J&K is becoming a hub of innovation and resilience in health sector," Sinha said.

He called for modern primary health centres in every village to be linked with district-level health networks and urged stakeholders to explore the use of AI for early disease detection while ensuring that the technology supports rather than replaces clinical decision-making.

He also stressed the importance of stronger disease surveillance systems, genomic capabilities and local manufacturing of diagnostic kits.

Another priority, he said, should be building a robust healthcare workforce through nursing and paramedical institutions, continuous skill development and closer collaboration between the government and private sector.

"Private hospitals and industries associated with the health sector must also join this effort, recognising it as an important task of nation-building," Sinha said.

He said the strongest health systems were those in which government and private healthcare providers worked together by combining their capabilities, speed and innovation for public welfare.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ultimate measure of healthcare progress should be whether it improves the everyday lives of people.

He envisioned a system where residents of remote districts would no longer have to travel long distances for routine medical treatment, families would not be pushed into financial distress by healthcare costs and medical graduates would find meaningful career opportunities within Jammu and Kashmir.

"Advanced treatment and modern health facilities must be accessible to all so that we may establish the principles of social justice and equality. The health of an individual or a family affects opportunities, productivity and overall well-being of the society," he said.

Sinha also referred to the emerging role of digital health systems in improving continuity of care, noting efforts to link health records through secure digital platforms so authorised doctors can access a patient's medical history when required while patients retain control over access to their information.

The conclave was attended by CII J&K representatives, healthcare professionals, members of the Peace and Wellbeing Foundation and senior government officials.

Among those present were CII J&K UT Council Chairman Iqram Ali Shafiee, Ujala Cygnus Hospitals Founder Director Dr Shuchin Bajaj, CII J&K Vice Chairman Siddhant Choudhary, members of the Peace and Wellbeing Foundation Dr Pervez Ahmad Sofi and Arafat Ahmad Bhat, SSP Srinagar Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo and other senior officials.

Srinagar Hits

flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

Srinagar's maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius was 4.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 19.6 degrees Celsius, 3.6 degrees above normal. Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 26.2 degrees, while Kupwara registered a high of 34.2 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 32 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag and Banihal recorded 31.2 and 30.4 degrees, respectively.

Among the tourist destinations, Pahalgal recorded a maximum of 28 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.2 degrees, while Gulmarg registered a maximum of 24 degrees and the lowest minimum temperature in the Valley at 12.2 degrees.

Katra recorded a maximum temperature of 30 degrees Celsius and received 84.2 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on Saturday, the highest among the stations listed by the weather department.

The Met advised people, particularly those living in vulnerable areas, to remain cautious during periods of intense rainfall because of the risk of flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

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

Civil Secretariat

Commissioner, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir, and the Agriculture and Horticulture departments currently operating from Lal Mandi.

These offices have been proposed to be housed at a Mini-Secretariat at Batamaloo.

However, the proposed Mini-Secretariat itself remains incomplete. The project, for which the foundation stone was laid in 2018 and which carries an estimated cost of Rs 80.26 crore, has reportedly remained stalled due to lack of funds.

The plan proposes moving the Directorate of Information and the office of DIG Traffic from

Polo View to Bemina.

The District Police Lines at Karan Nagar has also been proposed for relocation to Noorbagh in the Eidgah area, while the Veterinary Hospital at Maisuma could be shifted to the same location.

Among the healthcare institutions identified for relocation is the Chest Disease Hospital at Dalgate. It has been proposed to be moved to Zewan on the outskirts of Srinagar, with its existing location earmarked for conversion into a community facility centre.

The Central Jail at Badamwari and the Government Poultry Farm in the area have been proposed for relocation to Khunmoh. Their present sites could subsequently be developed into a Craft Centre and a Disaster Cell, respectively.

The Leper Hospital and Leper Colony at Lalbazar are also proposed to be shifted, with Kimber, Shuhama, Humchi and Saidpora among the locations identified. The existing Lalbazar site has been proposed for tourism-related development.

Another proposal involves relocating the CAPD godowns at Shaheed Gunj to the Dry Port at Budgam. The land currently occupied by the godowns could then be redeveloped as a public park, playground, craft centre and multilevel parking facility.

The Doordarshan office near Srinagar International Airport and some other government establishments have also been identified for relocation.

The government has already shifted the District Court Complex to Tengpora in Batamaloo. Meanwhile, a new complex for the Srinagar wing of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court is under construction at Rakhi-i-Gund in Bemina.

The proposed changes are part of a broader plan to prepare Srinagar for projected urban growth.

According to the Master Plan, the city's built-up area could expand to around 766 square kilometres by 2035, while the population is projected to increase from approximately 1.2 million to three million.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has repeatedly stressed the need to tackle congestion and traffic pressure in Srinagar and has said the government would undertake measures aimed at decongesting the city.

The relocation proposals, however, have raised concerns among sections of residents and the business community, particularly over the possible impact on commercial activity in areas that currently benefit from the presence of major government institutions.

KTMEF spokesperson Qazi Tauseef said the government should first assess the economic implications of moving the offices and consult trade bodies before proceeding.

He said traders, transporters and restaurant operators could be affected if institutions that currently draw large numbers of employees and visitors are moved away from established commercial centres.

Residents, meanwhile, have called for the decongestion plan to be accompanied by adequate public infrastructure, including parking facilities, playgrounds and community spaces.

The proposed relocation of the institutions, if implemented, could significantly alter Srinagar's administrative geography and free up several strategically located parcels of land for other public and economic uses.

High Sugar, Salt,

August 13 hearing, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran had criticised the FSSAI over the delay in introducing warning labels and questioned whether the government "does not want its people to be healthy".

In its latest affidavit, the FSSAI said it had prepared a proposal for displaying information relating to added sugar, added fat and salt in pictorial form on the front of food packages.

The warning label, it said, would be displayed in a font size one point larger than the font used in the nutrition information table on the back of the package.

The regulator has proposed a phased implementation of front-of-pack nutrition labelling (FoPNL), saying this would facilitate consumer acceptability and give the food industry adequate time for reformulation.

Under the proposed Phase I, the warning would apply to products high in any two or more of added fat, added sugar and salt, along with specified sweetened beverages.

Phase II would expand the requirement to products high in any one of the three specified nutrients.

The FSSAI has also proposed exemptions for certain categories of products.

These include single-ingredient food products and foods that are inherently rich in fat, sugar or salt, such as ghee, edible oil, salt, sugar, jaggery and honey, subject to other applicable requirements under food safety and labelling regulations.

The affidavit said a food product would be classified as high in fat, sugar and/or salt based on nutrient thresholds specified in the Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024. The proposed system is intended to particularly assist children and other vulnerable groups in making informed food choices, the FSSAI said.

The authority said the proposed information would be presented in a red hexagon on the front of the package in a prescribed format.

However, the regulator clarified that the proposal is yet to become a notified requirement.

"It is pertinent to mention that the same will be notified by way of an amendment in the respective regulations by following prescribed procedure," the affidavit said.

The proposed warning-label system is aimed at making key nutritional information more visible at the point of purchase rather than requiring consumers to rely solely on detailed nutrition tables printed on the back of packaged food products. (with PTI inputs)

PM Arrives

Modi to the monument established on the 30th anniversary of the country's independence, symbolising the ideals of freedom and goodness.

"Upon landing in Tashkent, went to lay a wreath at the Yangi Uzbekistan Monument with President Mirziyoyev. The Yangi Uzbekistan Monument reflects the aspirations and progress of the Uzbek people. Glad to begin my visit by coming here," Modi said in a post on X.

Modi is in Tashkent on the first leg of his two-nation visit that also includes the Kyrgyz Republic, aiming to strengthen India's strategic partnerships in Central Asia and deepen the civilisational connect with the region.

During his two-day visit to Uzbekistan, Modi will discuss cooperation in trade, investment, digital connectivity, defence, and energy sectors with President Mirziyoyev.

"I look forward to my discussions with President Mirziyoyev on further deepening our cooperation in trade and investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy, and on advancing our shared visions of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Yangi Uzbekistan'," Modi said in his departure statement.

Modi said he will also visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, a tribute to the close cultural and people-to-people ties that bind the two countries.

From Tashkent, the prime minister will travel to Bishkek to participate in the 26th SCO Summit, at the invitation of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Zhaparov.

HC Upholds Rejection

bench, the court held that the appellants had failed to establish that they were engaged before the March 17, 2015, cut-off date.

The appellants had claimed that they were engaged between 2012 and 2015 and that their names had appeared in earlier departmental lists but were subsequently excluded from the final list of 472 PDLs/TDLs considered for regularisation. They had also challenged the inclusion of 37 other persons in the list.

However, the Division Bench noted that an Inquiry Committee, after examining departmental records, found that the appellants were not borne on the relevant muster rolls or regular wage lists and that their CVs had been prepared after the ban on fresh engagement of daily wagers came into effect on March 17, 2015.

The Bench held that mere inclusion in an earlier or preliminary departmental list could not, by itself, establish engagement prior to the cut-off date or create an enforceable right to regularisation.

"We, therefore, find no merit in the contention of the appellants that their earlier inclusion created any right in their favour. A preliminary or provisional inclusion in a departmental list, by itself, cannot confer any right to regularisation when the requirement of engagement prior to the cut-off date remains unestablished," the court said.

The court further observed that the appellants' contention regarding the inclusion of 37 other persons did not advance their case.

"In order to claim parity, the appellants must first establish that they are similarly situated to the persons who were ultimately included in the final list," the court said, adding that the respondents had explained that, upon verification, those included in the final list were found to have been engaged prior to the imposition of the ban on fresh engagement of daily wagers with effect from March 17, 2015.

Finding no error in the writ court's judgement, the Division Bench dismissed the appeals and upheld the earlier decision.

17 J&K Organisers

Policy 2027. Lead HGOs have been asked to constitute CHGOs within three days.

Each CHGO must comprise at least one Category-I Lead HGO, one Category-I Non-Lead HGO and one new Category-II HGO.

The Ministry has stipulated that the total pilgrim quota for each CHGO should be kept as close to 2,000 pilgrims as possible, with preference given to HGOs that were members of the respective CHGOs during the previous Haj.

However, the Ministry clarified that quota allotment has not yet commenced.

"Once the formalities of formation of CHGOs are completed and quota allotment letters are issued, the same will be notified to the general public, after which bookings can commence," the notification said.

The final eligibility list therefore clears the way for the next stage of the Haj 2027 process, while pilgrims and organisers will have to await the formal distribution of quota and subsequent opening of bookings.

The Ministry has stressed transparency in the registration process and balanced regional representation under the Haj 2027 framework. (KNS)

2,000-Year-Old Buddhist Treasure Unearthed in North Kashmir

Observer New Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday described the archaeological site at Zehanpora in north Kashmir's Baramulla district as another significant treasure in Jammu and Kashmir's rich historical and cultural legacy, saying the ongoing excavation is expected to reveal more about the region's ancient civilisation.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to the excavation site, Dulloo said the second phase of archaeological work had commenced after obtaining the necessary permissions and could lead to further important discoveries.

"Prima facie, the findings indicate that this is a 2,000-year-old Buddhist site. More comprehensive conclusions will emerge as the excavation progresses," he said.

The Chief Secretary said the discoveries could offer valuable



insights into the civilisation that flourished in the region nearly two millennia ago, including the objects, materials and practices associated with that period.

He said the excavation was likely to add a major cultural treasure to the documented history

of Jammu and Kashmir and could eventually transform the site into an important tourist destination.

"Once the excavation is completed, it is certain that a significant cultural treasure will be added to our history. In the coming days, this site can also emerge as a major

tourism attraction," Dulloo said.

The excavation at Zehanpora had initially begun in October last year but was later halted. The second phase of the exercise has now resumed and is expected to continue for around three months.

Dulloo said scientific examina-

tion and testing of the excavated material were also being carried out simultaneously to determine its age, nature and historical significance.

While the current phase of excavation is scheduled to last three months, he said the larger process of studying, documenting and fully understanding the archaeological site could take as long as five years.

The Zehanpora site came to light in 2025 following systematic survey and excavation work. Initial investigations revealed the remains of Buddhist stupas, monastic structures and what appeared to be an urban-style settlement, believed to date primarily to the Kushan period.

The discovery has drawn national attention, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi also describing it as a proud moment and underlining its historical significance.

Two Fire & Emergency Services Personnel Die of Suspected Cardiac Arrest

SRINAGAR: Two personnel of the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department died after reportedly suffering cardiac arrest at separate locations in Srinagar and Magam in Budgam district, officials said.

Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, posted at the Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters in Srinagar, reportedly suffered a suspected heart attack. He was shifted to SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, where doctors declared him dead.

In a separate incident, Ghulam Qadir, a Mechanic/Driver posted at F&ES Station Magam in Budgam, suffered a heart attack. He was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead. The deaths have left colleagues and the Fire & Emergency Services Department mourning the loss of the two personnel. [KNT]

KU marks 15th National Sports Day



SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir (KU) joined the nationwide celebrations of the 15th National Sports Day with a three-day sporting extravaganza, organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPE&S) from August 27 to 29.

The celebrations commemorated the 121st birth anniversary of legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand and were held in pursuance of the clarion call of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Held under the national theme "Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat", the celebrations featured a range of sporting, educational and awareness activities. Students from various Departments of the University participated enthusiastically in the events.

While congratulating the Directorate and the participants on this occasion Vice Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message said that National Sports Day is an important occasion to recognise the transformative role of sports in shaping a healthy, disciplined and confident generation. She emphasised that participation in sports goes beyond physical fitness, inculcating values of teamwork, perseverance, discipline and sportsmanship among young people.

"Universities have an important role in nurturing sporting talent and creating greater opportunities for students to participate in sports. I hope that such initiatives would further strengthen the culture of sports at the University and inspire more young people to pursue sporting activities with dedication and enthusiasm," said the Vice-Chancellor.

The celebrations began on August 27 with students joining the Khelo India Samvaad through video conference, during which Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with students, athletes and sports enthusiasts across the country. The interaction emphasised the need to foster a strong sporting culture and encourage greater participation of youth in sports.

Demand Statehood in Delhi, Not Protest in Srinagar: Dy CM to BJP

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday took a swipe at the BJP over its proposed protest outside the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, saying the party should instead gherao its own national headquarters in New Delhi and press the Centre for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP has announced plans to gherao the Civil Secretariat on September 2 against what it has termed the "governance failure" of the National Conference-led government. The party had earlier staged a similar protest in Jammu on August 17.

Choudhary described the proposed protest as "blatantly hypocritical", asserting that the BJP should raise the issue of statehood with its own national leadership rather than target the elected government in



Jammu and Kashmir.

"If the BJP is genuinely concerned about the restoration of statehood and other serious issues affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, it should first protest against its own national leadership in New Delhi rather than targeting the elected government in Srinagar," Choudhary said while interacting with party functionaries at the National Conference provincial headquarters at Gandhi Nagar here.

He said there was a clear contradiction in the BJP's decision to gherao the Civil Secretariat, maintaining that the party should in-

stead seek answers from those who have the authority to restore statehood.

"All of us expected the Jammu and Kashmir BJP to gherao its own national headquarters in New Delhi and demand the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir from the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserved clarity and sincerity on the issue of statehood, adding that political posturing could not replace accountability from those empowered to fulfil the commitment.

Meanwhile, National Conference provincial president for Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta criticised the BJP-led Central government over the continued rise in prices of essential commodities, including petrol, diesel, cooking gas and other household items.

Perception Towards Persons with Disabilities Changed after 2014: Jitendra Singh

Agencies

KATHUA: Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the Centre has taken several significant measures to ensure dignity, equal opportunities and greater participation of persons with disabilities in nation-building and perception towards them has changed after 2014.

While talking to media persons on the sidelines of a Divyang and Family Sammelan organised by Saksham at Hiranagar here, Singh, said, "PM Modi led government, since assuming office in 2014, has taken several important decisions to ensure that every citizen gets equal respect and that their capabilities are effectively utilised in nation-building."

Congratulating the organisers, Singh said Saksham is an all-India organisation working for the



welfare of persons with disabilities for the past 10-12 years.

Referring to the change in terminology from "Viklang" to "Divyang", Singh said the decision was not merely a change of name but helped transform society's perception towards persons with disabilities.

He said persons with disabilities should not be viewed merely as recipients of sympathy, pity or assistance, but as citizens deserving dignity and respect who can make meaningful contributions to the nation based on their capabilities.

The Union Minister said reservation for persons

with disabilities in government jobs has been increased from three per cent to four per cent, while reservation in higher educational institutions has been increased from three per cent to five per cent.

He said the number of recognised categories of disabilities has also been expanded from six or seven to 21, enabling more people with different forms of disabilities to avail benefits under government schemes.

The Union Minister said various other measures have also been introduced, including concessional loans, special facilities for persons with disabilities at around 90 airports, accessibility provisions in newly constructed government buildings and concessions on assistive devices.

He also stressed the importance of empowering women and mothers in supporting children with disabilities. (KNO)

Oxygen Plant Remains Defunct at District Hospital Shopian

Authorities say restoration work underway

Agencies

SHOPIAN: Patients requiring continuous oxygen support at District Hospital Shopian are facing inconvenience as the hospital's central oxygen generation and pipeline system has remained non-functional for more than two months, leaving the health facility dependent on individual oxygen cylinders.

The prolonged disruption has become a matter of concern for patients and their attendants, particularly those suffering from serious respiratory ailments and elderly patients

who require uninterrupted oxygen support. Attendants said the dependence on cylinders has added to the logistical burden on both patients and hospital staff and could pose difficulties in situations where several patients need oxygen simultaneously.

In the absence of the central oxygen supply system, oxygen cylinders are reportedly being shifted between different wards to meet the requirements of patients. Attendants said that while cylinders are being arranged, the system is less convenient than a functional central

pipeline, especially during emergencies and periods of increased patient load.

The issue has caused particular concern among families of patients suffering from chronic respiratory conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), for whom any interruption in oxygen support can become critical.

Hospital staff and attendants have also expressed concern over the repeated transportation and replacement of oxygen cylinders in various wards. They said the arrangement requires

constant monitoring and movement of cylinders and may become challenging during busy periods when multiple patients simultaneously require oxygen.

The situation has also raised concerns about the hospital's preparedness to deal with emergencies involving several patients who may need continuous or high-flow oxygen support, particularly during critical cases and sudden increases in patient admissions.

They have sought attention of higher ups in this regard so that needy patients don't suffer anymore. (KNO)

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, J&K POLICE PUBLIC SCHOOL, BEMINA, SRINAGAR. POLICE CONTROL ROOM, SRINAGAR-190009 (TEL-0194-2497353)

JOB VACANCY

Applications on plain paper are invited alongwith attested copies of testimonials & latest 5 passport size photographs from the desirous candidates for the below mentioned posts/vacancies (Male/Female) in J&K Police Public School Bemina, Srinagar :-

Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Minimum Qualification	Monthly Gross Pay/ Honorium	Preference
PGT Computer Science (IP)	01	i) M. Tech / MCA or M.Sc. in computer Science. /B.Ed ii) B.Tech/B.Sc in computer Science with one year PG Diploma in Computer Science from recognized institution/B.Ed	31250 +DA 15% 4688=35938/-	
Counselling and Wellness Teacher (PGT)	01	Master's/Bachelor's in Psychology (Clinical Counseling/ Applied Educational /B.Ed OR Master's in Social Work (mental Health/ Counselling) /B.Ed OR Bachelor's/Master's in any Subject + Diploma in School Counselling/ Child Guidance & Counselling. /B.Ed OR Bachelor's/Master's in Humanities/ Science/Social Sciences/Management/Education/Technology. /B.Ed	31250 +DA 15% 4688=35938/-	Experienced candidate will be preferred
PGT Hindi	01	PG Hindi with B. Ed.	31250 +DA 15% 4688=35938/-	

Terms and Conditions:

- The age of the candidate must be between 18 to 35 years.
- The appointment shall be subject to verification of qualification documents, experience certificates (if any), character verification and production of medical fitness certificate.
- Timing of school shall be as prescribed by the Govt. time to time.
- The appointment/salary/leave and other service-related Conditions shall be as per the J&K Police Public Schools Revised Rules and Regulations 3rd Edition-2020 and subject to further revision/amendment of these rules.
- The applications shall be received in the office of Principal J&K Police Public School, Bemina, Srinagar during office hours (1000 hrs to 1400 hrs) on all working days between 30.08.2026 to 07.09.2026.
- Further details if required can be had from Principal JKPPS, Bemina, Srinagar (7006463105, 9622760522)

DIPK-5081-26
DT: 29/08/2026

(Maqsood-ul-Zaman) IPS
Dy, Inspector General of Police,
Armed Range Kashmir Srinagar.
(Administrative Officer JKPPS Bemina)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

NIT No: 64/ R&B of 2026-27

Dated:-27-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Restoration of Chandiloora Treran Road including Treran inner links.	3.92	200/-	7840/-	20 days	3054 (M&R) 2026-27	DEE	R&B Deptt.	1 st
2	Restoration of Druroo Shraie Bader-koote Road	5.88	300/-	11760/-	20 days	3054 (M&R) 2026-27	D/C	R&B Deptt.	1 st
3	Restoration of Druroo Khunchipora Road.	5.81	300/-	11620/-	20 days	3054 (M&R) 2026-27	D/C	R&B Deptt.	1 st
4	Restoration of Sofi Mohalla link road.	5.00	300/-	10000/-	20 days	3054 (M&R) 2026-27	DEE	R&B Deptt.	1 st
5	Restoration of Tangmarg Drung Road	5.88	300/-	11760/-	20 days	3054 (M&R) 2026-27	D/C	R&B Deptt.	1 st
6	Restoration of Ziran Hajibal Road.	4.69	200/-	9380/-	20 days	3054 (M&R) 2026-27	DEE	R&B Deptt.	1 st

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28-08-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	28-08-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	03-09-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-09-2026 11:00 AM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chhian (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No./ name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money Deposit to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving Industrial employment standing orders Act 1946.
 - Trade Union Act 1926.
 - Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986.
 - Inter State Migrant workmen's (Regulation of employment & Conditions of service) Act 1979.
 - The Building and other Construction workers (Regulation of employment and Condition of service) Act 1996 and the Census Act of 1996.
 - Factories Act 1948.
 - Compliance with Labour Regulation Laws of J&K State.
- Specification/Quality Control:- All items of works shall conform to specifications as per IRC/ MORTH/ NBO/ CPWD/ SSRI Any other prescribed specifications.
- Insurance:- Insurance cover to Labour/ Machinery Work I Plant material I Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.
- Laws Governing the Contract:- The contract shall be governed by Law of the land.
- Court's Jurisdiction:- In case of a disputes/differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K.
- Time Extension:-
 - The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase I decrease in proportion with additional I deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.
 - Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in writing not later than fifteen days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such a request the period for which extension is desired.
 - Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.
- On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.
- Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The tender I bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
- Any Typographical error in units or items shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022 or as per Technical sanction.
- As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/ contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/ 4465-75
Dated: 27-08-2026

sd/-
Draftsman

sd/-
Technical Officer

DIPK-5098-26
DT: 29/08/2026

sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

Nepal Digs Through Mud & Grief, as Families Search for Loved Ones

Press Trust of India

KATHMANDU: People lined up outside hospitals, looking through photographs of the dead pasted on walls; families wading through mud and debris in search of their possessions; a woman carrying a child past damaged buildings; and a dead dog lying amid the wreckage.

These are some of the stark images that have come to define the aftermath of Nepal's devastating flash floods.

With each passing day, relatives of those missing lose a little more hope, even as rescuers battle difficult conditions in the search for survivors.

Nepal is struggling to find its footing after a torrent of water, mud and debris swept through towns and villages on Wednesday, washing away homes, vehicles, roads, bridges and damaging hydropower projects, causing heavy casualties.

The death toll crossed 650 on Saturday, while more than 2,400 people remained missing,

as rescue teams raced against time amid intermittent rainfall in the flood-affected regions.

Outside hospitals, families could be seen lining up to check lists of injured people admitted for treatment, carefully going through names and photographs in the hope of finding someone they know.

When they fail to find their loved ones among the survivors, many turn to another list – photographs of the dead – with heavy hearts.

Rescuers, meanwhile, are working round the clock, braving rain in some places and digging through drying mud in others in their search for those still missing.

In the darkness of the night, Nepal Home Minister Sudan Gurung monitored excavators clearing tonnes of mud at the Upper Trishuli 3A hydropower project site, where more than a hundred people were trapped inside a tunnel following the devastating floods.

The Nepali Army has already



rescued 350 people who were trapped inside the tunnel, on-line Khabar news portal reported.

The scale of the devastation was visible across villages in central Nepal, with buildings buried under several feet of mud, vehicles half-submerged, and roads and other infrastructure washed away by the torrent of water and debris.

For those who survived, the immediate task is to find shelter, seek medical assistance and recover whatever belongings can be salvaged from the wreckage.

Heart-wrenching scenes have emerged from the affected villages.

In Devghat village in Nuwakot district, people moved through thick mud and debris in search of their possessions. Damaged structures and uprooted electricity poles stood amid the wreckage, while vehicles remained buried in the mud.

A woman sat beside scattered corn, while another, carrying a child, walked past damaged structures and a dead dog. A man carrying a gas cylinder made his way through the debris-covered area – the only belonging he could salvage from the wreckage.

An aerial view showed damaged structures stretching alongside a swollen river, underlining the scale of destruction caused by the floods.

In Trishuli, an Army relief camp has emerged as a major support centre for people affected by the disaster.

Army personnel were seen helping elderly people and children, while makeshift medical facilities treated the injured. The camps were also providing information on those missing, dead and rescued.

More than 15,000 security personnel have been mobilised for search and rescue operations. An 11-member Indian team comprising medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts also arrived in Nepal to assist local authorities.

Around 4,500 people have been rescued so far, Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said on Saturday, adding that the country remains on "high alert".

With the country's meteorology department indicating the possibility of moderate rainfall, the task facing rescuers is expected to become even more difficult.

Yet, for a country that has faced similar disasters before, the focus remains on searching for the missing, helping the survivors and beginning the long task of rebuilding.

Iran Flexes Military Muscle, Tightens Grip on Hormuz

Agencies

TEHRAN—Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy said Friday it had "complete and decisive" control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, rejecting US claims that the vital waterway remains open to shipping.

"The control exercised by the Islamic Republic's forces over the strategic Strait of Hormuz is complete and decisive," the IRGC Navy said in a statement.

It dismissed statements by US officials that the strait was open as "an outright lie", accusing Washington of trying to control oil prices and conceal its military setbacks.

The force said vessels seeking to pass through the chokepoint would not be allowed to transit without prior coordination with Iranian authorities.

The arrangement would remain in place until the end of what Tehran calls the US military's "aggression" against Iran and until outstanding obligations relating to the conflict have been fulfilled, it said.

The Strait of Hormuz, which



connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, is one of the world's most important energy corridors. A significant share of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments normally passes through the narrow waterway.

Iran sets conditions for reopening

Iran closed the strait after the latest US-Israeli military campaign against the Islamic Republic began on February 28.

Tehran and Washington subse-

quently reached a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding in June that envisaged a 60-day period for reopening the waterway.

Iran later restored the restrictions, accusing the United States of violating the understanding.

Iranian officials have since said that reopening the strait would depend on a number of conditions, including an end to US interference in regional maritime traffic.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, said ear-

lier this week that Tehran was also seeking a complete lifting of the US economic blockade, a durable halt to military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, and clarification of the situation surrounding the blockade of Yemen.

Gharibabadi said the war had fundamentally changed Tehran's assessment of the waterway.

"Following the 40-day war, the Strait of Hormuz has become a matter of Iran's national security," he said.

His remarks reflected Iranian concerns that the waterway could be used by its adversaries and their allies to support military operations and economic activity while Iran itself was under attack.

Implications for global energy markets

The Iranian declaration comes amid competing claims over the status of the strait.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said the waterway remains open, although traffic has fallen sharply from normal levels since the outbreak of hostilities.

Miandad Breaks Down, Appeals for Imran's Release

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan batting great Javed Miandad broke down while speaking about the imprisonment of his former teammate and 1992 World Cup-winning captain Imran Khan, making an emotional appeal for his release and insisting that the former prime minister was an honest man.

Miandad, who shared the dressing room with Imran for several years and was part of Pakistan's triumphant 1992 World Cup campaign, said he found it difficult to understand why his former captain continued to remain behind bars.

The 73-year-old Imran has been lodged at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since 2023 after being convicted in corruption cases. His continued detention and reported health concerns have triggered criticism from his family and several former international cricketers.

"He is an honest man. He is not someone who engages in corrupt practices, otherwise he would have done a lot of things," Miandad said in an interview with the Narrative YouTube channel.

"What will happen if you let him out? Will he eat or damage someone? He is also



someone's son. I always think about what he must be doing," he added, visibly emotional while speaking about his former teammate.

Miandad said his assessment of Imran was based on the years they spent together playing for Pakistan and county cricket.

The former batter also rejected the long-standing perception that he and Imran were bitter rivals, saying their occasional disagreements should not be confused with the common purpose they shared while representing Pakistan.

"We didn't have any rivalry," Miandad said, while acknowledging that the two had differences during and after their playing careers.

He said both had always put Pakistan first whenever they took the field and urged those involved in the current situation to sit together and find a solution.

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