

IFFJK Day 3 Puts J&K's Local Talent, Global Cinema In Focus

Bollywood Urged to Return to Kashmir; Masterclasses Held

Dabirah Hassan/
Sameer Hussain

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's storytelling talent, emerging filmmakers, artificial intelligence, international co-productions and Bollywood's renewed engagement with the Valley took centre stage on the third day of the inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) on Wednesday.

The day's programme at SKICC and other festival venues featured discussions, masterclasses and interactive sessions involving filmmakers, actors, writers and cinema professionals.

Focus on next generation of storytellers
The day began with



an in-conversation session titled Echoes of the Chinar: Empowering J&K's Next Generation of Storytellers, focusing on youth, local institutions and emerging cinematic voices shaping the representation of Jammu and Kashmir on screen. The session was

moderated by filmmaker Danish Renzu and featured filmmaker and writer Rahhat Shah Kazmi. Speakers emphasised the need to nurture storytellers from within the region and create a stronger cinematic ecosystem that provides young people opportunities to learn,

create and collaborate. Another session, Thrillers in the Valley: Crafting Suspense in J&K, explored how Kashmir's landscape, atmosphere and local context could be used as important elements in suspense and thriller narratives. Push | More on P10

NC-Cong Spar Over Vande Mataram Rendition



Cong questions full recital of Vande Mataram at IFFJK

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Differences between alliance partners National Conference (NC) and Congress came to the fore on Wednesday after the full version of Vande Mataram was played at the inauguration of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), prompting

criticism from the Congress and a sharp response from the NC. The unabridged version of the national song was played at the official event on Monday in the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and NC president Farooq Abdullah.

The Congress criticised the decision, with Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief Tariq Hamid Karra saying the full rendition disregarded the "considered evolution" of the song's place in India's national life. | More on P10

J&K Weather To Stay Mainly Dry Till Sept 20

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience largely dry weather over the coming days, with brief spells of rain or thundershowers expected at isolated and scattered places, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar.

The latest forecast indicates generally dry weather from September 10 to 12, although brief spells of rain may occur at isolated places.

From September 13 to 16, brief spells of rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places, particularly during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry again from September 17 to 20, with isolated spells of rain possible during the period.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural activities over the next five days.

It has specifically advised farmers to proceed with apple and paddy harvesting, given the predominantly dry conditions expected across the region.

The five-day rainfall forecast indicates light to moderate rainfall activity across parts of Jammu and Kashmir, while the overall weather is expected to remain predominantly dry. | More on P10

From the Curtain Raiser to the Final Applause
Join us, as we celebrate the unforgettable journey of IFFJK 2026.

CLOSING CEREMONY

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENING

Dated: 09-09-2026
DIPK-5395/26

10 SEPTEMBER 2026 6:30 PM ONWARDS

SKICC, SRINAGAR

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Directorate of Information and Public Relations, J&K



Justice Bhati Sworn In As Chief Justice of J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati was sworn in on Wednesday as the 39th Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at a solemn ceremony

held at SKUAST, Srinagar.

The oath of office was administered by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

The proceedings were conducted by Shashanka Ala,

Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, while the Warrant of Appointment of the Chief Justice was read out by M K Sharma, Registrar General of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh. The ceremony was attended | More on P10

12,000 J&K NHM Employees Go On 72-hr Strike



Staff seek job security, pay revision, social security

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday began a 72-hour strike over long-pending demands, including a comprehensive job

policy, salary revision and social-security benefits.

The strike has been called by the UT-level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM employees and covers personnel working at district, block and field levels, including those associated with the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme and other NHM schemes.

The employees' association said the strike | More on P10

Secessionist Sloganeering Falls Under UAPA: HC

Sets aside discharge of accused, orders fresh framing of charges in 2013 case

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has set aside the discharge of an accused in a UAPA case stating that secessionist sloganeering in a mob in the presence of the head of a banned separatist organisation prima facie falls under the definition of unlawful activity.

A division bench headed by acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar set aside the discharge of Mohammad Yousuf Lone in a 2013 UAPA case by the Additional District and Sessions Judge (Designated Special Court under NIA Act)

Kupwara.

"The sloganeering for secession, raised by an accused leading a mob in the company of the head of a proscribed separatist organisation, coupled with incitement of the public and violence against security forces, is capable, on a prima facie appreciation, of falling squarely within this definition," the bench observed in its order.

According to the case, a mob headed by Mohammad Yousuf Lone and Late Syed Ali Shah Geelani, chairman of the banned Hurriyat Conference, came out of Jamia Masjid in Kupwara on November 8, 2013, raised anti-national | More on P10

Three Months On, 223 Sportspersons Await Orders

Agencies

Srinagar: Nearly three months after the Jammu and Kashmir Government issued the final selection list of 223 outstanding sportspersons for government service, the selected athletes are still awaiting formal appointment letters, with an athletes' association now seeking a time-bound resolution to the delay.

The final selection list was issued by the Youth Services and Sports Department on June 10, 2026 under | More on P10

JKPSC Sees Sharp Drop In Open Merit Selections

Share falls to 44.14% from 70.27% as total recommendations rise to 623

Agencies

Srinagar: The annual report of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has revealed that the share of Open Merit candidates in written exam selection has fallen to 44.14 per cent in 2025-26 from 70.27 per cent a year earlier.

According to the table 6 of the JKPSC report, the commission recommended 623 candidates under this recruitment method during 2025-26, compared to 407 in 2024-25,

an increase of more than 53 per cent.

Of the 623 candidates recommended in 2025-26, 275 were from the Open Merit category, accounting for 44.14 per cent of the total.

In 2024-25, 286 of the 407 candidates recommended were from Open Merit, accounting for 70.27 per cent.

The number of RBA candidates recommended increased from 24 in 2024-25 to 68 in 2025-26, while SC candidates increased from 25 to 55. Recommendations of ST-1

candidates rose from 37 to 69, while 68 ST-2 candidates were recommended in 2025-26 compared with none in the previous year.

The number of SLC candidates recommended increased from 12 to 55, while ALC candidates rose from eight to 20.

EWS recommendations increased from six to eight, while PHC candidates rose from one to five.

The number of PSP candidates, however, declined from eight in | More on P10



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2

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO.18 of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K U.T., e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on "Percentage basis" (Single Click) from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt./ CPWD/Railways/Other Governments/ Union Territories for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Amt in Rs) @3%	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender	Major Head of Account	Tender Opening Authority
01.	Supply of men and machinery under flood mitigation flash floods if any for the year 2026-27 including encroachment drive if any carried out under the jurisdiction of sub-Division Anantnag.	2.50	7500/=	Upto 31.03.2027	Dee	200/=	2711 M&R	Executive Engineer
02.	Supply of men and machinery under flood mitigation flash floods if any for the year 2026-27 including encroachment drive if any carried out under the jurisdiction of sub-Division Kokernag.	2.00	6000/=	Upto 31.03.2027	Dee	200/=	2711 (M&R)	Executive Engineer
03.	Supply of men and machinery under flood mitigation flash floods if any for the year 2026-27 including encroachment drive if any carried out under the jurisdiction of sub-Division Dootru.	1.50	4500/-	Upto 31.03.2027	Dee	200/=	2711-M&R	Executive Engineer
04.	Supply of men and machinery under flood mitigation flash floods if any for the year 2026-27 including encroachment drive if any carried out under the jurisdiction of sub-Division Mirbazar (stage 2nd)	1.50	4500/-	Upto 31.03.2027	Dee	200/-	2711-M&R	Executive Engineer
05.	Supply of men and machinery under flood mitigation flash floods if any for the year 2026-27 including encroachment drive if any carried out under the jurisdiction of sub-Division Kulgam.	2.5	7500/-	Upto 31.03.2027	Dee	200/-	2711- M&R	Executive Engineer
06.	Supply of men and machinery under flood mitigation flash floods if any for the year 2026-27 including encroachment drive if any carried out under the jurisdiction of sub-Division D.H.Pora	1.50	4500/-	Upto 31.03.2027	Dee	200/-	2711-M&R	Executive Engineer

Position of Funds: Budgetary allocation 2026-27.

Position of Administrative Approval: - Accorded

Position of Technical Sanction:- Accorded

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-09-2026 at 14:00 PM
2	Date of start of downloading	10-09-2026 at 14:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial	10-09-2026 at 14:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	24-09-2026 at 06:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	25-09-2026 at 11:00 AM

Terms and Conditions:

01. Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (tender inviting authority). name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number neatly written on the face of TR. Any deficiency/ correction will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.

02. The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD/Performance Security @ 3 % in the shape of CDR/ FDR and additional performance security in case of unbalanced bid duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents.

03. Unbalanced and Abnormally Low Bids

a. In case the bid is unbalanced, the additional performance security will be taken from the selected bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR from any scheduled bank, in accordance with the Govt. of J&K-Finance Department Circular No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158, Dated: 08/08/2025, separately along with EMD.

04. Bidders are advised to use the pre-qualification document area in their user on www.j&ktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below

a. Latest GSTIN clearance Monthly / Quarterly (Both GSTR-1&GSTR-3Bas opted for the Month of August 2026 along with PAN.

b. Registration Certificate of GST NO and Income Tax return (ITR 2025-26).

c. Registration card with the latest renewal (2026-27 /onwards)/ Online Registration Card updated.

d. Treasury challan (7072) must be uploaded in vivid format carrying no corrections or omissions so that they can be verified discretely by the Tender opening committee. (The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number neatly written on the face of TR. Any deficiency/ correction will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date).

e. Bidders shall upload a scanned copy of the EMD in the form of a CDR, FDR, or TDR, along with the required Additional Performance Security if the bid is determined to be unbalanced. However, only the CDR and Additional Performance Security of the successful bidder shall be retained in the Divisional Office as a security performance, while those of unsuccessful bidders shall be released." (This is in addition to the condition No. 03 (a))

f. Card verification letter (in case Renewal is offline)

g. Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.

h. BOQ(xls)

i. The Bidder shall have to upload an Affidavit that he has not been defaulter in any Department for the last year i.e.2025-26.(Affidavit should be between the start of bid and bid submission end date) and must have written E NIT NO. and

S.NO for which the tender is submitted duly authenticated Not below the rank of 1st Class Magistrate.

j. As per the Circular issued by the finance department Vide No.01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025. That "Every participating contractor/ Agency to mandatorily disclose the bank account number, which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment shall be released by the Govt department / agency to any other bank account, except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder"

k. The Bidder must Upload the self-declaration/undertaking to the effect that in case of being first lowest tenderer he shall produce the hard copies of the uploaded document, security deposit as per condition within two days after the opening of tenders, failing which, it will be deemed that the contractor is not interested and the same work will be allotted to the 2nd lowest without any Notice to the 1st one, besides action as warranted under rules shall be invoked.

l. It shall be mandatory for the bidder or his authorized representative while visiting the work site, to take Photographs of himself at the site along with the geo tagged coordinates. The said geo-tagged photographs shall be uploaded/ Submitted along with the other documents as prescribed in NIT/ SBD.

m. The scanned documents must be uploaded in PDF format. Any deficiency in the above-mentioned conditions will lead to rejection of the bid which shall be noted.

05. That in case if there is any doubt in documents of L1 the undersigned reserves right to verify the same upto his satisfaction and if anything found malaified/fabricated the bid shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the defaulting bidder.

06. That the cost of royalty on Nallah Boulders shall be borne by the executing agency/ contractor as per the prevailing rates notified by the J&K Mining Department from time to time. The royalty shall be deposited with the competent Mining Department authority, and the requisite Royalty Clearance Certificate (RCC) / valid proof of payment shall be obtained before submission of the final bill.

07. If the supply is kept in the proposal/estimate and the material required to be extracted /lifted from the nallah the cost of such material shall be assessed and the consideration cost as per the norms of Geology and Mining department shall be deducted from the running bill of the agency duly verified/vetted by the AEE concerned

08. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message at their e- mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Receiving Authority).

09. Contractor/ Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/Treasury Challan as required, then EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/ prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of One year (01 Year) or which the authorities may deem fit and proper in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.

10. The bid for the work shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of the opening of the bid.

11. The earnest money shall be forfeited if: Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

12. The successful bidder(L1) shall execute the agreement within 28 Days after fixation of contract.

13. In case of tie for the position of 1st lowest bidder the bids should be out rightly rejected, and the work shall be put to fresh tenders.

No.FCD/Ang/2026/3735-57

DIPK-5515/26

Dated :- 09/09/ 2026

Executive Engineer,
Flood Control Division Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Asif Tak R/o Batapora, Shopian, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward, Amairah Tak D/o Mohammad Asif Tak, who is on the rolls of New Greenland Educational Institution, Shopian, has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar records as "Amira Asif", which is incorrect.

Her correct and actual name, as per her Domicile Certificate, is "Amairah Tak".

Therefore, I intend to get the name of my ward corrected in the Aadhaar records from "Amira Asif" to "Amairah Tak". Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Mohammad Asif Tak

F/o Amairah Tak

R/o Batapora, Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahida Akhter W/o Khursheed Ahmad Thoker, R/o Shadab Karewa, Shopian, do hereby inform the general public that my name, spouse's name and address have been inadvertently recorded incorrectly in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5061 7895 6673 as "Zahida Jan W/o Khurshid Ahmad Thoker, R/o Shadab Karewa, Sedow, Shopian."

My correct particulars, as per my Domicile Certificate and Bank Passbook, are as under:

Name: Zahida Akhter

Husband's Name: Khursheed Ahmad Thoker

Address: Shadab Karewa, Shopian

I intend to get the aforesaid corrections made in my Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Zahida Akhter

W/o Khursheed Ahmad Thoker

R/o Shadab Karewa, Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tariq Ahmad Malik S/o Abdul Gani Malik, R/o Narwani, Shopian, do hereby inform the general public that my name and father's name have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar records as "Tareek Ahmad" and "Ab Gani Malik", respectively, which are incorrect.

My correct particulars, as per my Domicile Certificate, are as follows:

Name: Tariq Ahmad Malik

Father's Name: Abdul Gani Malik

I intend to get the aforesaid corrections made in my Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Tariq Ahmad Malik

S/o Abdul Gani Malik

R/o Narwani, Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sumairah Akhter W/o Arshid Ahmad Rather, R/o Sindoo Shirmal, Tehsil Keegam, District Shopian, do hereby inform the general public that my name, husband's name and residential address have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3387 8195 3893 as "Sumarah Akhter," "Arshid Hussain" and "Sando Shermal Chak, Sandoo Shermal, Shopian," respectively, which are incorrect.

My correct particulars, as per my Domicile Certificate, are as follows:

Name: Sumairah Akhter

Husband's Name: Arshid Ahmad Rather

Residential Address: Sindoo Shirmal, Tehsil Keegam, District Shopian

I intend to get the aforesaid corrections made in my Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Sumairah Akhter

W/o Arshid Ahmad Rather

R/o Sindoo Shirmal, Tehsil Keegam, District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulam Mohmad Sheergojri S/o Gulam Hassan Sheergojri, R/o Alamung, Hermain, District Shopian, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar records bearing No. 6137 1346 6485 as "Ghulam Mohammad Sheergojri S/o Ghulam Hassan Sheergojri", which is incorrect.

My correct name is "Gulam Mohmad Sheergojri S/o Gulam Hassan Sheergojri."

I intend to get the aforesaid correction made in my Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Gulam Mohmad Sheergojri

S/o Gulam Hassan Sheergojri

R/o Alamung, Hermain, District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name .parantage and Date of Birth (DOB) in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :- 4248 6359 0733 has been wrongly mentioned as Irfan Gani .S/o.Abdul Ganie Kumhar DOB 15.05.1998 instead of Irfan Ahmad Kumar S/O. Abdul Gani Kumar and DOB is 07.03.1995 .Now I am applying for its Correction as per J&kashmir Board of School Education record bearing Reg No:-911480650051 and Domicil Certificate vide Cert No:- JK-REV-DOM/2026/604587 .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Irfan Ahmad Kumar S/O. Abdul Gani Kumar

R/O :- Guloora (Kral Bhatpora).Tehsil :- Langate Distt

:Kupwara .Post Office:- Langate Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Mustafa Dar S/o Ghulam Nabi Dar, Father of Hafsa Jan, R/o Druroo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that the name and date of birth of my ward have been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3413 8280 6964 as "Hubsa Jan" and 08/07/2014, respectively, which are incorrect.

The correct particulars of my ward, as per the School Certificate Record, are as follows:

Correct Name: Hafsa Jan

Correct Date of Birth: 01/09/2015

I intend to get the aforesaid corrections made in the Aadhaar records of my ward accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Mohammad Mustafa Dar

S/o Ghulam Nabi Dar

R/o Druroo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in school records my wards namely Insha Jan father's name wrongly entered as Ali Mohammad Dar instead of Ali Mohd Dar now it needs to be corrected so in this regard have any body any objection he or she may file his or her objection at Govt High School Mitrigam Pulwama within the period of one week from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will or shall be accepted or entertained.

Name :Ali Mohd Dar.

F/O:Insha Jan .

R/O: Kangan Tehsil and District Pulwama.

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Samiullah Miayan s/o Mohammad Akbar Miayan R/o Pattan for issuance of legal heir certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants father's legal heir certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Mohd Akbar Malla Alias Mian s/o Ab Fatah Malla Alias Mian R/o pattan died on Died on 26/10/2023 and left following legal heirs

Legal Heirs Details

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
SAMIULLAH MIYAN	46	SON	MARRIED
HILAL AHMAD MIAN	43	SON	MARRIED
MANZOOR AHMAD MIAN	37	SON	MARRIED
DALI BEGUM	46	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
GULSHANA BANO	49	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
NAYEEMA BANO	41	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
MISRA BEGUM	76	WIFE	WIDOW

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mehmooda Begum, W/o Mohammad Akbar Najar, R/o Hajibal, Tehsil Tangmarg, hereby give notice to the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3843-2582-1849 as "Aamir Ahmad Najar" instead of his correct name "Mohammad Amir Najar."

I intend to get the said name corrected in the Aadhaar Card from "Aamir Ahmad Najar" to "Mohammad Amir Najar."

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Enrolment/ Update Centre within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mehmooda Begum

W/o Mohammad Akbar Najar

R/o Hajibal, Tehsil Tangmarg

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Umar Bashir Pandit F/o Towheed Umar Pandit R/o Budshah Nagar Natipora Srinagar do hereby declare that my and my Son's name was wrongly mentioned as TAWEEED OMER PANDIT and S/O: OMER BASHIR PANDIT in my Son's school records which needs to be rectified as TOWHEED UMAR PANDIT and S/O: UMAR BASHIR PANDIT respectively. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the office of the Crescent Higher Secondary School Budshah Nagar Natipora Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Umar Bashir Pandit

F/O. Towheed Umar Pandit

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, DANISH MOHD DAR, S/o Gh. Mohd Dar, R/o Chukar, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby give notice to the general public that I intend to apply for the grant of a Fresh Insecticides and Pesticides Licence under the name and style of M/s DAR FERTILIZERS, situated at Chichilora, Tehsil Kawarehama, District Baramulla, J&K UT. Any person having any objection regarding the grant of the said Insecticides and Pesticides Licence in favour of M/s DAR FERTILIZERS may file the same before the concerned competent authority within the prescribed period.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection to the grant of the said licence.

DANISH MOHD DAR

Proprietor

M/s DAR FERTILIZERS

Situated at Chichilora, Tehsil Kawarehama,

District Baramulla, J&K UT.

zk

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Faroza Begum w/o Murtaza Hussain Yatoo R/o Kanloo tehsil pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants husband legal heir certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants husband namely Murtaza Hussain Yatoo s/o Gh Nabi Nabi Yatoo R/o Kanloo tehsil pattan died on 19/10/2024 and Left following legal heirs..

Legal Heirs Details

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Khati Begum	86	Mother	WIDOW
Faroza Begum	45	Wife	WIDOW
Aayeena Murtaza	13	Daughter	UNMARRIED
Rutba Murtaza	09	Daughter	UNMARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ayman Zehra D/o Mohd Maqbool Yatoo R/o Kanloo tehsil pattan District Baramulla with verified date of birth 03/03/2017 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

zk

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

my name has inadvertently recorded as Ghulam Hussan Ganie in adhaar card bearing number: 3582-1542-4189 which is incorrect and the correct and my actual name is Ghulam Hassan 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 adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Hassan Ganie

S/O Mohammad Sultan Ganie

R/O Ussan Khoie Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Reyana Akbar D/o Mohammad Akbar Mir, R/o Nadir Gund, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7661 2853 2346 as "Rehana Ahter" instead of my correct name "Reyana Akbar."

My correct name, as per my Domicile Certificate, is Reyana Akbar.

I intend to get the aforesaid correction made in my Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre/Department within the prescribed period.

Reyana Akbar

D/o Mohammad Akbar Mir

R/o Nadir Gund, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla



SRINAGAR AIRPORT EXPANSION

2026 Deadline Missed, 2031 Target

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The planned expansion of Srinagar International Airport has crossed an earlier official completion deadline without the major construction work being completed, while the latest project timeline places completion as far out as 2031.

A Civil Aviation Ministry annual report for 2022-23 had listed the construction of a new integrated terminal building at Srinagar Airport at an estimated cost of ₹1,400 crore, with the project shown as being in the planning stage and the Project Management Consultancy in progress. The report had fixed August 31, 2026 as the expected date of completion.

The project has since been substantially revised. On February 24, 2026, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved development



of a new Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport at an estimated cost of ₹1,677 crore. The approved project covers 73.18 acres and envisages a 71,500-square-metre terminal, including the existing structure, with capacity to handle 2,900 passengers during peak hours and 10 million passengers annually.

However, the latest procurement record indicates that the project has not yet reached the main construction phase. Airports Authority of India floated a Project Management Consultancy tender for construction of the new integrated terminal and allied works, including apron extension, with a ballpark project cost of ₹937.92 crore. The tender document provides a 61-month period cov-

ering pre-award activities, construction supervision and the subsequent defect-liability period.

The first PMC tender as per the news agency Kashmir News Trust was subsequently cancelled, and AAI has issued a second call for the same consultancy. The second-call tender is currently open, with September 21, 2026 fixed as the bid submission deadline.

Meanwhile, details submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir administration to the Ministry of Home Affairs put the completion target for the ₹1,667-crore project at 2031, with an estimated implementation period of 48 months. The project was described as being in the tendering stage in those details.

A separate National Infrastructure Pipeline record, last updated on June 3, 2026, had placed the project comple-

tion date at July 31, 2029 and described its status as "DPR/ Feasibility Study".

The varying timelines reflect changes in the project's scope and planning. The current CCEA-approved scheme is aimed at substantially increasing Srinagar Airport's capacity as passenger traffic continues to grow. The airport handled approximately 44.7 lakh passengers during 2024-25, according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The latest procurement position means the immediate milestone for the ₹1,677-crore expansion is not completion of construction but selection of the Project Management Consultant, followed by the subsequent process for execution of the main works. (KNT)

NC Leaders Apologise for Sadiq's Poverty Remarks

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leaders on Wednesday apologised for party chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq's controversial remarks on poverty in Kashmir during the time of party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, saying the statement was unintentional and should not be dragged further.

Baramulla MLA Javid Hassan Baigh said Sadiq was attempting to present historical facts about Jammu and Kashmir's political situation, but acknowledged that the choice of words could have been avoided.

"Tanvir Sadiq is very mature, but sometimes the tongue slips. We are sorry and apologise unconditionally if anybody is hurt. There was no intention to hurt anybody," Baigh said.

"He wanted to present the

historical facts of Jammu and Kashmir's political situation, which is evident, but maybe the way was not okay. It should have been avoided. After all, he is human, and it was totally unintentional," he added.

NC MLA Salman Sagar also expressed regret over the remarks and appealed against prolonging the controversy. "If anybody is hurt by our chief spokesperson's unintentional statement, we are sorry. This should not be dragged further," he said.

Sagar said elected representatives derive their authority from the people and should not allow ego to come in the way of acknowledging mistakes.

"It is ultimately the people who are powerful and by whom we are here. There should be no ego. If such things happen which are hurtful, we should apologise, and we are sorry," the MLA said. (KNO)



Floating Cinema Draws Crowds To Dal Lake at IFFJK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cinema has found a striking new setting in Kashmir as the tranquil waters of Dal Lake have been transformed into a floating theatre during the ongoing first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK).

With the lake, mountains and city lights forming a natural backdrop, audiences are watching films on a large floating screen, while the banks of Dal Lake serve as an open-air auditorium. The initiative has emerged as one of the festival's major attractions since its opening on September 7.

Classics Screened Over Dal Lake

The Floating Cinema opened on the first day of the festival with the screening of the evergreen 1961 Hindi film Jungle, drawing audiences to the lakefront and creating

a spectacle as the classic played against the waters of Dal Lake.

On Wednesday, the initiative featured Kashmir Ki Kali, bringing the charisma of Shammi Kapoor and Sharmila Tagore to the floating screen.

The film, remembered for its romance, music and vibrant performances, offered audiences an opportunity to revisit a popular Hindi cinema classic in a setting closely associated with Kashmir's cinematic history.

The nostalgia will continue on the concluding day of the festival on September 10, with the screening of Yash Chopra's Kabhi Kabhie (1976).

Cinema Meets Kashmir's Landscape

Families, visitors, film enthusiasts from across the country and abroad, and curious onlookers have been gathering along the lakefront

for the screenings.

The experience goes beyond conventional film viewing, allowing audiences to watch cinema while surrounded by the landscapes that have inspired filmmakers for generations.

The initiative also reflects IFFJK's effort to take cinema beyond conventional theatre spaces and bring it into public and culturally significant settings.

With films projected over the waters and audiences gathered along the lakefront, Dal Lake has become more than a backdrop to the festival, emerging as an integral part of the cinematic experience.

The Floating Cinema brings together Kashmir's landscapes, its long association with Hindi cinema and its storytelling tradition, creating an experience that connects the films being screened with the place that has inspired generations of filmmakers.

Kashmir Has Great Locations, Good Light: Spanish Filmmaker

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Spanish filmmaker and producer Anna Saura Ramon on Wednesday described Kashmir as an ideal destination for filmmaking, praising its scenic landscapes, lakes, natural light and hospitality while calling for stronger cinematic ties between India and Spain.

Speaking to reporters on the third day of the inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) at SKICC Srinagar, Saura said film festivals play an important role in promoting cinema and creating opportunities for filmmakers and audiences to discover films from different parts of the world.

"This is my visit to Kashmir and India. I hope to come again," she said, adding that she looked forward to exploring Srinagar and experiencing its local culture.

Calls for India-Spain Cinema Collaboration

Speaking about collaboration between the Indian and Spanish film industries, Saura acknowledged differences between the two but said language should not become a barrier to artistic cooperation.

"I think we can push for better relationships between India and Spain," she said, adding that filmmakers from both countries could explore opportunities to connect and work together.

Asked whether she would consider Indian actors for a future India-Spain production, Saura said there was no reason filmmakers could not collaborate with Indian talent.



"There are lots of Indian-Spanish films that you will like," she said.

"You Have to Promote Kashmir" On Kashmir's potential as a filming destination, Saura said the Valley offered a combination of locations and natural light that could attract filmmakers.

"Of course, you have to promote Kashmir. There are great locations, good light for shooting and beautiful lakes," she said.

Saura said she had already shared photographs of Kashmir with a friend, who suggested that the Valley could be explored as a potential filming location.

She also expressed confidence that international filmmakers and studios could eventually come to Kashmir if governments and the film industry worked together to facilitate greater cooperation.

"I am sure they will come and shoot here and make a movie,"

she said.

Praises IFFJK, Kashmir Hospitality

Reacting to IFFJK, Saura described the festival as an important initiative and expressed hope that it would continue for years.

"It is important for everyone," she said, adding that such festivals provide an opportunity to bring films and filmmakers from different countries and expose local audiences to international cinema.

Saura also praised the atmosphere and hospitality in Kashmir, describing her first visit to India, particularly the Valley, as a positive experience.

Saura is known for her work as a producer and director, including the documentary The Kid in the Photo.



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4 : 47
ZUHR	12 : 31
ASR	4 : 48
Magrib	6 : 53
ISHA	8 : 15

This Day In History

- 1547 - Battle of Pinkie, Midlothian: English beat the Scots
- 1785- Prussia signs a trade agreement with the US
- 1813- American naval commander Oliver Hazard Perry defeats the British in the Battle of Lake Erie
- 1823- Simón Bolívar is named President of Peru
- 1858- George Mary Searle discovers the asteroid 55 Pandora
- 1861- Battle of Carnifex Ferry in Virginia; 170 casualties
- 1861- Battle of Cheat Mountain, Elkwater, West Virginia (until September 15)
- 1863- Battle of Little Rock, Arkansas, begins as Union forces capture the city
- De Brazza Treaty with King of Congo
- 1880- Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza signs treaty with King Makoko of Congo
- 1898- Empress Elisabeth of Austria is assassinated by anarchist Luigi Lucheni
- 1898- Lord Kitchener sails from Khartoum to Fashoda to confront French attempts to claim territory in Sudan

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

CANCELLATION

The tenders invited vide this office NIT No.22 OF R&B/ QAZIGUND/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/2716-30 DATED:20-08-2026 is hereby cancelled. The fresh tenders shall be re-advertised shortly.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Qazigund.
No: R&B/Qzd/26-27/3184-86
Dated:07-09-2026
DIPK-5495-26
DT: 09/09/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE FLORICULTURE OFFICER DISTRICT SRINAGAR

DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR

GIST OF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE: 05 Of 2026-27

DATED: 08 /09/2026.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) revenue stamps are invited through Registered/speed post/ Courier or by hand from Government approved Nurserymen/Florist on the prescribed tender form for "Supply of Floriculture Plant material for various sites".

The tenders accompanied with CDR worth Rs.3000/- (Rupees three hundred only) from any recognized bank pledged to Floriculture Officer District Srinagar should reach this office by or before 16/09/2026 upto 4.00 PM. Tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 09/09/2026 to 14/09/2026 upto 4.00 PM against cash payment of Rs. 200/- (Non-refundable).

Name of job	Start and last date for issue of tender document	Last Date for receipt of sealed bids	Amount of Call Deposit Receipt	Tender document fee
Supply of different Floriculture plant material for various sites.	09/09/2026 to 14/09/2026 Upto 4.00PM	16/09/2026 Upto 4.00 PM	3000/-	200/-

The tenders will be opened by the Local Purchase Committee (Central Kashmir) on the same day or next working day convenient to the committee. However, in case of any eventuality, the tender issue, receipt and opening date will be considered the next working day without any change of fixed time and venue.

No: FOS/NIT-05/2026-27/1905

Dated: 08/09/2026.

DIPK-5502-26

DT: 09-09-2026

Sd/-
(Mubashir Ahmad Wani)
Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture
District, Srinagar.

Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER, GANDERBAL

(Mini Secretariat Complex, Duderhama, 191201)

RE-ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Join Mission YUVA- Build the Future of Entrepreneurship in J&K

Mission Directorate, Mission YUVA, through the District Administration, Ganderbal, invites fresh applications for empanelment of Motivator for Panchayats of Block Safapora under Mission YUVA against the vacant position arising due to resignation/cessation of engagement of the previously engaged Motivator. Accordingly, the position is hereby re-advertised afresh, and interested and eligible candidates are invited to submit their applications within the prescribed time period.

Retired government officials, NGO-workers, Pashu Sakhis, Bank Sakhis, other community resource Persons and local community members are encouraged to apply.

Remuneration structure for Motivators

Fixed Pay	Rs. 2000/m0nth. (Allowance to cover local travel and communication)
Variable Pay (Performance Incentive)	On the basis of number of sanctioned loan application (Up to a maximum of Rs 3000/m0nth)

Eligibility:

1. 21 years and above as on date of notification

2. Minimum 10th class pass qualification

3. Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir

Application Form (Apply online) via Mission YUVA Portal at <https://missionyuva.jk.gov.in/home>

► Select ► Apply for SBDU/BHD Expert ► Click on Motivators Empanelment

► Select ► Google form link for Ganderbal to apply Last Date for Applying Online: 30-09-2026

Conceptual Framework for Motivators for detailed selection process, role descriptions:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cZDegcF23o24hM3pZUc5cOHKBHnsAiW/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101761825398053360268&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Yuva Sapne, Navi Ummedein-MISSION YUVA

Issued by: District Administration, Ganderbal.

(Note: This is a public service advertisement. No fee is required for the application process.)

The detailed advertisement notice is also available on official website of District Ganderbal - <https://ganderbal.nic.in/>

No: ADDC/GBL/PS/2026-27/1278-81

Dated: 09/09/2026

DIPK-5463-26

DT: 09/09/2026

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner,
Ganderbal

ED Freezes Kolkatta Urdu Daily's ₹5.25-Cr Accounts

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata, Sep 9 (PTI) The ED on Wednesday said its three-day search operations at premises linked to TMC Rajya Sabha MP Nadimul Haque resulted in the seizure of various incriminating documents and digital devices, while bank accounts of Urdu daily Akhbar-e-Mashriq, with balances of about Rs 5.25 crore, have been frozen.

Haque, 56, is a director of Akhbar-E-Mashriq Private Limited, the company that publishes the newspaper.

"The Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate against M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. (publisher of the Urdu daily 'Akhbar-e-Mashriq') and others alleging publication and dissemination of material promoting communal disharmony through its newspaper and through social media/digital platforms along with allegations of dubious transactions in its accounts," the agency said in a statement.

The agency claimed its investigation revealed that the newspaper's holding company maintained "several bank ac-

counts across Karnataka Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), ICICI Bank and J&K Bank, reflecting cumulative cash deposits of over Rs 60 crore".

"Three accounts, maintained with Karnataka Bank, in which cash deposits of Rs 5.60 crore (approx) had been made, were subsequently closed by the company. Scrutiny of the accounts also revealed bitcoin purchase transactions emanating from tainted sources, without any identifiable business rationale," the agency statement said.

"ED investigation also revealed that M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. is inflating the number of copies of its newspaper claimed to have been printed, far in excess of, the actual number of copies printed, with the intent of misrepresenting its circulation figures and thereby securing higher advertisement revenues," the statement added.

The search operations, which began under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, from early morning on Monday, at nine premises located in Kolkata, Ranchi and New Delhi, linked to companies owned by Haque and their as-



BRICS Summit Starts Saturday Amid Global Shocks

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The two-day BRICS summit hosted by India starting Saturday will focus on boosting collective resilience in food, energy, health, disaster reduction and critical supply chains -- positioning the group as an effective anchor to navigate a fragmented geopolitical environment.

The summit in New Delhi is taking place against the backdrop of the global economy facing the adverse impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war, the West Asia crisis, especially the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and the Trump administration's trade and tariff policies.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto are among the top leaders expected to attend the crucial meeting.

With just three days left for the summit, it remains unclear whether the member nations of the grouping reached consensus on a joint statement, as differences between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the West Asia crisis persist.

The grouping operates under a framework of consensus. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Rus-

sia, India, China and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

BRICS emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade. India's chairship of the grouping centred on the four pillars: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability.

Under the resilience pillar, India has been focusing on strengthening collective cooperation in areas such as health, agriculture, food, energy, disaster risk reduction and supply chains, officials said.

Enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity and high technology will also be high on the agenda of the summit, they said.

India's BRICS chairship is guided by the theme: 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', reflecting its vision of a people-centric approach rooted in the

spirit of "humanity first."

In addition to these areas, the leaders will exchange views on strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on common priorities and share perspectives on global and regional matters of mutual importance, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Under India's Chairship this year, over 350 meetings and high-level engagements have been held in over 25 cities across the country to further strengthen the BRICS strategic partnership across three fundamental pillars: political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

India is a founding member of BRICS and has previously held its chairship in 2012, 2016 and 2021. India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship on 1 January 2026.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the summit will begin at 2.35 pm on Saturday with a closed-door session for BRICS member countries themed "Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism".

Following the session, leaders will tour the "Bharat Innovates Exhibition", scheduled to open at 4.25 pm. At 5.05 pm, the leaders will assemble on the lawns of Bharat Mandapam -- the summit venue -- for a family photo, followed by a joint tree-planting ceremony.

Pakistan Halts Afghan Medical Admissions, Orders Students Out

By M Zulqernain

Lahore, Sept 9 (PTI) Pakistan has ordered medical institutions across the country to expel Afghan students and halt fresh admissions amid deteriorating ties between Islamabad and Kabul, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

The decision could affect hundreds of Afghan students pursuing undergraduate medical and dental programmes in Pakistan, including some nearing graduation.

In a directive issued to medical and dental institutions, the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council has barred them from

granting admission or placement to Afghan students during the current academic session, a senior health ministry official said.

Afghan students already enrolled in medical and dental programmes have also been directed to return to Afghanistan, he said.

The official said the decision was taken in view of deteriorating relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and applied only to Afghan nationals and not students from other countries.

Foreign Office, however, indicated that Afghan students with valid travel and residency documents could continue to seek extension of their visas under existing rules.

Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan told the Dawn newspaper that, under Pakistan's Illegal Foreigner Repatriation Plan, the stay of any foreign national without a valid passport and visa was illegal and such individuals were liable to deportation.

"However, Pakistani authorities are continuing to process visa extension applications from Afghan students in accordance with our existing policy, rules and regulations," he said.

The King Edward Medical University (KEMU) in Lahore became the first public-sector institution to implement the order, according to a university official.

SC Asks CBSE to Exempt Class 6 From 3-Language Policy

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to consider exempting Class 6 students from its three-language policy for this academic year.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, while deferring the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the CBSE's three-language policy to September 17, asked the Board to look into the possibility of accommodating the students of Class 6 in the ongoing academic session.

"Consider Class 6 for this year... If they can be given some accommodation," the bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, told Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta.

SG Mehta requested the court to defer the hearing on the pleas as Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati was not available.

He nonetheless assured that the officials concerned would con-

sider the study of three languages by Class 9 students, observing that children should not come under any kind of pressure.

It had said there was nothing wrong in introducing the policy but the only concern raised by the petitioners was about the manner in which it was being introduced.

The bench had noted that one of the aspects that was required to be considered was how to build adequate human resource infrastructure with regard to the language options available.

"If you have chosen Class 6 as the starting point, you may consider giving a reprieve to Class 6 students of this year. You can introduce it from next year," it had said.

The senior counsel for one of the petitioners has contended that the CBSE has no jurisdiction or authority to frame the curriculum for classes 6 to 8 as this has to be done by the NCERT.

On May 27, the top court had agreed to examine a plea challenging the policy and issued notices to the Centre, the CBSE and the



sider the bench's suggestion.

"All of us would sit together and revert to your lordship," the top law officer said.

The senior counsel for one of the petitioners said the matter should not be delayed due to more adjournments as students have to ultimately take an examination and it was causing anxiety among their parents.

The apex court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the CBSE's policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 9 students from July 1.

On August 20, the Supreme Court had stressed the need to find a solution to issues arising out of the CBSE policy mandating

NCERT seeking their responses.

According to a circular issued by the CBSE, the study of three languages, including at least two native Indian languages, has been made compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1.

The move is part of the CBSE's alignment of its scheme of studies with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023.

According to the circular issued on May 15, students opting for a foreign language may do so only as the third language after studying two native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.

Saharanpur Mosque Demolition Challenged in Allahabad HC

Press Trust Of India

Prayagraj : A writ petition was filed before the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday against orders for demolition of a mosque situated on the Saharanpur Collectorate premises.

The petition, filed by Advocate Mohammed Tanveer Ahmad under Article 227 of the Constitution, challenged the Saharanpur city magistrate's demolition order on July 16, 2026 as well as the district judge's order on September 2, 2026 upholding it.

The state government, through Saharanpur district magistrate, and the mosque's maulvi and manager, Abdul Hamid, have been made parties in the case.

The petition alleged that both authorities have passed the demolition orders without jurisdiction and authority.

The city magistrate, through an order passed under the Uttar Pradesh Public Premises (Eviction and Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1972 on July 16, directed demolition of the 315 square-metre mosque in the Collectorate premises and imposed a fine of Rs 6.41 crore on its management.

An appeal was filed against the magistrate's order in the district court.

However, the district judge dismissed the appeal on September 2, following which the authorities demolished the mosque on September 5.

B O T T O M

Families Grieve at Ruins of Iran School Bombed by US

By AMIR VAHDAT

Minab, Sep 9 (AP) The sun set over this southern Iranian city, and Heydar Sadeghi was where he can be found almost every evening: on a bench next to the shattered remains of his grandson's school. His face was soaked with tears.

A banner strung around the rubble showed the faces of children and teachers killed here by an American airstrike on February 28, the first day of the war on Iran. Among them are Sadeghi's 11-year-old grandson Hami and the boy's mother, Neda Salehizadeh.

"I searched the bodies for my kids, thinking maybe one would be among them," Sadeghi said Monday evening as he recounted how he rushed to the school in the moments after the explosions. He called out their names, saying, "Come with me! I've come to get you." They weren't there," he said, weeping.

The Shajareh Tayyebah school has become a place to wrestle with grief and preserve the memories of the dead. Here, relatives try to comprehend the incomprehensible -- how around 120 of their children could be snuffed out, just after they'd been dropped off for a day of classes.

At least one US missile hit the school that morning in Minab, according to an Associated Press investigation, but there has been no final accounting of what happened. Iranian state media have said 168 people were killed in the strike, most of them children.

The Trump administration has yet to directly accept the blame or release findings of a Pentagon investigation into the bombing. A grandfather grieves every day.

For Sadeghi, the day of the strike began as every school day did.

He drove Hami and the boy's 9-year-old sister Nila to school along with their mother, his daugh-



ter-in-law Salehizadeh, who was a teacher. As usual, he planned to pick them up at 1 pm.

"But the bell was rung early -- by Trump," he said.

Hami was a fifth grader who loved soccer and riding his bicycle,

Sadeghi said. His body was so mangled in the blast, they could only identify him from the clothes he was wearing, he said.

Nila was pulled alive from the rubble. "Thank God, she is physically

fine," Sadeghi said. "But mentally, no."

The girl and her father have moved in with Sadeghi and his wife. The slightest, unexpected noise frightens her. She often goes to bed in her grandmother's arms but lies awake for much of the night.

Sadeghi said he often invites Nila's friends to come spend the night, hoping their presence will distract her.

He wants to see Nila smile. So he grieves here at the school away from her.

"I come here and cry," he said. "Then I go home and dance in front of the girl."

The site is becoming a memorial to the dead.

The school had a girls' school upstairs and a boys' school and pre-school on the ground floor. Some of the students were children of officers at a Revolutionary Guard base located next to the school; many were local children from Minab, which is popu-

lated predominantly by members of Iran's Baluch ethnic minority.

The banner at the site listed 120 students killed -- 47 girls and 73 boys -- and 26 teachers and staff. Three more children are presumed dead but their bodies were never found.

The governor of Hormozgan province, where Minab is located, has said the damaged building would be preserved to be turned into a memorial and war museum.

Several dozen visitors there Monday evening included relatives of the dead but also out-of-towners who had come to see.

In a government-sponsored mourning ceremony held every evening, men and women -- including one in the Guards uniform -- took turns at a microphone, telling wrenching stories about those who died and describing in graphic detail the day of the attack. Some visitors broke down weeping from their accounts.

Kashmir's Cinema Revival Gets Bollywood Push at IFFJK

Imtiaz Ali, Sunidhi Chauhan, Sanjay Suri, Vedang Raina, Sharvari highlight Valley's stories and talent

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's renewed engagement with cinema received a boost at the inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), with leading Bollywood personalities highlighting the Valley's storytelling tradition, music culture and opportunities for local filmmakers and artists.

Speaking at a joint media interaction at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan, actor-producer Sanjay Suri, actor Vedang Raina and actress Sharvari spoke about their connection with Kashmir and the importance of bringing its stories to wider audiences.

"Kashmir has so many stories"

Suri said the return of a film-making atmosphere to Kashmir after decades was significant for both the Valley and the film industry.

"After 25-30 years, seeing this atmosphere again is very special. Filmmakers are also saying that this is a place where people have started making films again," he said.

Recalling his association with cinema in Kashmir, Suri said cinema could help bring the region's stories to audiences beyond the Valley.

"Cinema is a window to another world. Kashmir has so many stories. Until people come here and connect with these stories, they cannot be



told," he said.

He stressed the need for greater awareness, marketing and institutional support to strengthen the region's film ecosystem.

"It is a beginning. If workshops are organised and a film school comes up here, it will be excellent for the youth," Suri said, adding that Kashmir had always possessed an entrepreneurial spirit.

Vedang Raina recalls Rainawari roots

Actor Vedang Raina spoke about his personal connection with Kashmir, saying his family hails from Rainawari.

"I have not seen as much of Kashmir as I wanted to. Kashmir will always be home. My family is from Rainawari. I can understand a little Kashmiri, but I cannot speak much. It feels really good to be here," he said.

He said the Valley's renewed engagement with cinema could create opportunities for young actors and other creative professionals.

Sunidhi Chauhan recalls 'Bumro Bumro'

Playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan, whose voice is closely associated with the popular song Bumro Bumro, recalled her experience of being part of the track.

"I feel lucky that I got the opportunity to sing 'Bumro Bumro'," she said.

Chauhan said she had learnt the language for the song and had long dreamed of visiting Kashmir. "I always dreamt of coming to Kashmir and, after so many years, I finally got the opportunity. After coming here, I realised the power of this place," she said.

Describing Kashmir as "very deep", she said she would like to return to the Valley.

"I have attended very few film festivals, but here in Kashmir I feel so much pyaar and adab. You don't get to experience this very often," she said.

Chauhan also expressed her desire to perform a concert in the Valley, saying she wanted to ex-

Gulmarg Leg Highlights Valley's Changing Film Landscape

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's beauty and its changing filmmaking environment came under the spotlight on Wednesday as the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) moved to Gulmarg, with members of the Bollywood fraternity recalling their experiences in the Valley and expressing optimism about its renewed potential as a film destination.

Bollywood producers, actors and filmmakers attending the festival said the situation in Kashmir had changed considerably compared to their experiences of working here during the 1990s.

Recalling the shooting of the film Pukar in Kashmir, filmmakers said the atmosphere during their earlier visits was markedly different

from what they witnessed in the Valley today.

"It has completely changed from the 90s," they said, recalling the difficulties associated with shooting in Kashmir during that period.

Actor and filmmaker Tinu Verma praised the Valley's natural beauty, saying its character and atmosphere were unique.

"The beauty of Kashmir is different and unmatched. The aura, the beauty, the character, nowhere could be found except Kashmir. I have been to countries worldwide, but Kashmir is unmatched," Verma said.

The Bollywood representatives described Gulmarg as the "crown of Kashmir" and Kashmir as the "crown of the country", highlighting the region's potential to attract filmmakers and productions.

perience the energy of the place.

She spoke about Kashmiri music and its lyrics and expressed hope for deeper engagement with the region's musical heritage.

She later sang a few lines from Bumro Bumro during the interaction.

Actress Sharvari said compelling stories could transcend language barriers and create opportunities for artists.

"Stories are important. Language is not a barrier. Actors get opportunities through cinema, and this is a great opportunity," she said.

The film personalities said Kashmir's renewed engagement with cinema could create new avenues for local actors, filmmakers, musicians and young people, while enabling stories from the Valley to reach wider audiences.

360-plus Delegates Attend IFFJK: JD Information

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration wants to revive the region's longstanding association with Bollywood and attract more filmmakers to the Valley. Joint Director Information Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), Bukhari said the administration wanted to restore the confidence of filmmakers and encourage them to return to Kashmir for film shoots.

"We want to revive that old tradition and give confidence to people from Bollywood that they can come to Kashmir and shoot their films here," he said.

Bukhari said Jammu and

Kashmir had immense potential for filmmaking and remained a natural choice for film shoots.

"We want to attract filmmakers from across the globe to the region," he said.

Bukhari said the three-day festival had received an overwhelming response, with more than 360 delegates from outside Jammu and Kashmir attending screenings, expert sessions and other programmes.

He said the participation of prominent filmmakers and industry personalities had provided an opportunity for local youth to interact with experienced professionals and could help strengthen the region's filmmaking ecosystem.

Among those attending the festival was veteran filmmaker C.P. Dixit,

known for his association with the film Sholay. The floating cinema on Dal Lake emerged as one of the major attractions of the festival, drawing large crowds.

"You have seen the response yourself. All the surrounding areas are packed with people. They come and enjoy. It's an instant hit," Bukhari said.

He said efforts would be made to further develop the concept and expressed hope that the Tourism Department would take the floating cinema initiative forward as an attraction for tourists.

Bukhari said the administration intended to organise the film festival annually.

He also said the government was exploring the possibility of holding a winter edition in Gulmarg.

Man Dies at Jammu Police Post, Family Alleges Torture

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A 32-year-old man died after allegedly falling unconscious at Chakroi police post in R S Pura sector near here early Wednesday, triggering protests by locals and family members who alleged custodial torture and sought an impartial probe and compensation.

Superintendent of Police, Anna Sinha who rushed to the spot to pacify the protesters said both departmental and magisterial inquiries were ordered into the death, assuring that any wrongdoing or lapses found during the probe would invite action as per law.

Official sources said four police personnel posted at the police post were attached to the headquarters following the incident.

The deceased, Uttam Chand, a resident of Rakh village, was picked up by the police from his house in the

headquar-

early hours following a complaint and taken to Chakroi police post where he fell unconscious and subsequently taken to the Sub-district Hospital R S Pura at around 4 am, the sources said.

Chand was referred to Government Medical College Jammu but died on way to the hospital, they said, adding the body was shifted to a mortuary for post-mortem.

KP Employees Demand Secure Housing, Set Sept 30 Deadline

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime Minister's Employment Package for Kashmiri Migrants on Wednesday staged a protest in Srinagar, demanding secure accommodation in view of alleged terrorist threats against them.

The employees warned that they would go on an indefinite hunger strike if the administration failed to provide them secure accommodation by September 30.

A terror group, United Liberation Council, has reportedly threatened to target Kashmiri Pandit employees working in Kashmir. The group has also posted names and phone numbers of several employees on social media and allegedly threatened to target them even in Jammu.

Speaking during the protest at Press Enclave, an employee said the workers were satisfied with security arrangements at their workplaces but remained concerned about their accommodation.

"We are satisfied with the security arrangements at our workplaces. Our only concern is accommodation. The administration should make allotments to the employees in the 26 buildings which have been completed," he said.

The employee alleged that despite the completion of 26 buildings, employees were being made to approach different offices repeatedly over the allotment of accommodation.

"All the clearances have been given for these 26 buildings which will accommodate nearly 400 employees. Why are they not giving these units to employees?" he asked.

Another protestor said the employees had been working in Kashmir for around 16 years but were still awaiting secure accommodation. "We have been working here for the past 16 years and we still don't have safe accommodation," he said.

He warned that the employees would begin an indefinite hunger strike if the government failed to hand over the accommodation by September 30.

The Prime Minister's Employment Package for Kashmiri Migrants was announced in 2008 and rolled out from 2010 to facilitate the rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri youth through government employment and transit accommodation. (ONS)

Class 7 Girl Allegedly Gangraped in Poonch

Two accused, including cab driver, arrested; booked under BNS and POCSO Act

POONCH: A Class 7 student was allegedly raped by a cab driver and his friend in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Wednesday.

Both accused have been arrested and booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including those relating to gangrape, kidnapping and wrongful confinement, besides provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, officials said.

According to the complaint lodged at Gursai police station, the girl was returning home on September 6 when she boarded a cab allegedly driven by Zahoor Mushtaq alias Sonu.

The driver allegedly took the girl to his house, where his friend Mohd Irfan was also present, officials said.

The accused allegedly kept the minor in captivity for three days and repeatedly sexually assaulted her, they said, quoting the complaint.

Following the complaint, police acted swiftly and arrested both accused, officials said.

Further investigation into the case is underway, they added. (PTI)

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 14/PHE/SPR of 09/2026, Dated: - 09-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in double cover system) are invited on percentage basis from the registered PWD Contractors for the work mentioned below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov. in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particular of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fees in Rs.	Bid Validity	Earnest Money (EMD)	Time of Completion of work (days)	Class of contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Revamping of Filtration Plant, desilting of various structures and repair of entrance gate at Sharkwara for Water Supply Scheme Sopore Town under CDF of Hon'ble MLA Sopore (Irshad Rasool Kar) for the year 2026-27.	15.00	Rs.1000	120 Days	2% of Adv. Cost	60 days	BEE/CEE/DEE

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore

CRITICAL DATES

i	Publish Date	09-09-2026
ii	Document Download start Date	09-09-2026
iii	Bid submission start date	09-09-2026
iv	Bid submission end date	15-09-2026
v	Date of Bid opening	16-09-2026

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.

2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 6 of the table above.

a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore (Tender inviting Authority)

b. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/E-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.

4. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder with draws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, action under rules shall be taken against him and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

5. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.

6. Queries by email if any should be made at phesopore@gmail.com

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore

No.SPR/PHE/4226-33

Dated:09-09-2026

DIPK-5472-26

DT: 09/09/2026

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO:35 e-Tendering/2026-27 | Dated: 08-Sep-2026

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work: -

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
01.	Construction of lane drain from the main road upto the House of Reyaz Ahmad Dar at Baghat Ward No 13	Rs. 2.91/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs.5820/-	DEE	249 Dated: 08/09/2026	
02.	Construction of Retaining Wall along with Fencing of the Graveyard at Baghi Mehtab Joo Mir Mohalla Ward -74	Rs. 4.00/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs.8000/-	DEE	250 Dated: 08/09/2026	MPLADS
03.	Construction of lane drain from the House of Khur-sheed Ahmad Bhat upto the House of Shamim Ahmad Bhat at Rawathpora Baghat Ward No 13	Rs. 1.50/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs.3000/-	DEE	251 Dated: 08/09/2026	

● Accord of Administrative Approval: Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	08-09-2026
2	Document download date	08-09-2026 10:00 AM To 17-09-2026 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission/ uploading date	08-09-2026 10:00 AM To 17-09-2026 06:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	18-09-2026 11:00 AM
5.	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	19-09-2026 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. As Per the Government Circular No. 01 (ADM) FD of 2025 Dated: - 08.07.2025 Endorsement No. FD-ST/75/2025-03 Dated: - 08-07-2025 issued by the J&K UT Finance Department. "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose/ Upload 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."

2. The intending tenders should attach an online receipt/ Bank challan equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost. In compliance to the SMC circular No.SMC/PS/CAO/748-753, Dated: 05/08/2026, the EMD of 2%, Tender Fee and performance security shall be accepted only through Online Transaction pledged in favour of FA/ CAO SMC which is to be deposited as per the given details below;
Name of the Account: Srinagar Municipal Corporation Name of the Bank: -Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: -Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No: -0216010200000007 IFSC code: -JAKA0GARDEN MICR CODE: 190051008

3. The bidder shall upload the payment receipt of EMD & tender Fee along with technical Bid on JK Tenders Portal. Bids without valid online payment receipt shall be rejected as Non responsive. If any bidder is found to have submitted fake, forged, manipulated or invalid payment receipt towards EMD/Tender Fee the bid of such bidder shall be rejected. In addition to rejection of bid the contractor/ firm shall automatically be treated as debarred from participating in any tenders in LRWD for a period of Six Months from the date of detection.

4. The Lowest successful bidder shall have to submit performance security guarantee in shape of Bank Challan/ E-Receipt pledged to FA/ CAO (SMC) after opening of tenders. The value of performance security shall be as per the Circular issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government Finance Department under endorsement No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 and amendment made by the Government Finance Department (J&K) time to time illustration (enclosed).

5. The Additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance Security and will be released after completions of defect liability period (DLP)

4. Circular issued by the Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Housing & Urban Development Department (J & k UT) vide No: -7760278-hud-plan/106/2026-01 Dated: - 06.06.2026

5. That Pre/Post Geo-Tagged Photographic evidence of the instant work(s) shall be maintained.

6. That the work or part of the work is not reflected in State/District Sector Plan/ CDF/ MPLADS/ AMRUT or any other program nor have the works or part of the works earlier executed by the SMC or through any other Agency.

No.SMC/EELRWD/1540-1549

Dated:08-Sep-2026.

DIPK-NB-1577-26

DT: 09/09/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

Left River Works Division,

Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

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KO VIEW

Past Isn't Present

Tanvir Sadiq, the National Conference MLA from Zadibal and the party's chief spokesperson, has stirred a political storm with a remark about Kashmir's past poverty.

Speaking on the 44th death anniversary of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, he said poverty had once reached such a level that people in some localities shared a single pair of trousers by turns.

The remark quickly moved from a historical reference to a social-media spectacle, drawing criticism from the BJP and PDP.

Sadiq later explained that his reference was meant to underline the poverty of the peasantry under the Dogra system and the significance of Sheikh Abdullah's land reforms.

The historical record supports the larger point about agrarian inequality. Sheikh Abdullah's government enacted the Big Landed Estates Abolition Act in 1950, placing a ceiling on large landholdings and transferring surplus land to cultivators. Scholars have described the reform as one of the most far-reaching land redistributions in post-Independence South Asia.

History, however, has another lesson for politicians.

A society can remember economic deprivation without turning its own people into a punchline. Kashmir had a deep cultural, literary and social life long before 1947. The political changes after that watershed year also produced a new phase in its public life, with Sheikh Abdullah emerging as a powerful popular leader and the National Conference building a mass political movement.

That difference matters especially on Sheikh Abdullah's death anniversary. The National Conference itself describes his legacy through political rights, land reforms and social change. Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah visited his grave at Naseem Bagh on September 8, alongside senior party leaders and legislators.

The timing therefore made the remark especially jarring. A tribute to a leader should illuminate his work. It should also respect the people whose lives form the centre of that history.

Kashmir's political class has a larger responsibility today. The National Conference government is campaigning for restoration of statehood, while its legislators have taken their political fight onto the streets. Rival protests by the NC and BJP in Srinagar this month showed how charged the political atmosphere has become. Words from elected representatives can add heat to an already heated public space.

The same lesson applies to the PDP. Mehbooba Mufti's comments during the recent Gen Z protests in Delhi triggered criticism after she linked police action there with the security experience of Kashmir. She later apologised and described her remarks as incomplete.

Political leaders live in the present, even when they speak about the past. Kashmiris have shown their political judgement repeatedly, including through the 2024 Assembly election that brought the National Conference back to government.

That mandate calls for seriousness, empathy and restraint.

History belongs in political debate. Its use should deepen public understanding rather than reduce a people to a line designed for applause, outrage or memes.

Kashmir has enough political arguments already. Its leaders can make them with greater care.

Can Kashmir Go Quantum?

Climate, water and earthquakes are producing complex datasets. Quantum computing could eventually help researchers make sense of them.



Zobiya Bhat

The mountains outside Srinagar look permanent from almost any window in the valley. They have held the same horizon for generations, feeding rivers, setting weather and holding the lives of millions inside their geography.

A person can stand under them and feel time slow down, but the instruments watching those mountains tell a less settled story.

Glaciers are changing. Snowfall has grown harder to predict from one winter to the next. Rivers respond differently to weather patterns than they did decades ago. Slopes remain exposed to landslides and other hazards that arrive with little notice.

Satellites track glacier surfaces from orbit, weather stations log temperature and precipitation, and seismic networks record tremors along the fault lines beneath the Himalayas.

Kashmir has built an enormous archive of information about its own terrain. The difficulty now is reading all of it together, as one system rather than a pile of separate readings.

That is the opening for quantum computing in Kashmir's scientific life, and it has little to do with owning an expensive machine.

The real opportunity is training people who can apply a new kind of mathematics to problems the region already has.

A conventional computer stores information as bits, fixed at 0 or 1. A quantum computer uses qubits, which can hold combinations of states until measured, and entanglement, which lets groups of qubits process information in ways ordinary circuits cannot.

Such machines may eventually gain a genuine edge on particular calculations. Physicists are still mapping out where those gains will actually show up.

A glacier makes a useful test case. Its behaviour depends on temperature, snowfall, sunlight, meltwater and terrain, variables that interact rather than simply add up. Climate scientists already model glaciers on classical supercomputers, and the math grows heavy fast as more variables enter the picture.

Quantum algorithms could someday assist with specific calculations inside those models. This calls for patience rather than expectation. A quantum machine will not replace the climate models running now. Its contribution, if it comes, will lie inside particular steps of a much larger process.

Water turns the same idea into something closer to daily life. Himalayan rivers feed farms, cities, hydro-



The Himalayas form one of the world's most active tectonic zones, and Kashmir has lived through destructive quakes before. Seismologists already run computational models against dense networks of sensors. Quantum computing could contribute to sorting large seismic datasets or handling specific optimization and machine-learning tasks within that work.

power stations and communities downstream, and agriculture depends on water showing up at specific points in the growing season.

Add shrinking glaciers and unpredictable precipitation, and a reservoir manager is left juggling constraints that shift by the week. Researchers already study this kind of problem, known as optimization, using early quantum methods.

The technology could someday help with some of those calculations, but the underlying data, the physical assumptions built into the model and the judgment of the person making the decision would still drive the outcome.

Earthquakes lie inside the same set of open questions.

The Himalayas form one of the world's most active tectonic zones, and Kashmir has lived through destructive quakes before. Seismologists already run computational models against dense networks of sensors. Quantum computing could contribute to sorting large seismic datasets or handling specific optimization and machine-learning tasks within that work.

Prediction itself remains one of the hardest unsolved problems in earth science, and nothing about quantum technology changes that.

Its value, if any, will come from processing certain types of information differently, rather than from producing a forecast of the next tremor.

Satellite imagery brings the argument down to something a student can hold.

Decades of images show how glacier boundaries have moved and how surface conditions have changed over time. Classical machine learning al-

ready does most of that work well.

Quantum machine learning may eventually add something on narrower, specialized tasks, though researchers still have to prove those gains hold up at any useful scale.

But none of this comes easily.

Qubits are delicate, and controlling errors inside a working quantum system remains one of the field's hardest technical problems. Useful applications are likely years away. And that delay is not bad news for Kashmir.

It leaves room to build knowledge locally while the hardware matures somewhere else.

A student here does not need a massive machine to begin. Quantum mechanics, linear algebra, probability and algorithms provide the foundation.

Quantum circuits and programming environments turn those subjects into something closer to a workshop.

Data science, numerical methods and machine learning connect that workshop back to glaciers, rivers, rock and orbiting sensors.

Kashmir already holds the raw material for this type of science. Its glaciers, rivers, forests, seismic zones and satellite records give students real questions instead of textbook ones, and its farms, water systems and towns show what those questions cost in human terms when they go unanswered.

A university that pushes physics students toward computation, computer science students toward physical systems and environmental researchers toward new algorithms will likely accomplish more than any press release about a future quantum hub.

The bigger shift is one of ambition.

Kashmir's technology aspirations have mostly run through software services, tourism and government jobs, fields that still matter to the region's economy.

A young Kashmiri can also choose artificial intelligence, robotics, advanced materials, climate science, biotechnology, space science or quantum computing as a field of study.

Building a machine and building expertise are not the same project, and the second one has more value here.

A giant quantum computer would draw headlines for a season. A small community that knows how to apply quantum algorithms, optimization and machine learning to Himalayan science would keep producing knowledge long after the headlines faded.

The mountains will keep doing what they do while all of this unfolds. Snow will fall unevenly, meltwater will find new paths, rock will shift along old faults, and instruments will keep gathering numbers that only mean something once someone learns how to read them.

A student working through the mathematics of a qubit is, without much fanfare, also learning to ask sharper questions about a glacier or a river or a fault line.

The future of quantum computing in Kashmir may start well before any quantum computer arrives, in the moment a student looks up at those mountains and sees not scenery, but data.

The author is a student and independent writer from Kashmir who writes on gender, governance, education and social issues. She can be reached at bhatzobiya02@gmail.com.

The Birth Advantage

Enrolment in Indian schools has soared for decades, but the ASER data, the coaching towns and the census of who actually reaches the top show a system still sorting children by birth.



Faizaan Bhat

In a government primary school in rural Rajasthan, ask fifth-graders to subtract two three-digit numbers. The ASER 2022 report found that only 17.3 percent could get the answer right.

The classroom will be full, the register will show near-universal enrollment, and the children will have uniforms, textbooks, and a mid-day meal.

What they will not have, in the overwhelming majority of cases, is the arithmetic a ten-year-old is supposed to know.

This is the difference that lies underneath most discussions about Indian education: schooling has spread with astonishing speed, while learning has stayed behind.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, passed by the UPA-II government in August 2009 and effective from April 2010, promised free schooling to children between six and fourteen. Political parties of

all colours put quality education somewhere in their manifestos.

The disparity between that promise and the classroom in Rajasthan is the shape of the system itself, rather than an accident of implementation.

Consider what happens once a family has money.

English-medium schools, private tutors, computers, internet access, and parents who themselves went to college are not neutral advantages.

They are, as the sociologist Geetha Nambisan has argued, the cultural and economic capital that decides who succeeds in an education system that now prizes English, mathematics and science above almost everything else.

A household with these resources can build much of a child's educational advantage through private spending, while the state largely steps in to certify the outcome.

The coaching town of Kota makes this visible on an industrial scale.

Hundreds of thousands of students move there or study through its franchises, drilling for the JEE and similar entrance examinations, competing for a small number of seats in elite engineering and medical colleges.

Vishal Vasanthakumar, in his book The Smart and the Dumb: The Politics of Education in India, describes this scramble as a credential race rather than a contest of ability.

The word merit gets attached to whoever wins, but what the word hides is the years of private investment behind the winning score.

Two students may sit the same examination and answer the same questions under the same rules.

One grew up with an educated mother, a tutor from age eight, a laptop and a coaching fee the family could afford without strain. The

other is the first in the family to finish school, taught in a language that is not the language of the exam, without access to any of the paid scaffolding that the first student took as ordinary.

The paper does not know the difference. The result looks fair, but the conditions that produced the result were not.

None of this is new. Thomas Babington Macaulay's 1835 Minute on Indian Education and Wood's Despatch of 1854 built an educa-

tional hierarchy around English and European knowledge, pushing indigenous learning to the margins even as they opened new institutional doors.

Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule understood, decades before independence, that literacy and schooling were political weapons, and used them to challenge caste and gender oppression directly.

After independence, the Kothari Commission of 1964-66 saw the danger clearly and proposed a Common School System, in which children of different backgrounds would sit in the same classrooms.

India built a different system: elite private schools, ordinary private schools, government schools, coaching centres and selective universities, each driven by fee and location, leaving a child's future closely tied to the household into

which she is born.

The Sachar Committee's findings on Muslim education point to the same failure from a different direction: deprivation in access and quality that no single cause explains, because caste, class, geography and discrimination interact rather than operate alone.

Textbook debates over the historical figures celebrated, the communities represented and the version of the past taught reveal another divide: education remains unequal in outcome and contested in content.

An exam-driven system trains students to memorise rather than question, which weakens the one function education is supposed to serve above all others: teaching a citizen to examine the society she lives in.

India has multiplied its schools and multiplied its coaching centres alongside them. What it has not multiplied is the chance, for a child born poor, to meet a child born rich on genuinely equal ground.

The country did not fail to build schools. It built a sorting machine and called it opportunity.

The author is an independent researcher based in Jammu, with contributions to several regional and national media platforms. He can be reached at bhatfaizan10@gmail.com.

India has multiplied its schools and multiplied its coaching centres alongside them. What it has not multiplied is the chance, for a child born poor, to meet a child born rich on genuinely equal ground.

The Secret Power of Kashmiri Women

What looks like a patriarchal household from the outside can reveal a different distribution of power once you see who manages the money, children and decisions.



MOHAMMAD ILYAS BHAT

A lady scientist, married to an administrative officer, once sat recording data from her vegetable trials while the sun conducted its own experiment on human endurance.

She looked up, exhausted, and said the heat had been hard on her. I asked, in what I believed was wisdom, whether she also managed the cooking, the cleaning, the washing at home.

She said yes. I told her that meant the choice to work or rest was hers alone, since she was the queen at home too.

She said nothing. I have thought about that silence more than I thought about my own remark. Queens do not answer courtiers on demand.

A few years later, flying to Chennai with a stopover in Mumbai, an engineer travelling with me went to pay for coffee and discovered his wallet missing. He panicked.

When I asked what was in it, he told me: three debit cards, a credit card, and each one carrying a sticker with its PIN written plainly on the plastic.

I asked why a grown man would be so careless. He said his wife handled all the money. It suddenly made



sense.

He was not just being careless. That wallet was proof of an arrangement they had settled long before that flight. He had the cards, but she had the ledger.

There is a phrase that follows many men after marriage: "Joru ka ghulam," a husband reduced, supposedly, to his wife's servant. The street version is less generous, but I have started to think the phrase describes something other than defeat.

Men who accept it have often

grasped a basic fact about running a household: peace depends on listening to the person who actually runs it.

A king who competes with his queen for control of the palace rarely improves the palace.

There was a generation, still within living memory, when one income supported an entire household, and that household was often what we would now call large with some alarm.

Five children were unremarkable, while seven barely raised an eyebrow.

In my own locality, a small family was rare enough to seem almost exotic.

But those single-income homes ran with a stability that many two-income homes today struggle to match.

Something beyond arithmetic was at work: discipline, contentment, and a kind of domestic management that was rarely seen or acknowledged.

The man held the title of head of the family. Titles preserve appearances, but anyone watching closely could see where the real decisions were made.

The woman chose brides and grooms with the calculation of a diplomat, tracked money with the vigilance of a central bank, and noticed if a child left the house improperly dressed or improperly raised.

He earned the money, but she decided its destination. Budgets lie in her hands, savings in her instincts, and the family's future in calculations she never wrote down.

Without spreadsheets or financial advisors, she produced something many formal systems still fail to produce: stability.

She governed without ever calling it governing.

Authority in these homes was understood rather than displayed. Equality did not need a slogan because it was already practiced, through a division that gave him the outside world and gave her the household's inner workings. Neither needed to announce the value of the other.

Then came the language of equal rights, arriving with the enthusiasm of a new political movement, as though women had not always held responsibility inside these homes.

What actually changed was the boundary itself: women moved beyond the household, built careers, earned salaries, entered rooms once closed to them. Children began spending their early years in day-care centers, learning independence before they had learned to write their own names.

Both parents became professionals, earners, and found that modern life produces no shortage of work.

Somewhere in this rearrangement, the man often seems slightly dis-

placed, as if he lost part of his old authority somewhere between the office, the grocery store, and the school pickup line.

Nobody drafted an agreement or signed anything. It simply happened over time.

Today's woman often earns a salary, raises children, plans the household, entertains guests, sustains relationships, and still remembers whose birthday falls next week.

Whether she is a doctor, an engineer, a teacher, or holds any other profession, she frequently manages two full shifts, one paid and one unpaid, and does both with a composure that borders on the remarkable.

So husbands might reconsider their complaints.

When a partner contributes not merely an equal share but often more, both inside the house and beyond it, an argument about who bears the greater load becomes a question of poor timing rather than principle.

The simpler course is this: acknowledge the arrangement, appreciate the management, share the labor, and listen when it counts.

A well-run kingdom does not suffer because its king listens to its queen.

Joru ka ghulam may not be the insult it sounds like. It might be another name for a man who found the oldest secret of a happy marriage: winning by listening, helping, and saying, simply, "You are right."

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

The Trouble With Dreamers

White Nights celebrates the intensity of longing. Our own lives remind us that love without reciprocity can become another form of self-deception.



Khushboo Javed

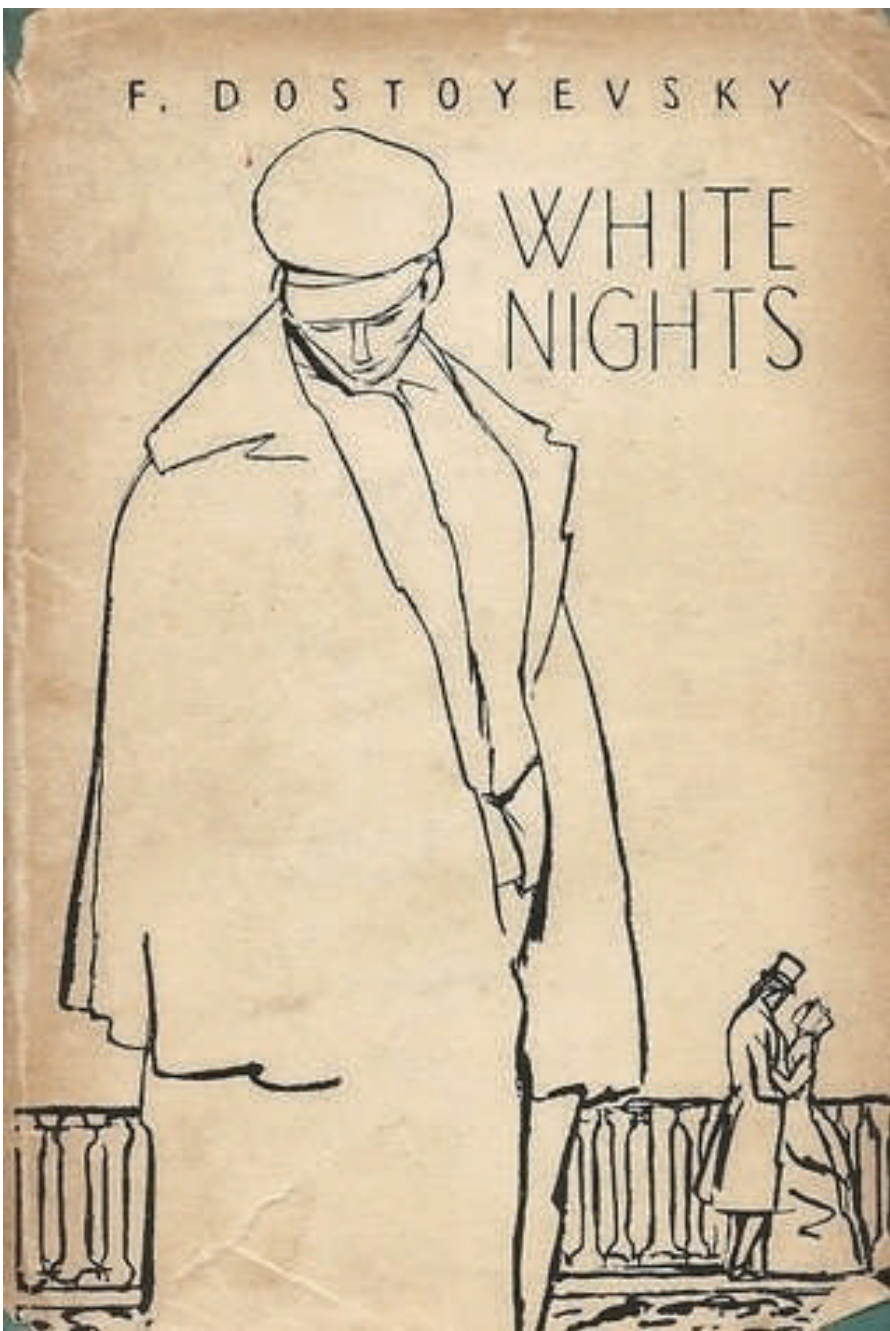
I have put down the book that I was so dearly gifted by a friend - White Nights by Fyodor Dostoevsky. Fyodor (I prefer to call him for a more humanly touch than the scholarly Dostoevsky) was 26-27 years old when this novella by him got published in 1848. The Dreamer, the main character and the narrator of the story, is also 26 years old.

Another friend who is not fond of reading, I was astonished to know, had read White Nights long before I did. Such literature can be captivating. The narration by Dreamer in the story is full of beautiful and poetic, very poetic, literary devices. But such fiction if only could be treated as mere fiction written for leisurely purposes. Instead, we see ourselves in the protagonist. There are hazards to this kind of dreaming, day-dreaming. You replace your reality with an impractical, unreal and untruthful world for yourself and sometimes against other people in your life. Take it from someone who has been there and back.

Take, for instance, sweet sixteen Arooja with that dreamy imagination. Recently, this teen was rejoicing at the nickname, Noori or something, that the AI application in her phone has given her. It was scary to hear her speak about how she talks to it and how it reminds her in the evening that it was time for a certain scheduled task.

Clearly, AI won't cheat, it won't complain and it won't criticize. In short, it doesn't challenge you. This is also the reason why it has become easier to adopt pets instead of humans. Human connections are complicated, especially if we do not understand the concept of individualism and that not being in sync all the time with the other person is perfectly okay. But humans need each other and that is an inevitable truth. After all, at the end of the day, humans are tribal animals.

How many problems can we solve if we



understand basic human emotions and accept that some of the intoxicating ones come at the cost of our precious dignity?

Imagine you have a favourite singer who you are dying to meet. Finally you manage a ticket to their concert. That singer asks his

security guards to kick you out of his concert because your presence is somehow unsettling to him. You are being insulted and dragged out. Would you yell at that singer: "No matter what you do to my dignity, I shall keep coming back; no matter the number of times you kick me out?"

This unwanted love of yours is selfish and undignified and nothing more.

Now picture this: Each time you are kicked out, there is this person waiting outside for you, pleading you to let him sing the same songs for you. If you do not happen to love his voice, are you being unfair to him by rejecting his little concerts? Why would you entertain something you do not find pleasing to your taste?

The Dreamer says to Nastenka: "But I'll make you laugh, when I tell you that several times I have thought of striking up a conversation just like that, without ceremony, with some aristocratic lady on the street, when she is alone . . . to speak . . . respectfully . . . to say that I am perishing all alone".

The same Dreamer tells 17 year old Nastenka on the second white night: "What is he [speaking about himself in the third person] looking at like that? At that respectable-looking gentleman who bowed so picturesquely to the lady riding past him in a glittering carriage drawn by those frisky horses? No, Nastenka, what does he care now about such trifles?"

Hypocritical?

"If Yahya is on his deathbed, still thinking about me, his unrequited love, thinking that his obsessive love for me will be his ultimate redemption while beholding in front of his eyes an end to everything, leaving behind a mortal world where he could have done better, leaving behind a family who knew he wasted himself, then let Yahya and others like him keep dreaming for the rest of their lives about a person who didn't love them back," I was telling a friend.

The Dreamer tells Nastenka: "I would love you so, I would love you so, that even if you still loved him and continued to love this person whom I don't know, you still would not find my love to be a burden to you in any way. You would only feel, you would only sense at every moment that next to you beats a grateful, grateful heart."

Why?
"Is this possible?" I asked my friend.

"Yes," he replied, maintaining his loyalty to Dreamer.

"So that means you will love your wife unconditionally even if she is not over her ex-boyfriend, even after you give her your best, after she was the one to choose you?"

My friend paused. "That depends."

"Anyone deserves better," I said.

How is someone worthy of so much of unconditional love? How is the superiority of someone's old emotions justified while the other partner, the 50 percent of the relationship, responsible to take 100 percent of the compromise?

How White Nights ends creates hurt but in the long run, it is perhaps the only pragmatic ending for the characters in the book. Still then, our Dreamer is yet to unlearn a few things and hence he concludes the story by saying, "My God! A whole minute of bliss! Is that really so little for the whole of a man's life?"

It is not only little, my dear, it is toxic and unfair to thy own self.

As I read this last line, I moved to what I thought was the last chapter and felt that perhaps our dreamer had matured and reached the point where he would have uttered in his own language, in his own way, "Aur bhi dukh hain zamane mein muhabbat ke siwa!"

Ah, this line by Faiz Ahmad Faiz from one of his poems which he said marks his transition from romantic work to mature work. But this chapter, Bobok, was another of Dostoevsky's short stories which got published in his 50s, added by the Penguin publishers at the end of the novella, White Nights.

All these Romeo Juliet and Shirin Farhad stories give me a bellyache. I wonder why there are no such stories about married people, people who married by choice that is. Maybe marriage, where you share responsibilities and your good human is put to litmus test, has given people a reality check. If my partner happens to be a poet, I would rather want that he writes for me with fervour after our marriage and praises my delicate facial features when I am old and tired.

The Dreamer says to his beautiful beloved, Nastenka, on their second white night: "A new dream is new happiness! A new dose of exquisite, voluptuous poison!"

— The author can be reached at khushboojaved3@gmail.com.

Ramesh Sippy Attends 'IFFJK', Hopes To Shoot Films In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar- "Sholay" director Ramesh Sippy said he has been coming to Kashmir since 1964 and hopes that he and other filmmakers will get to shoot many more films in the Valley.

The director, whose work also includes "Shaun" and "Saagar" among others, is also looking forward to watch movies at the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK).

"I have been coming here since 1964, very often. In between, there were problems, so we couldn't come. But now it has reopened, everything is fine.

"I hope people will come, tourists will come, filmmakers will also come to shoot films just like they used



to. There is also encouragement from the government. So, let's hope for the future, even better than this," he told reporters here.

Asked if he has plans to shoot in the valley, "right now we have come, observed everything and hope we will do it soon", he said.

Sippy expressed his desire to witness the emerging generation of cinematic talent.

"I look forward to watching some good films here and, just as nice things were being said about my films, to be able to say about their films that, look, these are good films. And to see other young makers receive encouragement to make good films," he added.

Playing down the critiques of modern filmmaking, Sippy said Indian cinema is in capable hands.

"I believe that even today, we have very good talent. People are making good films. Just recently, Imtiaz Ali's film ('Main Vaapas Aaunga') came out. It shows people have started making good cinema and will continue to make it... Today's filmmakers are doing their job, appreciate what they are doing, and encourage people who want to make such kinds of films," he added.

I look forward to watching some good films here and, just as nice things were being said about my films, to be able to say about their films that, look, these are good films. And to see other young makers receive encouragement to make good films

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under: Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date **30.09.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.** Only manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No. : 03A-TRD-JAT-2026-27	
Name of work : TRD work in c/w Interlocking of 12 Nos Non-Interlocked LC gates having TVU 20000 and 50000 over Jammu Division.	
App. Cost (Rs.) : 80,16,630.98	
Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL	
Date & time for submission of tender : Up to 30.09.2026, 15:00 Hrs.	
Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 1,60,300/-	
Completion Period : Six (06) Months	
Opening of tender : 30.09.2026 after 15:00 Hrs.	
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in	

Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 03A-TRD-JAT-2026-27 Dated: 08.09.2026 3103/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Tender No. 136, 137-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR Date: 09.09.2026
Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date **29.09.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System	
Open		Works		Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
07.09.2026		15.09.2026		29.09.2026/15:00 Hrs.	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	136-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR	Provision of Relay Hut at (25 Nos Level crossings) for Gate Signalling at Non Interlocked L-xing gates over Firozpur Division (TVU between 10,000 and 20,000) in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-III/FZR as per Type Plan No. HQ/01/02-2017/R-1.			
		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		Rs.4,54,09,308.70	Rs.9,08,200.00	60 Days	10 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "Construction of building/quarters."			
2.	137-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR	Provision of Relay Hut at (24 Nos Level crossings) for Gate Signalling at Non Interlocked L-xing gates over Firozpur division (TVU between 10,000 and 20,000) in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-III/FZR as per Type Plan No. NRHQ Plan No. 0-07/2017/R-1.			
		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		Rs.3,08,03,482.52	Rs.6,16,100.00	60 Days	08 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "Any structural work made of Pre-cast PSC/RCC panels."			
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3107/2026					

IFFJK: Sanjay Suri Calls For Cinematic Infrastructure In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar- Bollywood actor-producer Sanjay Suri on Wednesday called for establishing formal cinematic infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that sporadic releases alone cannot sustain the region's creative potential.

Speaking on the sidelines of the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), Suri drew parallels to global cinema hubs, noting that while the festival marks a promising beginning akin to showcases in Dubai or Qatar, local youth need institutional support to translate their ambitions into careers.

"Festivals like Dubai or Qatar showcase incredible world cinema. This festival is a start. We receive countless messages from youth asking where to submit scripts or how to make films. Setting up workshops or a film school here would be incredible. It would

provide formal training and broaden perspectives," Suri, who was here to attend the festival, where his film 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', directed by Imtiaz Ali, was screened.

However, Suri, who was born in Kashmir, said it cannot happen in isolation with just one release and it requires an entire ecosystem.

"Look at cafes: a few years ago there were hardly any, and now they are everywhere because local entrepreneurs built them," he added.

Emphasising the need for creative mentorship and collaboration to help regional cinema in Jammu and Kashmir flourish, Suri said local voices will truly find their footing when emerging talent learns alongside seasoned directors like Ali.

"Local filmmakers and stories will only emerge when they train under directors like Imtiaz, collaborate, or share their stories. Today, in the digital age, everyone



is vlogging, promoting tourism, and storytelling has become accessible. Stories exist and are being made, including lighthearted, romantic ones," he said.

Referring to the movie 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', the actor said it is a love story set against the

backdrop of undivided India during Partition, "yet it touches the heart today".

"Anyone who has lost their home, identity, land, or life will identify with it. It is a rare film that comes along once in decades," he said.

When asked about prospects

of doing a Kashmiri film, actress Sharvari said stories are paramount for actors.

"As young actors, we seek compelling stories regardless of language barriers. Regional cinema brings such rich narratives and offers actors great platforms. It would be an exciting opportunity," she said.

Sharing her experience of shooting for 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', Sharvari said she had a wonderful time.

"It was my first collaboration with Imtiaz sir, as well as with Vedant, Sanjay sir, and the entire team. It is a beautiful story. As an actor, stepping into a completely different era and character, wearing distinct costumes, embracing a different body language, was creatively fulfilling. Getting lost in that world was magical. I have always admired Imtiaz sir's work, so this was a huge opportunity for me, and I am deeply grateful," she added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Humaira, hereby give notice that my name has been wrongly recorded in my J&K Bank Account as "Humaira Riyaz", whereas my correct name is "Humaira".

I have now applied for correction of the same in the bank records. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned J&K Bank Branch within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Humaira

iko

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Pir-Panjal Forest Division Budgam.

e-NIT NO: - 06 OF 2026-27 DATED: 09-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work: -

S.N	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (EMD)INR	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Providing and fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks & Planting of Conifer, BroadLeaved Planting, Dibbling, Patch Sowing in Compartment S-16 Sutharan Forest Block Sukhnag Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the scheme of CAMPA-NPV for the Financial year 2026-27	51.56	103120/=	"A" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor,	Rs 1600/=	90 Calendar days
2	Providing and fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks & Planting of Conifer, BroadLeaved Planting, Dibbling, Patch Sowing in Compartment D-23 Pachnar Labkhal Kachwari Forest Block Raitthan Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the scheme of CAMPA-NPV for the Financial year 2026-27	13.24	26480/=	"B, C & D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor,	Rs 600/=	60 Calendar days
3	Providing and fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks & Planting of Conifer, BroadLeaved Planting, Dibbling, Patch Sowing in Compartment S-22 Drung Forest Block Sukhnag Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the scheme of CAMPA-NPV for the Financial year 2026-27	17.59	35180/=	"B & C" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor,	Rs 800/=	60 Calendar days
4	Providing and fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks & Planting of Conifer, BroadLeaved Planting, Dibbling, Patch Sowing in Compartment S-24 Bandoora Drung Forest Block Sukhnag Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the scheme of CAMPA-NPV for the Financial year 2026-27	10.11	20220/=	"B, C & D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor,	Rs 600/=	45 Calendar days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q)

set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Accorded vide Order No. 50/CCF(K) of 2026 Dated. 08-09-2026.

Position of TS: Accorded vide Order No. 51/CCF(K) of 2026 Dated. 08-09-2026.

Position of Funds : Budgeted.

Publishing Date: -	09-09-2026
Download Start Date:	09-09-2026 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	09-09-2026 from 06:00 PM
Pre-Bid Consultation & Venue	14-09-2026 Working hours Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam.
Bid submission End Date:	18-09-2026 Up to 06.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical BidOnline.	19-09-2026 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) after Technical Evaluation is Completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid shall be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e., Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/ duly renewed for the current year 2026-27, PAN, Valid GST Registration., Affidavit cum undertaking.
- In pursuance to Finance Department Circular instructions vide No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated: 22-05-2026 to implement online system for depositing Bid security (EMD) and Tender Fee across all works Departments. The Bidders shall deposit the EMD, IT Service Charges & tender Fee in the Centralized Pooling Bank Account of this Department. The details of the Accounts are as:
Account in favor of : Principal Chief Conservator Forests
Name of the Bank: Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
Branch : Civil Secretariat
IFSC Code : JAKA0MOVING
Account No : 0110010200001102
- The above deposits should be made in separate Transactions and upload the transaction Receipts/ Fee deposit Receipt with the necessary documents to be uploaded above.
- As per rule Guideline No. 4.12 of Manual for procurement of works from Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 5% of the value of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criterion/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

NO: -DF0/PP/Act/Tender/2026-27/636-44

Dated:- 09-09-2026.

DIPK-5466/26

dated: 09-09-2026

Divisional Forest Officer,
Pir Panjal Forest Division,
Budgam.

₹1,826 Cr Disbursed Under Mission YUVA, 13,597 Enterprises Operational



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Mission YUVA is gaining momentum across Jammu and Kashmir, with ₹1,826 crore in loans disbursed to 32,665 accounts and 13,597 new enterprises becoming operational, officials said on Wednesday.

The progress was reviewed at a meeting of the Apex Committee of Mission YUVA, chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, which assessed the implementation of the programme since its previous review in May.

The meeting focused on the Mission's four broad areas — Culture, Capital, Capacity and Connectivity — with officials stressing the need to convert the growing application base into sustainable enterprises and employment opportunities.

According to the latest figures presented at the meeting, applications under Mission YUVA have risen 37 per cent, from 1,04,067 on May 15 to 1,42,196 as of September 7.

SBDU verifications have increased by 34 per cent to 80,965, while DLIC approvals have risen 39 per cent to 75,791.

Loan sanctions have grown by 53 per cent to ₹1,992 crore across 37,171 accounts, while disbursements have reached ₹1,826 crore across 32,665 accounts.

Officials said commercial banks are currently processing around 2,800 applications every month, while the final sanction rate improved from 23 per cent in July to 40 per cent in August.

The financial support has also translated into enterprise creation, with 13,597 enterprises now fully operational across J&K, marking a 58 per cent increase since May. Another 6,777 enterprises are currently at the work-in-progress stage.

The Mission has also recorded a rise in youth participation and capacity building. As many as 36,474 student and entrepreneur certifications have been completed, representing a 73 per cent increase since the previous review.

The mentorship component has expanded significantly, with 2,645 entrepreneurs mentored by 482 onboarded mentors. Enterprise mentorship completion has increased seven-fold since the May review.

Govt Working Towards Ethanol Blending Beyond E20: PM's Advisor

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government is working to permit ethanol blending beyond the existing E20 level, enabled through flexi-fuel vehicles, Advisor to the Prime Minister Tarun Kapoor said on Wednesday.

Addressing virtually the fourth edition of The India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference 2026, Kapoor said the E20 programme has been "very successful" so far and several automobile companies have announced plans to roll out flexi-fuel vehicles soon.

"E20 has been very successful. Now our focus is on going into flexi-fuel vehicles and allowing blending at a percentage which will be higher than E20 and it will have to be through flexi-fuel vehicles," Kapoor said.

E20 is blended petrol containing 80 per cent petrol and 20 per cent ethanol.

He said biofuels and other alternative energy sources are very important for India, and government policies are now focused on promoting biofuels on a large scale. "The industry has also been very supportive and we've got huge capacities," he said.

The push for biofuels has become more critical amid the West Asia crisis, which has disrupted supplies and pushed



crude oil prices to nearly USD 100 a barrel, with fears of a further increase, Kapoor said.

"It is important that we try to have whatever is available in the country," he said.

Ethanol production capacity in the country has surpassed blending requirements, he said, and the industry will need to explore additional uses for ethanol to fully utilise the surplus capacity.

While ethanol has been a great success story, criticism of E20 blending has largely stemmed from misinformation or "motivated reasons", Kapoor said.

"But then a lot of studies have been done, a lot of experiments have been done, and it has come out that E20 is quite good and works very well. Maybe a little bit of fuel efficiency declines somewhere, but it gets compensated with higher octane," he said, adding that the issues being faced are generally due to other reasons, not the blending.

Oil Cos Lose ₹5 On Petrol, ₹23 On Diesel As Crude Tops \$100

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- State-owned fuel retailers are losing Rs 5 per litre on petrol and Rs 23 a litre on diesel as fresh hostilities in West Asia pushed international oil prices above USD 100 per barrel -- the highest since last July -- analysts said on Wednesday.

Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil prices, rose 2.5 per cent to over USD 100 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained almost 2 per cent to about USD 95. This after tensions rose in the Middle East amid the latest tit-for-tat exchange of fire between the US and Iran.

Brent last touched the USD 100-mark on July 23.

India, the world's third-largest oil importing and consuming country, is particularly exposed to swings in international crude prices. It imports over 88 per cent of its crude -- raw material for making fuels like petrol and diesel -- requirements.

A sustained increase in prices raises the country's dollar-denominated import bill and can put pressure on the trade balance and the rupee, analysts said.

Also, with retail pump rates remaining unchanged, it leads to fuel retailers incurring losses on sale of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG.

Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd, said with escalation in hostilities between Iran and the US, Brent prices have crossed the USD 100 per barrel-mark on Wednesday and the Indian crude basket is at about USD



109 per barrel.

"At the average price for the month of September till date, marketing margins on petrol are negative Rs 5 per litre and diesel at negative Rs 23 a litre and under recoveries on domestic LPG are at Rs 200 per cylinder," he said.

"If the current geo-political situation persists, crude oil prices could rise further given that several countries, including China, were tapping their strategic reserves for a significant proportion of their consumption and their return to the market could increase demand in a period of restricted supplies."

Higher crude prices can also feed into domestic inflation through fuel, transport and other energy-related costs. But the impact on consumers and the wider economy would depend in part on how much of the increase is passed through to domestic fuel prices and how long international prices remain elevated.

For now, retail petrol and diesel prices remain on freeze

for over three months. Rates were last revised on May 25 when they were hiked Rs 2.61 a litre for petrol and Rs 2.71 per litre for diesel.

Those hikes were part of the revision in rates that happened in the second half of May in response to international prices rising due to the war in West Asia disrupting energy flows from the Gulf countries. In all, petrol price was raised Rs 7.35 a litre and diesel by Rs 7.53 in four instalments.

India's crude oil import bill surged over 56 per cent during April-July to USD 63.4 billion compared to USD 40.5 billion in the same period last year, according to the Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

The volumes bought remained almost the same -- 81.9 million tonnes in the first five months of the current fiscal year and 81.5 million tonnes last year.

The basket of crude oil India imports averaged USD 108.91 per barrel on September 8, according to PPAC.

CBIC Terms GST Revenue Comparison Using Compensation Cess 'Misleading'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The CBIC on Wednesday said monthly GST revenue growth figures are calculated on a comparable tax base and described cherry-picking of figures by including the erstwhile compensation cess as "misleading and mischievous".

In a reply to former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg's post on X, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said the GST revenue figures published monthly reflect the correct picture of GST revenue performance, with full disclosure, and the purpose of a growth figure is to show how the tax base has changed.

"A growth rate is meaningful only when it is computed on a comparable basis, that is, on the same set of levies on both sides of the comparison. Otherwise, it is like comparing apples and oranges," the CBIC said.

In his post, Garg said the government collected Rs 1.99 lakh crore in gross GST in August 2026, which is 14.8 per cent higher than last year.

The growth is 11 per cent over



five months of the fiscal year to Rs 10.43 lakh crore.

"Govt played a trick though. 2025-26 GST Cess has been quietly excluded. When included, 5-month gross GST growth becomes 4.08 per cent and net 1.30 per cent, a pathetic performance," Garg said.

In response, the CBIC said attempts to cherry-pick figures from two different tax bases are thoroughly "misleading and mischievous".

"A fair analysis must compare like with like, instead of misleading our citizens by comparing two fundamentally different datasets," CBIC said.

Last year, the GST Council de-

cided to discontinue the compensation cess effective from September 22, 2025, on all items except tobacco and related products.

The cess levy on tobacco and related products was also removed from February 1, 2026. Accordingly, for the above period, there is no cess collection.

From November 2025 (first tax period post GST rate rationalisation), GST revenue figures are published showing compensation cess separately in the table, and year-on-year growth was computed on the tax base consisting of Central GST, State GST and Integrated GST for the corresponding periods.



Gold Slips For Third Day, Silver Jumps ₹2,300 To ₹2.43 Lakh/Kg

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Declining for the third straight session, Gold prices fell Rs 100 to Rs 1,58,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid subdued demand in local markets.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,58,100 per 10 grams in the previous session.

However, silver bucked the trend and extended its gains for the second straight session, surging by Rs 2,300 to Rs 2,43,400 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 2,41,100 per kg, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

"Gold has remained within a narrow range as investors take a cautious approach ahead of important US inflation data set to be released later this week," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

He added that rising crude oil prices have revived con-

cerns over persistent inflation amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

"Higher energy costs could add to inflationary pressures and reinforce expectations that interest rates may remain elevated, limiting the upside in bullion," Gandhi said.

In global markets, spot gold gained USD 43.67, or 1 per cent, to USD 4,399.22 per ounce, while silver rose nearly 1 per cent to USD 66.25 per ounce.

Spot gold recovered after recent losses as traders awaited US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's announcement on the long-term debt buyback programme, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

Manav Modi, Commodities Analyst at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said, "Market attention now shifts firmly to US PPI and CPI data later this week, which will be crucial in determining whether inflationary pressures justify a September Fed hike".

NSE IPO May Shrink To ₹25,000-27,000 Cr As Investors Pull Back

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The size of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) IPO may shrink with the offer for sale (OFS) likely to be cut to 5.2-5.5 per cent, from the 6 per cent planned earlier, as some shareholders have backed out of the sale, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

The reduced OFS could bring down the overall issue size to Rs 25,000-27,000 crore, compared with the earlier estimate of Rs 30,000 crore. At this size, NSE may fall short of becoming India's largest-ever public offering. Hyundai Motor India's IPO, at Rs 27,870 crore, currently holds the record.

The reduction in the OFS size is understood to be driven by some shareholders choosing not to sell during the IPO, as they believe they could command a better valuation by selling their stake at a later stage, the people familiar with the matter said.

The NSE is also looking to make the issue more attractive for retail investors, with pricing being structured to provide greater participation and benefit to small investors in the OFS, they added.

The IPO price band is expected to be in the range of Rs 1,700-1,785 per share, against an earlier estimated of Rs 2,000 per share.

The NSE IPO is likely to open for public subscription on September 18 and close on September 22. The shares are



likely to be listed on September 25, sources stated. The listing is targeted before the 'Pitru Paksha' period that begins on September 26.

The NSE's offering will compete with that of Jio Platforms, billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate's digital services arm. Jio's offering is estimated to be Rs 37,700 crore but its timing has not yet been announced.

Last week, markets regulator Sebi gave clearance to NSE to go ahead with its public issue. The approval marked a major step for NSE, whose listing plans had been stalled for nearly a decade due to regulatory hurdles, including the co-location controversy.

NSE filed its draft prospectus with Sebi in June. However, the approval timeline slipped after SBI Capital Markets was added to the list of selling shareholders, a change that triggered a fresh 21-day public feedback window on the revised documents. As per the draft papers, NSE's offering was structured entirely as an OFS of up to 14.89 crore shares -- roughly 6 per cent of the exchange's paid-up capital.

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As per the draft papers, NSE's offering was structured entirely as an OFS of up to 14.89 crore shares -- roughly 6 per cent of the exchange's paid-up capital. Since the issue is entirely an offer for sale, proceeds will flow to selling shareholders rather than to the exchange itself.

Among the top selling shareholders, State Bank of India will offload up to 2.48 crore shares, followed by MS Strategic (Mauritius) Limited with 1.60 crore shares.

Exports Rise 15% In April-August This Fiscal: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's merchandise exports are estimated to register a growth of about 15 per cent in April-August this fiscal despite global uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

Addressing the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) Women-Led Development Summit 2026 here, he said that huge potential exists between India and BRICS nations to increase trade in goods and services.

"Despite all the turmoil that the world is going through today...we are well aware of the softening of internal trade. I am happy to share that our merchandise exports from India have grown between April and August, in the first five months of this fiscal, by upward of 15 per cent," he said.

The commerce ministry will release the exports and imports data for August formally on September 15.

During April-July this fiscal, exports jumped 17.04 per cent to USD 173.78 billion, and imports climbed 19.27 per cent to USD 292.38 billion.

Policy Must Balance Innovation With Accountability, Resilience: RBI Dy Guv

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Policy should provide room for innovation to grow while ensuring that accountability and resilience grow alongside it, RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain said on Wednesday.

The objective of policy, therefore, is to create the conditions in which useful innovation can develop responsibly, he said here at the Global Fintech Fest 2026.

"This requires clear guardrails where the risks are understood, room for experimentation where they are still emerging, and the ability to adapt the framework as technology and its uses evolve. Good policy should give innovation room to grow, while ensuring that accountability and resilience grow with it," he said.

He also said that policy has to remain informed by what is happening on the ground.

In a rapidly changing en-

vironment, regulators cannot understand emerging technologies through returns and supervisory observations alone, he said, adding that regular engagement with financial institutions, fintechs and technology providers helps identify new use cases and emerging concerns early, while also giving industry greater clarity about regulatory expectations.

Emerging technologies are often understood better through carefully controlled use than through speculation alone, he said.

Regulatory sandboxes can play an important role here by allowing genuinely new applications to be tested within defined boundaries before they are deployed more widely, Jain said.

Speaking about regulations, Jain said, "Regulate too early, and we risk writing detailed rules for a technology we do not yet fully understand, or for an architecture

that may change before the rules take effect."

Regulate too late, and the technology may already be deeply embedded before its risks are fully understood and addressed, he said, adding that there is no perfect point between these two outcomes.

Amid rapid advances in algorithms, tokens, platforms, cloud infrastructure and quantum computing, policymakers should not lose sight of the people at the other end of technology, he said.

"There is always someone at the other end of the technology -- there is a saver entrusting an institution with hard-earned money, a borrower seeking an opportunity, a merchant awaiting a payment, or a family depending on the financial system when it matters most," he said.

Jain said this is ultimately where the responsibility of the financial system lies.

Memory, Marriage, Madness: 'Johari Window' Heads to Toronto

Kashmir-linked psychological thriller selected for IFFSA Toronto; film explores fractured reality, identity and the mind's hidden blind spots

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A psychological thriller that blurs the line between memory and reality is headed for Toronto.

Johari Window, directed by Ozair Abdul Aleem and Saad Ahmed Khan, has been officially selected for the 2026 Indian Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA) Toronto, where it is scheduled to have its world premiere on October 15, 2026, as part of the festival's Kaleidoscope III programme.

At just under 13 minutes, the English-language film promises to pack a deeply unsettling question into a compact runtime: What happens when you can no longer trust your own reality?

The film follows Ron Rebello, a man recovering from a devastating car accident who appears to return to an ordinary life. But the familiarity soon begins to crack.

Time jumps. Memories disappear. Moments seem distorted. His marriage begins to feel strangely unfamiliar. As

Ron struggles to make sense of what is happening around him, the boundaries between what is real and what exists inside his mind begin to collapse.

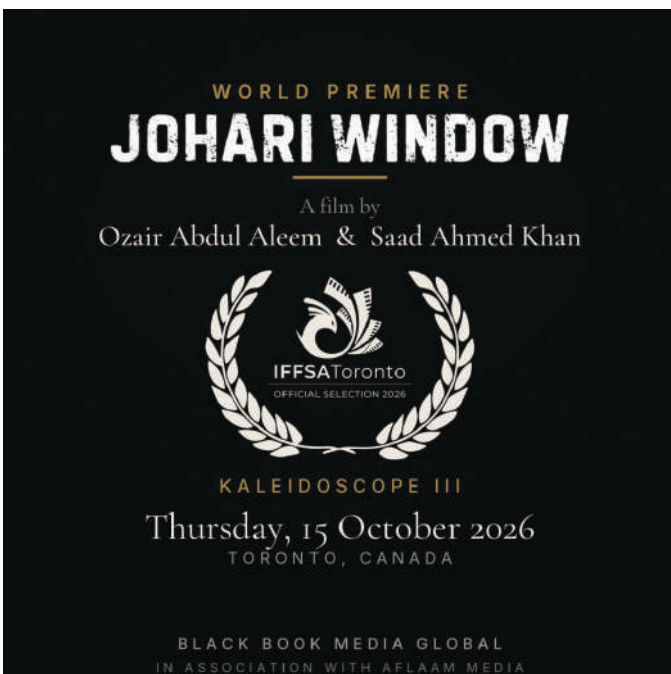
And that, according to its makers, is precisely where Johari Window wants its audience to live.

When reality starts slipping The filmmakers describe the film as a psychological thriller built around the idea of the Johari Window—a psychological framework dealing with what we know about ourselves, what others know about us, and the parts of our personality that remain hidden even from ourselves.

But rather than turning the film into an explanation of the concept, Aleem and Khan say they wanted audiences to experience it.

"We didn't want to explain the Johari Window framework; we wanted audiences to live inside it for the duration."

The directors' statement describes the film as an exploration of the "blind spots" and hidden aspects of human behaviour



that people around us may see while we remain oblivious to them.

At the heart of the story is a deceptively simple question: What if the world you

completely trust is a world only you can see?

The result is a narrative designed to keep viewers guessing—and perhaps questioning their own assumptions along

the way.

A thriller that turns inward For Aleem and Khan, Johari Window marks a significant shift from their earlier work.

Their previous film, "Mein Mehmood," won awards at festivals across 11 festivals in six countries, establishing the filmmakers on the festival circuit.

While Mein Mehmood was rooted in social observation, the new film turns the camera inward.

The directors call Johari Window "the inward turn"—an examination of identity, perception and the way individuals construct reality from within.

The film's deliberately fragmented storytelling is central to that approach. Rather than handing audiences easy answers, the filmmakers use lapses, repetitions and distortions to create an atmosphere where certainty itself becomes suspect.

Dimpy Fadhyia in a key role Adding further interest to the film's cast is Dimpy Fadhyia, who plays Pratibha Rebello, Ron's wife.

Fadhyia comes from a notable

film family. She is the daughter of veteran actor Yusuf Khan, popularly known as Zebesko, remembered for his appearance in the cult Bollywood entertainer Amar Akbar Anthony.

She has also appeared in Zoya Akhtar's "The Archies," bringing both established film lineage and contemporary screen experience to the project.

Her character's relationship with Ron becomes an important part of the film's psychological mystery as his perception of his own life begins to unravel.

A compact film with a big question

With a runtime of 12 minutes and 42 seconds, Johari Window is short in duration but ambitious in its psychological canvas.

The film's technical team includes cinematographer Ankush Deva, with music by Raghuram Ramasubramani and a screenplay co-written by Ozair Abdul Aleem and Tanya Das. The film is produced by Nabeel Abdul Aleem.

The filmmakers are using the short format not simply to tell a story but to place viewers inside the protagonist's fractured state

of mind.

There is no straightforward journey from confusion to clarity. Instead, the film appears designed to make the audience question every version of events—including the one they initially believe.

Toronto world premiere The selection at IFFSA Toronto gives Johari Window an international festival platform for its first public screening.

The film will premiere on Thursday, October 15, 2026, in Toronto, Canada, under the Kaleidoscope III programme.

For the filmmakers, the festival selection is more than a screening opportunity. It represents the next chapter following the international festival journey of Mein Mehmood.

And if the film's central premise is anything to go by, audiences heading into the screening may want to leave their assumptions at the door.

Because in Johari Window, the biggest mystery may not be what happened to Ron—but whether the reality he remembers ever existed at all.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

IFFJK Day 3 Puts

for stronger Bollywood-Kashmir connect Advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Nasir Aslam Wani, called for strengthening the longstanding relationship between Kashmir and Bollywood and urged filmmakers to return to the Valley.

"Our relations with Bollywood will become stronger. Kashmir and Bollywood have had a very old relationship, and that relationship will become stronger," Wani told reporters at INOX Srinagar.

He also called on filmmakers to shoot their projects in Kashmir and provide greater opportunities to local talent.

Global opportunities for J&K cinema

The session Global Partnerships in the Valley: Co-Producing Jammu and Kashmiri Cinema for the World examined avenues for international collaboration and ways to strengthen the region's presence in the global film ecosystem.

The discussion covered international co-production, sustainable financing, creative partnerships and festival-market strategies for Jammu and Kashmiri cinema.

The panel was moderated by Rabiranjana Maitra and featured Kapil Matoo, Munjal Shroff and Saba Bhat.

Screenwriting also featured through A Writer's Story: Penning the Warmth of Jammu and Kashmir, which examined character arcs, dialogue, structural economy and storytelling rooted in the Valley.

AI and documentary cinema

The festival also turned its attention to emerging technology with The Gentle Truth: AI and the Beautiful Soul of Jammu and Kashmir.

The panel explored the relationship between artificial intelligence and documentary filmmaking, including the possibilities and ethical challenges associated with using AI in non-fiction storytelling.

The discussion also touched upon observational cinema, hybrid forms and the importance of retaining authenticity and human perspective while using new technology.

The session featured Subbiah Nallamuthu, Arun Chadda, Yadu Vijaykrishnan, Supriyo Sen and Raja Shabbir Khan and was moderated by Sanskar Desai.

Masterclasses explore film craft

Film craft remained another major focus, with sessions on editing, acting, cinematography and camera technology.

The masterclass Cutting Visuals, or Cutting Emotions examined the art and psychology of editing, including rhythm, spatial continuity, temporal manipulation and the emotional impact of the cut.

Another masterclass, Beyond the Stage: Inside the Actor's Craft, explored theatrical training, embodied performance and contemporary approaches to screen acting, with actor and director Chittaranjan Tripathy sharing his insights.

A separate session, Catching the Light: Cinematography in the Valley, focused on natural lighting motifs, lens choices and contemporary visual framing.

The festival also organised The Moving Image: From Sensor to Frame, a workshop on camera technology and optical engineering, covering large-format sensors, colour science and developments in cinematic lens engineering.

Bollywood stars revisit Kashmir

The festival also hosted a media interaction with the team of Main Vaapas Aunga, featuring playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, actor-producer Sanjay Suri, actor Vedang Raina and actress Sharvari. Suri said the return of a filmmaking atmosphere to Kashmir after decades was significant for both the Valley and the film industry.

Raina spoke about his personal connection with Kashmir, saying his family was from Rainawari and that Kashmir would always remain home.

Chauhan recalled singing the popular Bumro Bumro and said she had always dreamed of visiting Kashmir.

She said her return to the Valley left a deep impression on her and expressed a desire to return for a concert.

NC-Cong Spar

Karra said national symbols should reflect India's constitutional temperament and remain sensitive to the country's plural ethos.

The issue, he said, was "not about patriotism" but about the manner in which patriotism should be expressed in a diverse republic.

"National symbols acquire greater dignity when they accommodate India's diversity, not when that diversity is asked to accommodate them," Karra said in a post on X.

The NC, however, defended the playing of the full version, saying government protocol and party ideology should be treated separately.

NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said Parliament had adopted the national song and therefore playing it at an official government event was a statutory obligation.

"The National Conference has a clear stance. When Parliament has adopted it, playing Vande Mataram becomes a statutory obligation and that is what the government did," Sadiq told reporters.

He also said that nobody would be forced to sing the national song, adding that those who wished to sing it could do so.

Sadiq subsequently hit back at Karra by sharing videos of Independence Day functions in Congress-ruled Karnataka and Telangana where the full version of Vande Mataram was played.

"Jenab Tariq Karra saheb, please take a look at your Congress CMs and share your valuable thoughts with everyone," Sadiq posted on X.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah later shared Sadiq's statements on the social media platform.

The controversy comes against the backdrop of guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in January 2026 regarding the singing of the national song. The guidelines provide for all six stanzas of Vande Mataram to be played or sung at official events.

Congress had opposed the mandate and maintained that only the first two stanzas would be sung at party gatherings.

Karra, meanwhile, invoked the Congress Working Committee's 1937 resolution, which adopted a truncated version of the song while taking into account India's religious diversity.

The Congress has six MLAs in the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and provides outside support to the NC-led government in the Union Territory.

The exchange marks a fresh public disagreement between the two parties, which are allies in Jammu and Kashmir, with the controversy over the national song bringing differences over constitutional and political considerations into the open.

J&K Weather To Stay

Residents and farmers have been advised to follow the latest local weather updates, particularly during periods when scattered thunderstorms are forecast.

12,000 J&K NHM

was launched after its September 5 deadline to the administration passed without a concrete response or tangible action.

The protesting employees are demanding a comprehensive policy providing job security, revision of salaries, retirement and social-security benefits, extension of EPF coverage and payment parity, among other service-related benefits.

The association said more than 12,000 NHM employees are working across Jammu and Kashmir.

The latest agitation comes five months after a 48-hour strike held by NHM employees in April over similar demands. The protest was called off on April 2 after representatives met Health Minister Sakina Itoo, who assured them that their grievances would be examined and addressed.

The employees have also cited their long service under NHM, with the association claiming that many have been working for nearly 18 years without a comprehensive regularisation or job-security framework.

The issue of regularisation was also raised in Parliament. In a March 17 reply in the Rajya Sabha, the Union Health Ministry said public health and hospitals are State subjects and matters concerning NHM human-resource policies, including pay parity, regularisation and absorption, are decided by the respective State or Union Territory governments.

The ministry also said the Union Government provides need-based technical and financial support under NHM, while States and UTs are responsible for ensuring healthcare human resources and creating regular posts according to applicable norms.

Meanwhile, a separate NHM employees' grouping has issued another deadline, warning of a UT-wide strike from September 18 if its demands are not addressed by September 17.

The ongoing 72-hour strike has once again brought the long-pending demands of NHM employees regarding job security, remuneration and social-security protection into focus.

Secessionist Sloganeering

slogans against the Government of India, and pelted stones at police and security forces.

The separatist leaders also allegedly instigated the general public against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Union of India, according to the chargesheet.

"The trial court has recorded, in a single sentence in paragraph 6 of the order impugned, that the facts 'do not fulfil the ingredients of Sections 2(o) of ULA(P) Act' without setting out the reasoning by which the specific statements or conduct attributed to the respondent in the chargesheet were tested against the statutory definition. This amounts to a bare conclusion rather than a reasoned finding," the high court said.

It said the material with chargesheet -- including the recorded slogans, the leadership role attributed to the respondent, and the resultant violence -- discloses a strong suspicion sufficient to put the respondent on trial, leaving the question of whether the charges are ultimately proved to be examined at trial and not foreclosed at the threshold.

"It is trite that an order of discharge must reflect application of judicial mind to the material on record, and that the findings at the charge stage, though summary, cannot be conclusory. However, it is abundantly clear from perusal of the order impugned that the same does not indicate that the specific contents of the chargesheet, the statements of the witnesses to the procession, the site plan, and the material, alleged to link the respondent to the incitement and the resultant violence, were tested against the ingredients of Section 13 read with Section 2(o) of the UAPA before the conclusion of non-applicability was recorded. On this ground, the order impugned is unsustainable and calls for interference," it added.

The court said it is neither making any definitive finding on the guilt or innocence of the respondent, nor expressing any opinion on the ultimate merits of the case.

"However, when specific material is brought on record that, on the face of it, discloses the commission of an offence and the complicity of the respondent, the trial court cannot act as a mute spectator and shut the doors of trial without assigning valid legal reasons," it added.

Allowing the criminal appeal filed by the state, the high court directed that the chargesheet be restored and the trial court proceed with the framing of charge against the respondent afresh after considering the material placed on record by the appellant.

Three Months On,

Notification No. 02-JK(YSS) of 2026. It covers five Chief Coach posts in the Gazetted cadre for 2022 and 218 Instructor posts in the Non-Gazetted cadre for the period 2014-2022.

The recruitment exercise itself dates back several years. Applications had initially been invited in January 2022 for the outstanding

sportspersons quota for calendar years 2014 to 2021. Following amendments to the rules through S.O. 412 of 2023, a revised advertisement was issued, and the scrutiny process continued under a committee constituted by the General Administration Department in October 2023.

The provisional selection list was finally issued on February 11, 2026 for five Chief Coach posts and 217 Instructor posts. The department then invited objections before finalising the list. According to the final notification, the scrutiny committee received 227 objections from 84 applicants and non-applicants and examined the representations against the relevant records, rules and documents before disposing of them.

The final notification followed that process and increased the Instructor selection from the 217 posts mentioned in the provisional list to 218, taking the total number of selected sportspersons to 223.

On June 10, Youth Services and Sports Minister Satish Sharma announced the selection and said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would formally hand over the appointment orders at a function. The selected athletes and sportspersons represented disciplines such as shooting, kayaking and canoeing, taekwondo, gymnastics, chess, weightlifting, cycling and skiing.

The appointment letters, however, have not followed the announcement.

On September 3, an association representing the selected sportspersons said the candidates were still waiting for formal appointment letters and urged the administration to issue them within 15 days. The association said the athletes had already completed the selection process and questioned why they continued to remain in uncertainty after being selected for government service.

The association has also sought completion of any remaining verification formalities and a public status of the appointment process, besides asking the administration to identify any specific legal or administrative obstacle holding up the appointments.

An official record does show that a verification exercise was still being undertaken after the final selection. The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council published a notice on June 12 for verification of the character and antecedents of candidates selected under the 2022 rules as amended in 2023.

The statutory framework places the appointment process within a defined administrative structure. Under the 2022 rules, the General Administration Department is to consider appointments, subject to availability of posts and recommendations of a committee headed by the Chief Secretary, with the Administrative Secretaries of Home, Youth Services and Sports, and General Administration, along with the Director of Youth Services and Sports and Secretary of the Sports Council, as members.

The rules also provide that the Youth Services and Sports Department invites applications and submits the list of eligible candidates to the General Administration Department for placement before the committee.

Sources informed the news agency Kashmir News Trust that the delay has come against the backdrop of a separate controversy over the final selection list. A section of sportspersons who were not selected had protested, alleging irregularities in the recruitment process. The Sports Council defended the process in July, saying appointments were governed by statutory rules and government orders and involved scrutiny and examination by the competent committees.

The government subsequently decided in August to constitute a departmental committee to review the Appointment of Outstanding Sports Persons Rules, 2022, as amended by S.O. 412 of 2023. The Youth Services and Sports Department said the committee would examine the provisions of the rules, issues arising during their implementation and representations received from stakeholders. It also said the review would be prospective and would not, by itself, cast any aspersion on sportspersons

already selected under the rules applicable to them.

The latest delay has also been linked in reports to the case of an individual sportsperson from Jammu, Surya Pratap Singh, who was not included in the final list and later protested seeking government employment. Selected athletes have said their appointments should not be held up over an issue concerning another candidate. These claims have been made by the athletes; the government has not publicly established that this individual case is the reason for withholding all 223 appointment letters.

The sequence leaves the selected sportspersons in an unusual position: the government has issued a final selection list after a prolonged scrutiny and objection process, the Sports Minister announced that appointment orders would be formally handed over, and the Sports Council subsequently conducted character and antecedent verification, but the candidates were still seeking appointment letters nearly three months after the final list was published.

The issue is therefore no longer about selection alone. For the 223 candidates whose names figure in the final list, the pending step is formal appointment and joining in government service. (KNT)

JKPSC Sees Sharp

2024-25 to none in 2025-26.

The annual report presents the figures as a category-wise comparison of candidates recommended during the two years under recruitment based exclusively on written examination. (KNO)

Justice Bhati Sworn

by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Judges of the High Court and their spouses, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, advisors to the chief minister, the chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board, the state election commissioner, former Chief Justices and Judges, and senior officers from the civil and police administration.

A large number of sitting and former Chief Justices and Judges from various High Courts across the country, particularly Rajasthan, besides Delhi, Punjab and Haryana and Allahabad, also attended the ceremony.

The presence of Justice Nupur Bhati of the Rajasthan High Court, wife of the newly appointed Chief Justice, along with his parents, relatives and other family members, added significance to the occasion.

Senior government officials, including the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of J&K, Commissioners and Secretaries of the two UT administrations, Vice-Chancellors of universities, members of the Central Administrative Tribunal, representatives of various Bar associations, Law Officers, Judicial Officers and officers of the High Court Registry were also present.

The Ministry of Law and Justice had issued the notification appointing Justice Bhati as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on September 5.

Born on September 21, 1970, Justice Bhati enrolled as an advocate in 1992 and practised primarily before the Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur. During his career at the Bar, he handled matters relating to constitutional and writ jurisdiction, service law, public interest litigation, elections, revenue, mining, education, Panchayati Raj, family and criminal law.

He was elevated as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on November 16, 2016.

Before his elevation, Justice Bhati served as Additional Advocate General for Rajasthan and was also elected as a member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan for the 2009-2015 term. He served as President of the Rajasthan High Court Lawyers' Association from 2011 to 2013 and as General Secretary of the Rajasthan High Court Advocates' Association in 2001.

Justice Bhati holds degrees in B.A., LL.B. and LL.M. in Mercantile Law, besides a Ph.D. He also served as visiting faculty at Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, for 19 years and at the National Law University, Jodhpur.

Shafali Confident India's Middle Order Will Deliver Against Bangladesh In Semifinal

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India opener Shafali Verma on Wednesday backed the team's middle-order to come good in the women's Asian Cup semifinal against Bangladesh, saying a few low-scoring games should not be a concern ahead of the crucial clash.

India will take on Bangladesh in the semifinal on Thursday.

India's middle order has struggled for runs in the last three matches, but Shafali insisted there was no reason to panic.

"Well, I would say there is a bit of bad days. But they

all are very good players. They all are very good batters. And just talking about Bharti (Fulmali) and Richa (Ghosh), they all are very good finishers and even doing the great thing in middle order as well. So, I am pretty sure they will do well for our team," she said.

India have had four days to prepare for the semifinal, with Shafali saying the break helped the players recover and train well.

"We had good preparation. We got four days of break and on those days we recovered well and we did practice as well. So, we all are ready for the semis," Shafali said.



Shafali has enjoyed some memorable outings against Bangladesh in recent times and will face them again in the semifinal.

Asked if those performances would give her added confidence, the opener said she would take the confidence from those innings but would approach the match afresh.

"Yeah, like as a batter, whenever I go to bat, it just starts from zero. But what came from that innings is just confidence. So, I will take that confidence and just start from zero again," she said.

On the possibility of changes to India's playing XI, Shafali

said the decision rested with captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

"Like, I am not a captain. So, captain will decide this. So, I just try to play my best," she said.

The Dubai conditions have offered some assistance to spinners, but Shafali feels the players are familiar with the conditions.

"Yeah, of course, this condition is similar like India. So, we all know the condition. There is a bit of turn in the wicket. So, we all are prepared about that and even I also know about the condition. So, I just go out there and just take time and just go out there and enjoy it," she said.

Issues In Pakistan Cricket Are Deep: Wasim Akram

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's fast bowling great and former captain, Wasim Akram believes that the problems in the Pakistan Cricket eco system are so deep rooted that it is not possible even for him to resolve them single handedly.

Wasim was Pakistan was struggling at the international level because of shortcomings across batting, bowling and fielding, as well as instability in the first-class domestic structure.

He also blamed inconsistency in the cricket board's decision-making as a major reason for the current state of affairs.

"I knew before the Test series started in England we would lose three nil because of the glaring problems in our batting and bowling," he told a sports website.

He added that responsibility for Pakistan's struggles lies with multiple stakeholders rather than any one individual or group.

"I get asked all the time, 'Can you do something to help Pakistan cricket?' But



the issues are a lot deeper. These are the top players, there's nothing else there. The systems aren't there below that."

He said there was no consistency or patience in the domestic structure and this has led to multiple problems, including failure to produce quality players from domestic tournaments. The former fast bowler was equally critical of Pakistan's performances, particularly their lack of balance across the three departments.

"Our batting is struggling, our bowling is below average, and our fielding is worse. It's not rocket science," he said.

Beyond the ongoing se-

ries, Akram specifically criticised lack of consistency and patience within the first-class structure in recent years, arguing that instability at domestic level has had a direct impact on the quality of players emerging into the national team.

According to Akram, the consequences are now visible across Pakistan's batting, bowling and fielding, while the problems extend beyond the players and coaching staff.

He stated that the problems in Pakistan cricket don't just remain confined to selections or dressing room decisions but across the entire cricket ecosystem.

Indian Swimmer To Miss Asian Games After 18-Month Doping Ban

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: An Indian swimmer, who had qualified for the Asian Games, was on Wednesday suspended for 18 months after failing a dope test and will miss the continental event in Aichi-Nagoya this month.

The 17-year-old had qualified for two events at the Asian Games and was part of the short list for the continental event.

However, he has been suspended for 18 months after his sample showed the presence of terbutaline, a beta-2 agonist banned under anti-doping rules.

The teenager received an adverse analytical finding (AAF) in February following which his name was dropped from the list of participants for the Asian Games.

His hearing was held last week and he was handed an 18-month suspension on Wednesday morning.

"The swimmer had received the violation earlier this year. However, the hearing did not take place till last week and he was handed an 18-month suspension today morning," a source in the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) told PTI.

The SFI had requested that the hearing be expedited so that the swimmer could take part in the Asian Games, provided he was given a clean chit by The National Anti Doping Agency (NADA).

The swimmer's twin brother is part of the Indian Asian Games team.

The Asian Games are scheduled to begin in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from September 19.

Lionel Messi Set To Become Majority Shareholder At Spanish Second-Division Club Eldense

AP

BUENOS AIRES: Lionel Messi is set to become the majority shareholder of Spanish second-division club Eldense.

Eldense, based near the port city of Alicante in south-east Spain, confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had reached a preliminary agreement with the club's owners. The deal will see him buy the shares held by Grupo TH Soluciones, subject to the completion of the remaining legal and contractual procedures.

The club did not provide financial details and did not say when the deal would be completed.

Eldense will become the second Spanish club the Argentine star has invested in. Earlier this year, he became the owner of a fifth-division side, Barcelona-based UE Cornellà.

Eldense fired coach Claudio Barragan on Sunday after claiming just two points from four league matches



this season.

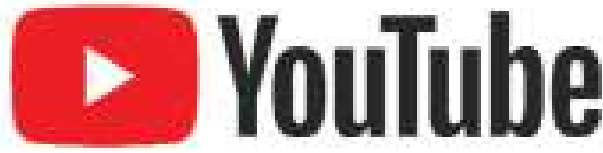
Messi has built a strong bond with Spain. He arrived at Barcelona at age 13, when he and his family came to the country to try his luck at the club's youth academy.

He was the best player of his generation during two decades at Barcelona, where he won multiple titles before leaving in 2021.

Eldense has historical

ties with Barcelona. It was founded by a group of supporters of the Catalan club in September 1921, hence its blue and red colors.

The 39-year-old Messi was named this week on the shortlist for another Ballon d'Or award after guiding Argentina to a runner-up finish at the World Cup and winning the MLS Cup with Inter Miami.



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Ganapati Bappa Morya! Pune Idols Head to Kashmir

PTI

Pune, Sep 9: Chants of “Ganapati Bappa Morya” are set to reverberate in the Kashmir Valley during the Ganesh festival beginning next week as replicas of idols of three “manache” or revered Ganesh mandals in Pune city are making their way to Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite security threats and alleged warnings issued by militant outfits, local organisers are expanding public Ganeshotsav celebrations across four to five Kashmir districts this year.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the Ganesh festival is being celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir with the idols being provided through an initiative of the Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganapati Trust.

Replicas of the idols of the top three ‘manache’ Ganesh in Pune city -- Shri Kasba Ganapati, Shri Tambdi Jogeshwari, and Guruji Talim Ganapati -- were handed over to members of Ganesh mandals from Jammu and Kashmir at a ceremony held at the Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganapati Trust temple here. The idols will then be taken to Kashmir.

Sandeep Kaul, a member of a Ganesh mandal from Kashmir, said, “It is a great feeling to come here and take the idols to the valley and celebrate the festival. We generally celebrate Ganesh festival for five days. In central and southern Kashmir, the festival will be celebrated for five days while in downtown Srinagar, the celebration will go on for seven days.”

The idols were formally worshipped before being handed over to the representatives of the Ganesh mandals from the Valley.

Apart from Kaul, other representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Ganesh mandals, including Mohit Bhan, Rishabh Chaku, Shishant Chaku, Sandeep Raina, Sanjeev Raina and Hitesh Raina, were also present to receive the idols.

Punit Balan, Trustee at the Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganapati Trust, said public Ganeshotsav has been planned in four to five districts of Kashmir this year, and claimed that organisers had received threats from militants for celebrating the festival.

“Despite the threats and without worrying about their own lives, the enthusiasm of the organisers to celebrate Ganeshotsav is certainly commendable. Their courage deserves to be appreciated,” he said.

The public celebration of Ganeshotsav at Lal Chowk in Kashmir, which had remained suspended for 34 years, resumed in 2022. The festival has subsequently been celebrated at various places in the Kashmir Valley, according to the temple trust.

The initiative aims to further expand the celebration of the festival in the region this year, the organisers said.

Representatives of the Kasba Ganapati, Tambdi Jogeshwari, Guruji Talim, Tulshibaug and Akhil Mandai Ganapati mandals, along with senior police officials, were present at the ceremony.

Gen Z’s Hairline Fix: Transplant Rush Sparks Caution

Payal Banerjee

New Delhi: Social media-driven appearance consciousness and increasing cases of early-onset hair loss are prompting a growing number of young adults, including those in their early 20s, to seek consultations for receding hairlines and hair transplantation, according to dermatologists and hair-restoration experts.

Experts, however, cautioned that a desire for a sharper or “perfect” hairline does not necessarily make a young person a suitable candidate for transplantation, stressing the need to establish the cause and likely progression of hair loss before considering surgery.

Dr Neetu Bhari, Professor in the Dermatology department at AIIMS, Delhi, noted that younger people are increasingly becoming conscious of even minor changes in their hairline, partly due to the constant comparison fostered by social media.

“Hair loss at a young age needs to be approached as a medical concern first and a cosmetic concern later,” she said.

The priority should be to identify the cause, assess whether the condition is progressive and start appropriate treatment at the right time, Dr Bhari emphasised.

“A transplant is not always the first or best option for a young patient. In many cases, early diagnosis and medical management can help preserve existing hair and delay or avoid the need for surgery. Young people should therefore seek a proper dermatological as-



essment rather than making decisions based solely on how their hairline looks in photographs or on social media,” Dr Bhari said.

Dr Gaurav Garg, Senior Dermatologist, Hair Transplant Surgeon and Medical Director at Dermalife Skin and Hair Clinic, Delhi, said, “We are seeing a clear increase in enquiries from younger patients, including those in their early 20s, asking about hairline restoration and hair transplantation.”

Social media has changed how young people perceive their appearance --a slightly receding hairline that may previously have been accepted as a normal variation is now noticed and compared with celebrities and influencers, he said.

“At the same time, we are seeing genuine cases of early-onset hair loss. However, wanting a transplant does not automatically mean that a young patient is ready for one; the cause, pattern and likely progression of hair loss must first be assessed,” Dr Garg stated.

Admin Sets 2-month Deadline for Jammu Forest Demarcation

PTI

Jammu, Sept 9: Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday reviewed the progress of forest land demarcation and directed the revenue and forest departments to complete the exercise within two months.

Chairing a meeting of senior officers to discuss the issues related to the demarcation exercise here, the divisional commissioner said the demarcation survey and installation of boundary pillars on forest lands is the top priority of the government.

“The complete installation of all boundary pillars is to be completed by the end of this year,” he said, emphasising close coordination between the revenue and forest departments, time-bound action and regular monitoring to ensure completion of the forest lands demarcation exercise within two months.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Senthil Kumar, briefed the meeting on the status of forest land demarcation and highlighted issues related to old and incomplete records, maps and boundary descriptions in certain forest areas.

He informed that out of 1,555 forest areas in Jammu Division, around 215 have been identified as difficult forests requiring joint surveys with the revenue department, an official statement said.

Senthil Kumar said around 24,000 boundary pillars are re-



quired to be installed in these forests, while nearly 25,000 boundary pillars have already been installed in the last three months.

The divisional commissioner directed the concerned officers to finalise a district-wise schedule within one week in consultation with all divisional forest officers and concerned revenue officers. The schedule shall clearly indicate the areas to be covered, field teams, responsible officers, range officers and dates for the field exercise, the statement said.

Reviewing forest land issues related to roads and other infrastructure projects, the divisional commissioner directed the concerned officers to expedite cases involving alternate land and transfer proposals and take up pending matters with the concerned deputy commissioners.

He also directed the divisional forest officers to provide necessary guidance to the concerned departmental authorities for timely processing of cases on the ‘PARIVESH’ portal, particularly with regard to uploading of requisite information and to resolve minor issues at the local level through proper coordination.

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