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J&K Assembly Set For Busy Monday

Ease of Doing Business Bill, slew of private members' Bills on agenda



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is scheduled to take up the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, along with a wide range of Private Members' Bills when it meets in Srinagar on Monday.

According to the List of Business issued by the Assembly Secretariat, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, will introduce the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 2026). The Bill has already been published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

The proposed legislation seeks to replace

permission-based controls with a rule-based governance framework, with the stated objectives of facilitating ease of doing business and ease of living, generating employment, attracting investment and promoting long-term economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the proposed law, enterprises would generally be permitted to undertake activities unless specifically prohibited by law. It also provides for principles of proportionality, transparency and time-bound decision-making.

The Bill envisages deemed approvals in cases where applications are not disposed of within prescribed timelines.

One of its key provisions is a proposed three-year moratorium on routine | [More on P6](#)

J&K Daily Wagers Plan Assembly Gherao Tomorrow

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Casual Daily Wagers Forum has announced an Assembly gherao in Srinagar on September 28, demanding a clear and time-bound roadmap for the regularisation of nearly 61,000 daily wagers. Forum president Sajad Ahmad Paray, addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Saturday, appealed to political parties, trade unions, religious leaders, civil society | [More on P6](#)

THE ASSEMBLY IS FURTHER SCHEDULED to consider Bills concerning participation of local youth in minor-mineral mining and amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010.



Apple harvesting underway in Kashmir orchards as the season's crop is picked and packed for market. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Rs 82 Cr Collected From Aspirants By JKPSC, JKSSB In 2 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) collected more than Rs 82 crore in examination and application fees from job aspirants over a two-year period, according to government data accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The data shows that JKPSC collected Rs 15,00,99,000, while JKSSB collected Rs 67,44,41,800 during the period, taking the combined amount to Rs 82.45 crore.

The government said the examination and application fees are used to partly meet the expenditure incurred by the recruiting agencies in conducting the recruitment process.

According to the government, such expenditure includes administrative, technical and logistical costs,



scrutiny and processing of applications, conduct of examinations, engagement of examination centres and manpower, preparation and handling of question papers, security arrangements, IT infrastructure, evaluation and declaration of results.

It further said the recruiting agencies prescribe applicable fees in accordance with relevant rules and provide concessions to specified categories wherever admissible under the prescribed provisions.

The government said the

practice is broadly consistent with that followed by national recruiting agencies, including the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).

"Accordingly, the examination/application fee is not treated as a source of revenue or profit," the government said, adding that the fee is primarily intended to partly defray the expenditure incurred by the recruiting agencies in carrying out the recruitment process. (KNO)

J&K Tightens Juvenile Justice Rules

New rules provide for inquiry and suspension of JJB, CWC members

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has amended the Jammu and Kashmir Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, introducing provisions for inquiries, suspension and time-bound action against members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs).

As per the amended rules, any complaint against a JJB member will be subject to an inquiry by the government, except in the case of judicial officers. Complaints against judicial members will be forwarded to the Registrar of the High Court for necessary action.

The rules mandate that an inquiry must be completed within two months, while appropriate | [More on P6](#)

'No Citizen Left Behind'

Restoring Sight To 220 People A Remarkable Achievement: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday commended the Armed Forces Medical Services for conducting a mega eye surgical camp under 'Operation Drishti' in Tangdhar, Karnah, where 220 people underwent sight-restoring surgeries.

In a post on X, Sinha praised the surgeons and medical personnel for conducting the camp in an underground operation theatre in the shelling-prone border area.

"Restoring sight to 220 people in an underground operation theatre in a challenging border area is a remarkable achievement," the LG said, describing the initiative as a reflection of the Armed Forces' commitment to public welfare.

He said the medical team, led by Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, demonstrated the spirit of Operation Sadbhavana, the Army's civic outreach programme in Jammu and



Kashmir.

According to Sinha, the camp brought advanced eye-care procedures, including phacoemulsification, retinal and glaucoma surgeries, to remote border areas.

The camp was organised by the Armed Forces Medical Services under Operation Drishti. Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth on Friday reviewed the operational preparedness of forward formations along the Line of Control in north Kashmir and also visited the camp.

The specialist military doctors conducted the surgeries over two | [More on P6](#)

Borders Are Fixed, Threats Have Become Fluid: DM

Agencies

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India needs to maintain a balance between diplomacy and military capabilities, asserting that the country possesses both the "power of argument" and the "argument of power" and would use the approach required by the situation.

Addressing a defence conclave, Singh said diplomacy and military preparedness must complement each other, stressing that soft power cannot replace hard power.

"Soft power can be a complement to hard power, but it cannot be its alternative in any way," he said.

Singh said India's traditions did not view power and peace as contradictory, but alleged that after Independence, some leaders treated power and morality as alternatives.

Referring to the early 1960s, he claimed that then Prime Minister | [More on P6](#)

HC Transfers Judicial Record Fabrication Case To Crime Branch

Grants Bail To Woman Advocate

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has transferred the investigation into an FIR concerning alleged fabrication of judicial records in Baramulla to the Crime Branch, directing the Inspector General of Crimes, Kashmir, to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for a comprehensive probe.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Parihar passed the direction while hearing a petition challenging FIR No. 99/2026 registered at Police Station Baramulla under Sections 61(2), 316(5), 318(4), 337, 339 and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The court observed that the case involved allegations

of fabrication and forgery of judicial and government records and their subsequent use for securing changes in revenue records and rights over immovable property. It said the role of every person connected with the alleged conspiracy needed to be ascertained on the basis of legally admissible evidence.

The IGP Crimes, Kashmir, has been directed to constitute the SIT comprising senior officers of the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police/ Deputy Superintendent of Police and supervise the investigation. The SIT has also been directed to submit periodic status reports to the Registrar (Vigilance) of the High Court.

The Court | [More on P6](#)

Stay Ahead Of Emerging Threats: Army Chief

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth has stressed the need for constant vigilance and sharper intelligence-led operations to stay ahead of emerging terrorist threats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gen Seth, who visited forward areas in north and central Kashmir, including Kupwara and Budgam, on Friday, reviewed the operational preparedness of the forces deployed in the region.

"General Seth visited Rashtriya Rifles sector headquarters under Srinagar-based Chinari Corps and reviewed operational preparedness for counter-terrorist operations," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said in a post on X.

The Army chief was briefed on the prevailing security situation and the measures instituted to "detect, deter and decisively" respond to terrorist threats.



Commending all ranks for their professionalism, commitment and high standards of operational preparedness, Gen Seth exhorted them to maintain constant vigilance, sharpen intelligence-led operations, and retain the ability to respond swiftly and precisely to emerging threats.

He also underscored the importance of seamless synergy and close coordination

Directs J&K Forces To Maintain Constant Vigilance, Sharpen Intelligence-Led Operations

Railways Drops Two Proposed Rail Projects In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Ministry of Railways has withdrawn two proposed projects in Jammu and Kashmir — the Baramulla-Uri new rail line and Qazigund-Srinagar-Budgam railway doubling project.

In a communication addressed to the General Manager, Northern Railway, the Ministry of Railways stated that the two projects "have been returned by Cabinet Secretariat and are no longer under consideration."

The ministry had earlier proposed a 46-km Baramulla-Uri new rail line and a 118-km Qazigund-Srinagar-Budgam railway doubling project to strengthen rail connectivity in the region.

The survey for the Baramulla-Uri new line and the doubling project had been completed and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared. However, the ministry has clarified that preparation of DPRs did not amount to final sanction of the projects.

As per the ministry, final approval of such | [More on P6](#)



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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Satya
Scholarship Program 2026

Description: The Satya Scholarship Program 2026, an initiative of Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust, offers 100% annual course fee coverage along with accommodation and meal support to eligible students pursuing 3–5-year undergraduate or integrated master's programmes in Medical & Health Sciences. The scholarship is available to students from Punjab admitted to 12 selected institutes in Ludhiana district and to students from Ludhiana district admitted to select Top NIRF-Ranked Medical institutions across India.
Eligibility: Open to first-year students in 3 to 5-year undergraduate or integrated master's courses in MBBS, BDS, BPT, B.Sc. (Nursing), B.Sc. (Allied and Healthcare). Must have passed Class 12 Board Exam from a recognised board in Punjab with at least 60% aggregate. Students from Punjab who have secured admission to the above courses at the 12 selected institutes in Ludhiana district are eligible. Students from the Ludhiana district who have secured admission to the above courses at select Top NIRF-Ranked Medical institutions across



India are also eligible. Annual parental income must not exceed INR 8 lakh; guardian income limits apply for orphans. Applicants must be Indian citizens and not recipients of any other educational scholarship. Note: Preference for girl students, sportspersons, persons with disabilities (PwD), orphans, and children of single parents
Prizes & Rewards: 100% annual course fee coverage for the entire course duration, with additional support for hostel, accommodation, and meals as per program guidelines. Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2026
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SAT4
QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/satya-scholarship-program-20261790043867.png

Scholarship Name 2: DXC
Progressing Minds Scholarship
for Graduation Students in STEM
2026-27

Description: The DXC Progressing Minds Scholarship for Graduation Students in STEM 2026-27, a CSR initiative by DXC Technology, supports women and transgender students pursuing undergraduate STEM studies across India. Eligibility: Open to women and transgender students pursuing graduation in a STEM-related field. Minimum 60% (or equivalent) marks in the last semester/year is required. Annual family income from all sources must not exceed INR 4,00,000. Students from PAN India are eligible. Children of DXC Technology and Buddy4Study employees are ineligible. Prizes & Rewards: INR 50,000 (one-time, fixed amount) Last Date to Apply: 15-10-2026
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DXC58
QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/dxc-progressing-minds-scholarship-for-graduation-students-in-stem-2026-271790043709.png

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Arshad Ahmad Yattoo, S/o Bashir Ahmad Yattoo, R/o Yadipora Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my son Mohammad Afaan Yattoo, born on 15-05-2023 at MM Hospital Palhallan, has his father's name wrongly recorded in his Date of Birth Certificate as "Irshad Ahmad Yattoo" instead of the correct name "Arshad Ahmad Yattoo."
I have applied for correction/updation of the father's name in the said Birth Certificate. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Poshia Begum, W/o Shabir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Chukar Pattan, Baramulla, J&K (UT), Pin-193121, hereby inform the general public that my name has inadvertently been recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. 6566-7257-7704 as "Haja Begum" instead of my correct and actual name "Poshia Begum."
I have applied for correction of my name in the Aadhaar record accordingly. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

fko

Office of the Farm Manager, Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development Zainapora – Shopian.

Tele Fax: 01933-293802.

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, sealed tenders are invited from interested persons for Auction and Disposal of Old, Senile and Pest/Disease-Susceptible Fruit Trees at ACHD Zainapora along with Uprooting/Felling, Cutting, Removal and Disposal of Resultant Wood as Firewood/Timber. The details of the trees to be auctioned are reflected below:

1. DETAILS OF THE LOT

S.No	Orchard Block	Approx. No. Of Existing Plants/Trees
01	Akbar	169
02	Lal Ambri	279
03	Traditional Varieties (Maharaji, Kitchami, Jonathan etc.)	541
04	Shalimar-I & Shalimar-II	494
05	Pink Lady	110
	Total	1593

Properly sealed tenders are to be deposited in the office of Farm Manager ACHD Zainapora by or before 30.09.2026 upto 4:30 P.M. The auction Committee shall open the bid in the office of undersigned, in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present in the auction proceedings. In case of a holiday, unavoidable circumstances, or preoccupation of the Chairman, Auction Committee, on the fixed date(s), the Department reserves the right to change the auction date(s) / opening of tenders. The changes, if any will be notified accordingly.

SCOPE OF WORK

The successful auction bidder shall be responsible, entirely at his own cost and risk, for:

1. Felling/cutting and uprooting of all fruit trees specifically marked and handed over by the Department.
2. Complete removal of the felled trees, branches, trunks, roots and other resultant material from the orchard premises.
3. Uprooting/removal of stumps and roots wherever directed by the Department.
4. Loading, transportation and unloading of all resultant wood/material.
5. The resultant wood shall be treated as firewood/timber/material for disposal and shall be removed by the successful auction purchaser after completion of all prescribed formalities.
6. Complete clearing of the site after removal of the trees.
7. The successful bidder shall arrange all labour, tools, machinery, equipment, vehicles, safety equipment and transportation required for carrying out the work.
8. The successful bidder shall ensure that no healthy or unmarked fruit tree/plant is damaged or removed.
9. Any damage caused to departmental property, irrigation infrastructure, fencing, buildings, pipelines or other assets during the operation shall be made good by the auction purchaser at his own

Terms & Conditions:

1. The minimum reserve bid amount of the trees to be auctioned is Rs. 2.38 (Rupees Two Lac Thirty Eight Thousands Only) lacs)
2. The bid offer should be accompanied with earnest money of Rs. 25000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousands Only) in the form of CDR drawn on any scheduled bank in Kashmir and pledged to in favour of Farm Manager ACHD Zainapora
3. The person(s) intending to participate in the bidding process are required to inspect the site and satisfy themselves about the inventory/quantity etc of the trees to be auctioned to avoid any chance of subsequent controversy.
4. The CDR deposited with the bid should bear the name of the bidder.
5. Cheque or cash deposited with the bid, as earnest money, shall not be accepted.
6. Proof of identity of the bidder should be attached with the bid.
7. The particulars for which bid has been offered should be recorded on the sealed envelope.
8. Complete particulars/full address of the bidder should be recorded on the envelope containing the bid.
9. The successful bidder shall have to deposit the auction amount in one installment in the office of Farm Manager ACHD Zainapora, within 07 days from the date of communication of acceptance of offer.
10. Payments of auction money in the form of cheque will not be accepted.
11. In case the committee is convinced that the highest bid offered is not genuine offer. the committee reserves the right to cancel the offer. As such, the highest bid alone should not necessarily make the bidder eligible for the contract or considered as successful bidder. The committee can invite the fresh bids for making the appropriate arrangements for auction of fruit crop.
12. On communicating the approval of bid/offer, if the successful bidder fails to deposit the auction amount and does not execute the agreement within the specified time limit, it shall be construed as backing out from the contract by the concerned. The Department, in that event, shall be within its rights to decide the matter on its merits or allot the contract to 2nd highest bidder or may re-auction the fruit crop of the respective orchard. Loss, if any sustained by the Government on this account, shall have to be made good from the defaulting contractor through the concerned Tehsilidar Recoveries and the CDR will be forfeited to Departmental revenue besides initiating action against the defaulter.
13. On depositing the auction amount, the successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement immediately with the Department on non-judicial paper of Rs.10/- as per the specimen of the Department where after only the approval of the offer and formal authority for taking possession for the fruit crop/ of concerned orchard will be issued by this office.
14. The amount offered shall include all expenses towards felling, cutting, uprooting, labour, machinery, loading, transportation, stump/ root removal, site clearance and all other incidental expenses.
15. The successful bidder shall be responsible for complete removal of the authorized trees and resultant wood at his own cost and risk.
16. No healthy or unmarked fruit tree/plant shall be damaged, felled or removed.
17. The decision of the competent authority regarding acceptance of the highest acceptable amount shall be final.
18. No resultant wood/material shall be removed from the premises until the entire accepted auction amount has been deposited and written permission for removal has been issued by the Farm Manager or authorized representative.
19. The successful bidder shall comply with all applicable statutory requirements and obtain necessary permissions, wherever required, for transportation/removal of timber, firewood or other resultant material.
20. The successful bidder shall complete the felling, removal and site-clearance work within the period prescribed by the Department.
21. A minimum of five plants of each germplasm shall be preserved till budding/grafting of the same varieties are to be made.

Sd/-

Farm Manager

Advanced Center for Horticulture Development
Zainapora Shopian

DIPK-6114/26
DATED: 26-09-2026

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Sunday | 27-09-2026

2

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Latief Tragwal, F/o: Affifa Batool R/o: Alamdar Colony C, Lal Bazar Srinagar, do hereby state that I am applying for correction of the parentage details in the school records of my daughter, Affifa Batool, who is studying at Bilaliya Educational Institute, Lal Bazar, Srinagar.

Incorrect Father's name: Muhammad Latief Tragwal
Correct Father's name: Mohammad Latief Tragwal
Incorrect Mother's name: Nelofer Begum
Correct Mother's name: Nilofar

If anybody having any objection to the said correction, he/she may contact the office of the Principal Bilaliya Educational Institute, Lal Bazar, Srinagar within 7 days of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mohammad Latief Tragwal
S/o Sona Ullah Tragwal
F/o Affifa Batool
R/o: Alamdar Colony C, Lal Bazar Srinagar

Media line adst

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the number plate of my vehicle bearing Registration No. JK01U-2729, belonging to Mohd Shafi Bhat S/o Mr. Ghulam Qadir Bhat, R/o Nowgam, has been lost while travelling from Nagbal to Shuhama, Alasteng. Despite best efforts, the said number plate could not be traced. Therefore, if the same is not recovered, I shall apply for issuance of a duplicate number plate from the concerned authorities.

If any person has any objection regarding this matter, he/she may contact the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Shafi Bhat
Mr. Ghulam Qadir Bhat

Media line adst

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tariq Ahmad Khanday, S/o Ab Gani Khanday, father of Hamid Tariq Khanday, R/o Zarkan, Shopian, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has inadvertently been recorded in Aadhaar Card No. 4907-9275-8229 as "Namid Tariq" instead of the correct name "Hamid Tariq Khanday."

I intend to get the said error corrected in the Aadhaar record. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Tariq Ahmad Khanday
S/o Ab Gani Khanday
R/o Zarkan, Shopian, District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Lubaid Mohidin, S/o Gh. Mohd. Ud Din Moomchi, R/o Baskuchan, Tehsil Barbugh, Imamsahib, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. 9454-6380-6478 as "Ubaid Ahmad Moomchi", whereas my correct name is "Ubaid Mohidin." The correct name is recorded in all my other personal and official documents. I intend to get the said error corrected in my Aadhaar record. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Deponent
Lubaid Mohidin
S/o Gh. Mohd. Ud Din Moomchi
R/o Baskuchan, Tehsil Barbugh, Imamsahib, District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the general information that Syed Khuram Halder, son of Syed Eazaz Nasir Gazi and Syed Mahjabeena Maqsood, R/o Narbal Budgam, is a student of DPS School, Budgam. The parentage of the said minor has been wrongly recorded in the school records as:

Father's name: Syed Eazaz Nasir
Mother's name: Syeda Mahjabeen Maqsood
The correct parentage is as under:
Father's name: Syed Eazaz Nasir Gazi
Mother's name: Syed Mahjabeena Maqsood

All concerned are therefore requested to take note that the above-mentioned correction is being carried out in the official records of the school.

If any person has any objection to this correction, he/she may submit the same in writing to the school authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of this period, no objection shall be entertained, and the corrected parentage shall be treated as final and will accordingly be recorded.

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my passport bearing No R7474377 the name, fathers name, mothers name is entered as SYED AFSHANA QADRI, fathers name S M A QADRI, mothers name ASMAT SAIED ASMI while my actual name is SYED AFSHAN QADRI, fathers name SYED MOHAMMAD ASHRAF QADRI, mothers name ASMAT SYED ASMI. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Regional Passport Office Sringar with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SYED AFSHAN QADRI
D/O SYED MOHAMMAD ASHRAF QADRI
R/O H. NO 3A, GREEN AVENUE, SECTOR B, PEERBAGH SRINAGAR.

mcb

نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری موٹر سائیکل زیر نمبر JK04G-4701 کے نمبر پلیٹ (Number Plate) کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہووودو ہر اے انسانیت پیچھے دے ہوئے نمبر پروفن کرے۔ بصورت دیگر انکی ڈیپلیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہووودو ایک دفتر کے اندر اندر ARTO بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

KARAN VEER S/O RAM DHAM R/O CHAK
BHAGWAN JOURIAM JAMMU
CELL: 8493092514

نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری موٹر سائیکل زیر نمبر JK04D-3284 کے نمبر پلیٹ (Number Plate) کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہووودو ہر اے انسانیت پیچھے دے ہوئے نمبر پروفن کرے۔ بصورت دیگر انکی ڈیپلیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہووودو ایک دفتر کے اندر اندر ARTO بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

محمد شعیب ولد عبد الرحیم بٹ
ساکن گل دستو بڈگام فون۔ 8825043105

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREER

Subject: Application of MUSHTAQ AHMAD GOJAR PODE for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of Wards namely SAIMA MUSHTAQ R/O BANDI BALA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJAR PODE community, having annual income is 140000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1...MUSHTAQ AHMAD GOJAR PODE Father 45 years Labour
2.... KHATOON BEGUM Mother 40 years House wife
3...SAIMA MUSHTAQ Daughter 19 years student
4...OWAIS MUSHTAQ Son 15 years ///
5...ZAHID MUSHTAQ Son 12 Years ///
5...SUFIYA MUSHTAQ daughter 10 years
6...MIRBEE BEGUM Mother 75 years H/W
The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained
fko

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Arshad Ahmad Yattoo, father of Mohammad Afaan Yattoo, hereby inform the general public that the father's name of my son, Mohammad Afaan Yattoo, Date of Birth 15/05/2023, has been inadvertently recorded as "Irshad Ahmad Yattoo" instead of the correct name "Arshad Ahmad Yattoo."

The correct particulars are:

Name: Mohammad Afaan Yattoo
S/o: Arshad Ahmad Yattoo
DOB: 15/05/2023

I have applied for correction of the above-mentioned error in the concerned record. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Noor Alam, S/o Taj Din, R/o Ibkote, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara, J&K (UT), hereby inform the general public that my son Aftab Ahmad, S/o Noor Alam, is studying at New Shine Public Secondary School, Hirri, Kupwara.

His date of birth and address have inadvertently been recorded incorrectly in the school record as 05-05-2009 and Murchana Karnah, Ibkote, respectively.

The correct particulars are as follows:

Name: Aftab Ahmad

Correct Date of Birth: 05-01-2012

Correct Address: Ibkote, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara

I have applied to the concerned authority for correction of the date of birth and address in the school record. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tariq Ahmad Wani, father of Sarhana Tariq, R/o Kech Matipora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter is wrongly recorded as "Sarhana Tariq", whereas her correct name is "Muntaha Bint Tariq."

Old Name: Sarhana Tariq

New Name: Muntaha Bint Tariq

D/o: Tariq Ahmad Wani

R/o: Kech Matipora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla

I have applied for correction of her name accordingly. Any person having any objection may submit the same before Hamdaniya Public High School, Kunzer, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that I JAVID AHMAD BANDROO S/O ABDUL RASHID BANDROO R/O BANDERPORA KHANSAHIB BUDGAM am holder of 'A' class contractor card to (A CLASS FIRM) change class J.B CONSTRUCTIONS. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

JAVID AHMAD BANDROO

S/O ABDUL RASHID BANDROO

R/O BANDERPORA KHANSAHIB BUDGAM

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Riyaz Ahmad Reshi, S/o Abdul Majeed Reshi, R/o Gani Baba, Davepora, Dardpora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter Nafiya Huraïn has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card No. 2319 2169 4209 as "Naifa Hoorain" instead of her correct name "Nafiya Huraïn" as per her Birth Certificate.

Both names refer to one and the same person. I have no objection to correction of her name in the Aadhaar record from "Naifa Hoorain" to "Nafiya Huraïn."

Any person having any objection may raise the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 237233 Session: Annual 2001 Year 2001 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed Against my name as Showkat Ahmad Khan Instead of Showkat Ahamad Khan

Now, I have applied for correction/ rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Magam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Showkat Ahamad Khan

Father's name: Ab Aziz Khan

Mother's Name: Misra Bano

DOB: 22-06-1986

Residence: Kawoosa Khalisa

Mobile no: 9682621686

bmj

آر سی کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی (Alto 800) زیر نمبر UP24AK-2649 کی آر سی (RC) کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ جو کہ رام باغ سے چھاپا پورہ کے درمیان کہیں گر گئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہووودو ہر اے انسانیت پیچھے دے ہوئے نمبر پروفن کرے۔

ازمنتہی۔ فون۔ 9541817997

Srinagar Ring Road

NHAI Sets December-End Deadline for Phase-I

Agencies

Srinagar: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has set December-end as the internal deadline for completing the first phase of the Srinagar Ring Road from Galander in Pulwama district to Narbal, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said on Saturday.

Garg said an inspection of the 46-km stretch was conducted by the divisional administration along with NHAI, traffic authorities and engineering departments to identify bottlenecks, encumbrances and issues being faced by contractors and work out measures to expedite construction.

“The NHAI team has told me that they have fixed a deadline of December-end to complete the project. We are trying to achieve that and speed up the progress,” Garg told reporters after concluding an extensive tour of the project.

He said local representatives and MLAs had also repeatedly raised the need to operationalise Phase-I at the earliest.

Garg said transmission towers had earlier emerged as an issue affecting the progress of the project, but the district administration had completed the process of compensation and its disbursement.

“As of now, there is no such obstruction, neither

in terms of acquisition nor in terms of any utility, due to which the work has been halted,” he said.

He said the Galander-Narbal stretch would improve connectivity between north and south Kashmir by providing a direct route between Pulwama and Narbal.

The road is also expected to provide an alternative route for traffic heading towards Gulmarg and Baramulla, while commuters travelling towards Bandipora and Sonamarg would also be able to use the road, he said.

Garg said Phase-I would subsequently connect with Phase-II, which would extend towards Ganderbal and then towards Pandach, eventually forming a ring around Srinagar.

“Technically, this is an attempt to complete a ring, the first phase of which we are slowly moving towards,” he said.

On connectivity with Srinagar airport and NIFT, Garg said a proposal had been discussed and consultations were being held with the concerned stakeholders.

“We were on the way at that point as well, how we will provide connectivity towards NIFT and the airport,” he said.

He said the administration was also examining a proposal to provide relief to Budgam town through the project. The proposal would be moved internally by NHAI, he said.(KNS)

KU, JKAACL Join Hands to Offer Calligraphy Diploma

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir (KU) and the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly offer a two-year Diploma Programme in Traditional and Professional Calligraphy.

The programme, aimed at promoting skill-based education and preserving traditional calligraphic practices, will be offered through KU’s Shri Pran Krishan Kaul Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) in collaboration with JKAACL.

The MoU was signed by KU Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal and JKAACL Secretary Harvinder Kour (JKAS) in the presence of senior officials and academic functionaries of both institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, KU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan said the programme would place traditional calligraphic practices within a structured academic and skill-development framework while creating

opportunities for professional training.

Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, B. M. Sharma, IFS, said such collaborations could have a long-term impact and added that the department would explore further opportunities for collaboration with the university.

The diploma will have an intake of 10 students per academic session. Candidates who have passed Class 12 or an equivalent examination will be eligible to apply.

Under the programme, three months of academic instruction each year will be conducted at IMFA, while the remaining period of traditional calligraphy training will be held at JKAACL premises.

KU will be responsible for the curriculum, examinations, academic monitoring and certification, while JKAACL will provide faculty, infrastructure and logistical support. The academy will also provide a monthly stipend or honorarium to selected enrolled students as per its rules.

Chanapora Residents Seek 24×7 SDH Status for PHC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents of Chanapora and adjoining areas have renewed their demand for upgrading the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Chanapora into a 24×7 Sub-District Hospital, citing inadequate healthcare services and underutilisation of the existing infrastructure.

The residents said the X-ray facility at the health centre has remained non-functional for the past six months, allegedly due to the absence of an X-ray technician. Despite repeated representations to the authorities, the facility has not been restored, forcing patients to approach private diagnostic centres for examinations.

They said the situation was particularly burdensome for economically weaker families who rely on government healthcare facilities

for affordable treatment.

The residents also questioned the underutilisation of the health centre despite substantial investment in its infrastructure. According to them, the facility has a 50-bed capacity and was developed at an estimated cost of around Rs 23 crore.

The health centre is equipped with two modular operation theatres, two oxygen plants, an uninterrupted power supply system, lift facilities and other medical equipment.

The residents said the operation theatres had been made functional during the COVID-19 pandemic, when hundreds of Lower Segment Caesarean Section (LSCS) procedures were reportedly performed. However, they said the facilities were subsequently shut down despite continued demand for medical services in the area.(KNO)



Children enjoy a day of play at an outdoor park in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Properties Worth Rs 7.11 Crore Attached in Srinagar in Drug, Terror Cases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Properties worth over Rs 7.11 crore have been attached or frozen in four separate cases linked to alleged drug trafficking and terror-related activities, police said on Saturday.

According to a police spokesperson, the action was taken under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as part of the ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking, terror activities and their financial networks.

In the first action, Zakura Police Station attached a residential house and adjoining land at Bilal Colony, Zakura, valued at around Rs 2.5 crore, belonging to Owais Ahmad Rather in an NDPS case.

Police said the property was identified during investigation as having been acquired in connection with alleged illicit drug trafficking. It was attached under Section 68-F(1) of the NDPS Act, restricting its sale, lease, transfer or alteration.

Nowgam Police Station attached another property worth around Rs 2.85 crore belonging to Sheeraz Ahmed Sheikh of Wagoora. The property comprises a two-storeyed concrete building, two shops and a rice mill constructed over 18 marlas of land. Police said the attachment was made under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act following approval from the competent authority.

In another action, Ahmadnagar Police Station attached a residential property at Danihama, Hazratbal, valued at approximately Rs 1.30 crore, belonging to Zahoor Ahmad Mir. The

property comprises a single-storeyed house with adjoining land measuring six marlas and was attached under Section 25 of the UAPA in connection with a case registered under the Arms Act and UAPA provisions.

Meanwhile, Shalteng Police Station froze a single-storeyed residential house along with seven marlas of land at Check Mujund, valued at approximately Rs 46 lakh, belonging to Amir Ahmad Mir in an NDPS case.

Police said the investigation had established that the property was allegedly acquired from proceeds of illicit drug trafficking.

The police spokesperson said the action forms part of sustained efforts to disrupt the financial networks associated with drug trafficking and terror-related activities.

Power Shutdown Announced in Srinagar Parts On Sept 30

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has announced a scheduled power shutdown in several areas of Srinagar on September 30.

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, power supply will remain affected from 8 am to 2 pm

due to the scheduled shutdown of the 33 kV Airforce line.

The affected areas include Peerbagh, Cooperative Colony, Jeelanaabad, Hyderpora, Nadru, Police Headquarters, Airport, Sheikhpora, Friends Colony, Humhama Heights and Tawheed Bagh, besides adjoining areas.

Similarly, power supply in several areas of Sopore will remain affected on

September 29 from 8 am to 2 pm due to the scheduled shutdown of the 33 kV Delina line.

The affected areas include Amaragarh, Seer, Krankshivan Colony, Old Town Sopore, Wagub, Singhpora, Delina, BSF, Kanispora, Kralhar, PHE, Jetty and TC, besides adjoining areas.

KPDCL has advised consumers in the affected areas to plan their activities accordingly.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Department of Information Press and Public Relations, Kashmir

Email: ddipri-kmr@jk.gov.in Exchange Road Kothi Bagh, Srinagar-190001

Office of the Deputy Director Information (PR), Kashmir Notice Inviting sealed Dasti Quotations

Subject: Invitation of sealed Dasti Quotation from Registered Transporters/Travel Agencies for Hiring of Vehicles as and when required during the Financial Year 2026-27.

Sealed Dasti Quotations, duly affixed with a Revenue Stamp of Rs. 2/-, are hereby invited from Registered Transporters/Travel Agencies for providing vehicles of different categories as and when required for coverage of different government functions/tours and official duties of the office of Deputy Director Information (PR), Kashmir, during the Financial year 2026-27.

The interest Registered Transporters/Travel Agencies shall furnish the following particulars along with their quotations:

S.No	Particulars	Details
1	Name of the Transporter/Travel Agency	
2	Registration Number Transporter/Travel Agency of the	
3	Office Address	
4	Contact Number(s)	
5	Signature with Office Seal	

Terms & Conditions

- Vehicles shall be hired as and when required during the Financial Year 2026-27.
- The type, category and number of vehicles shall be determined by this office from time to time, depending upon the requirement.
- Only Registered Transporters/Travel Agencies shall be eligible to particular.
- The successful transporter/travel agency shall provide the requisite vehicle(s) at the date, time and place as communicated by this office.

- Only vehicles of Model year 2022 or later, in good running condition, shall be provided.
- The vendor shall ensure that the vehicle(s) are roadworthy, properly maintained and possess valid Registration Certificate (RC), Insurance, Fitness Certificate, Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate and all other statutory documents, as applicable.
- The driver deployed with the vehicle shall possess a valid Driving Licence issued by the competent authority, have adequate driving experience, be well acquainted with local routes and maintain proper conduct while on duty.
- The rates quoted shall not exceed the Government-approved rates, wherever applicable.
- Fuel charges shall be paid separately on actual trip basis, wherever admissible under Government norms.
- Payment shall be made strictly as per the Government-approved rates on production of duly verified bills, subject to availability of funds.

- Sealed Dasti Quotations shall be submitted in the office of the undersigned on or before the expiry of Seven (07) days from the date of publication of this Notice Inviting Quotations in the local daily newspapers, during office hours.
- The quotations shall be opened on the 8th day at 2:00 PM in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who may wish to be present.
- This office reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations, wholly or partly, without assigning any reason thereof.

Deputy Director Information (PR)
Kashmir, Srinagar

No. INF/K/PR-395-396/2026
DIPK-6116/26
Dated: 26.09.2026

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORA: 01933-224132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 14 Rabi-ul-Sani 1448	PRAYERS <table><tr><td>FAJR</td><td>4: 59</td></tr><tr><td>ZUHR</td><td>12:22</td></tr><tr><td>ASR</td><td>4: 40</td></tr><tr><td>Magrib</td><td>6: 26</td></tr><tr><td>ISHA</td><td>7: 46</td></tr></table>	FAJR	4: 59	ZUHR	12:22	ASR	4: 40	Magrib	6: 26	ISHA	7: 46
FAJR	4: 59										
ZUHR	12:22										
ASR	4: 40										
Magrib	6: 26										
ISHA	7: 46										

This Day In History

- 1290 - Earthquake in Gulf of Chili China, reportedly kills 100,000
- 1794 - French troops conquer Crèvecoeur
- 1821 - Mexican revolutionary forces led by Agustín de Iturbide occupy Mexico City as Spanish withdraw, bringing an end to the Mexican War of Independence
- 1864 - Battle at Pilot Knob (Ft Davidson) American Civil War, Missouri: 1700 killed/injured
- 1905 - The physics journal Annalen der Physik publishes Albert Einstein's paper "Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon its Energy Content?", introducing the equation $E=mc^2$.
- 1938 - League of Nations declares Japan the aggressor against China
- 1940 - Nazi Germany, Italy & Japan sign 10 year formal alliance (Axis)
- 1941 - US launches its 1st Liberty ship, freighter SS Patrick Henry
- 1951 - Persian troops occupy oil refinery at Abadan
- 1953 - Typhoon destroys one third of Nagoya, Japan
- 1961 - Sierre Leone becomes 100th member of UN
- 1973 - Soyuz 12 carries 2 cosmonauts into Earth orbit (2 days)
- 1981 - Iran defends its besieged port of Abadan, driving back Iraqi forces
- 1988 - The National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi is founded in Burma (Myanmar)
- 1991 - US President George H. W. Bush decides to end full-time B-52 bombers alert.
- 1993 - The Sukhumi massacre takes place in Abkhazia.
- 1996 - In Afghanistan, the Taliban capture the capital city Kabul after driving out President Burhanuddin Rabbani and executing former leader Mohammad Najibullah.
- 2001 - At its two-day meeting in Vienna, OPEC decides to keep its production quotas unchanged at 23.2 million barrels per day, despite crude oil being at its lowest price levels since 1999
- 2002 - Timor-Leste (East Timor) joins the United Nations.
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 2008 - CNSA astronaut Zhai Zhigang becomes the first Chinese person to perform a spacewalk while flying on Shenzhou 7.
- 2009 - German Federal elections return Angela Merkel for her second term as Chancellor at head of centre-right coalition government
- 2012 - UN publicly releases documents from China and Japan detailing their contesting claims for the Senkoku Islands
- 2012 - The Mars Curiosity rover discovers what evidence of a fast-moving streambed-in Mars
- 2012 - The 2004 Japanese discovery of the 113th element has been confirmed
- 2013 - 7 people are killed in mosque bombings in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2013 - 19 people are killed and 45 are injured in a bus bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2013 - At least 22 people are killed after a refugee ship capsizes off the island of Java
- 2013 - 60 people are killed after a building collapses in Mumbai, India
- 2014 - 57 people are killed after Mount Ontake erupts in Japan
- 2015 - "Junts per Si" pro-independence alliance win parliamentary majority in Catalonia
- 2015- A "Supermoon" coincides with a lunar eclipse creating a "Blood Moon" over much of the earth
- 2017- Researchers confirm existence of giant tree rat "Vika" in the Solomon Islands that can crack open coconuts
- 2017- Thai Ex-Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra found guilty of criminal negligence in rice subsidy scheme, sentenced to 5 years in absentia
- 2018- India's Supreme Court rules overturns 158-year old rule, section 497, decriminalizing adultery because it was discriminatory against women
- 2018- Justin Milne, head of Australian Broadcasting Corporation resigns amid allegations of firing journalists for the government
- 2019- US Democrats issue their first subpoena to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in impeachment inquiry
- 2020- Border fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan forces over disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh kills at least 23
- 2020- Details of President Donald Trump's tax returns released by the New York Times showing he paid \$750 in income tax (2016 & 2017) revealing "chronic losses and years of tax avoidance"

The New Report Card

Kashmir schools need an assessment system that sees how children think, create and improve, rather than judging their future mainly through a three-hour examination.



Dr. Mushtaq Rather

A child can spend months learning, questioning, making mistakes and finding better ways to solve a problem, only to have that experience reduced to a few numbers on a report card. A three-hour paper can then become the main evidence used to judge what the child knows and where the child goes next. That habit has defined classrooms for years. Teachers know what the examination will ask, so teaching tends to follow the same path. Students learn what is likely to appear on the paper. Memory becomes the safest investment because memory is what the system has traditionally rewarded. But the problem goes deeper than marks. Traditional examinations largely test remembering and, to some extent, understanding. Skills such as applying knowledge, analysing information, evaluating an argument and creating something new receive far less attention. Those are precisely the abilities associated with learning in the 21st century. A change in teaching therefore needs a change in assessment. Teachers cannot be expected to develop skills that the assessment system barely sees.

The National Education Policy 2020 recognised this link by moving toward competency-based education and assessment. Its emphasis on assessment for learning and assessment as learning places assessment within daily classroom work rather than reserving it for the end of a term. The Digital Holistic Progress Card, developed under PARAKH, the national assessment centre established by NCERT, follows this direction. Its significance lies in what it chooses to record. A school report card mainly showed marks in different subjects for years. Teachers, however, see a much wider picture. They see a student's confidence, creativity, leadership, empathy, classroom participation and progress over time. A digital holistic progress card attempts to bring some of that evidence into the formal record. The framework has been developed for the foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary stages. It supports competency-based assessment, continuous tracking of learners, conceptual understanding and attention to cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains.

That changes the central question. Instead of asking only how much a child scored, the system explores how the child is developing as a learner. The teacher remains central to this process. Formative assessment becomes part of ordinary teaching. A teacher can see whether a learning outcome has been achieved and adjust the next classroom activity accordingly. Feedback can then become a working tool rather than a comment written after an examination has ended. The student also becomes an active participant. Self-assessment is one of the most significant features of the Digital Holistic Progress Card. Through an individual account, a student can record how a learning activity went, the difficulties faced and the areas that need further work. The student can see progress over time rather than depending entirely on a teacher's judgment. That changes the relationship between learner and assessment. A child is no longer simply the recipient of a score. The child becomes part of the process of understanding how learning happens. Peer and parent feedback brings in another perspective. A teacher sees the student in the classroom, while parents see the child in another setting. Peers experience the student's participation in shared activities. Bringing these perspectives into the progress record can produce a fuller account of development than a mark sheet can provide.

“**A report card should tell a parent something useful about a child. It should show where the child has gained confidence, where a concept remains unclear, how well knowledge is being applied and what kind of support could help next.**”

Kashmir schools have seen the limitations of reform before. The experience of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation showed that changing assessment formats without sufficient attention to how students experience those formats can create new anxieties. Any new system therefore needs careful implementation, teacher preparation and clarity about what is being assessed. The promise of the Digital Holistic Progress Card lies in its ability to connect assessment with teaching rather than treating the two as separate activities. Its success will depend on whether schools use it as a genuine learning tool or turn it into another layer of paperwork. That difference is important because a digital form can become another administrative task if teachers simply fill in boxes without using the information to improve classroom teaching. A holistic assessment system becomes useful when its findings change what happens next in the classroom. The framework also moves away from fixed labels such as ranks and rigid percentages as the sole language of achievement. Descriptive indicators can show strengths and areas needing improvement. Such reporting can reduce the pressure of constant comparison and give families a clearer account of how a child is learning. A report card should tell a parent something useful about a child. It should show where the child has gained confidence, where a concept remains unclear, how well knowledge is being applied and what kind of support could help next. Marks still have a place in education. They can provide evidence of performance in particular tasks. The mistake lies in asking them to speak for the whole child. A classroom produces far more evidence than a final answer sheet can capture. If schools want students who can think, analyse, create and assess their own work, the record of their education must begin to recognise those abilities. The real test of the Digital Holistic Progress Card will therefore come inside classrooms, rather than on policy documents. Its value will be seen when a teacher changes a lesson after a student's feedback reveals a difficulty, a student identifies a weakness before an examination exposes it, and parents see a child's progress rather than a single number. That would make the report card something closer to a record of learning, rather than a verdict on a child.

The author is an educator and columnist from Mattan, Anantnag. He can be reached at aroushfatimamar15@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Missing Stone

A landscape rich in building stone is leaving families struggling to secure a basic material for their homes, raising questions about quarrying rules, public access and the way regulation works on the ground.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

Kashmir has stone in abundance. It lies in the mountains, beside streams and beneath a landscape that has supplied building material for generations. Families have used it to raise house plinths above damp ground and winter snow. A large house and a modest one may differ greatly in size, but both have traditionally depended on the same basic material. That ordinary access has become difficult. Families building or repairing homes have faced a strange contradiction for roughly a decade. Stone remains plentiful in the landscape, while a truckload can be difficult to secure and painfully expensive at the point of sale. When a basic building material becomes scarce despite its natural abundance, the public has a right to know what is happening between the quarry and the household. Suppliers sometimes tell customers that available stone has been set aside for government works. A household order, they say, may be possible only after dark. Whether such accounts arise from official restrictions, a shortage of authorised quarries or the practices of individual suppliers, the result is the same for a family trying to build a lawful home. Buying stone begins to feel like an exercise in finding a favour rather than making an ordinary purchase. A household has little reason to buy stone beyond its actual need. Extra material takes up space, adds transport costs and becomes another burden at a construction site. Stone is hardly a commodity a family will hide away in the hope of selling it later. It is heavy, bulky and tied to a specific building job. The strongest case for regulation therefore lies at the quarry. Authorities need to know where extraction takes place, how much material is removed, whether environmental conditions are respected and whether the stone has been obtained lawfully. Once those conditions have been met, the person building a house should have a clear and lawful route to purchase what the work needs. Controls at the wrong point create room for delay, arbitrary demands and corruption. A system can protect hillsides without making a household prove its need for a truckload of stone through an elaborate process. The human cost appears at the construction site. A family that has saved for years to build a home faces a simple choice when stone becomes expensive or difficult to obtain: pay the higher cost, postpone the work or leave a partly built structure exposed to weather. Delays bring their own expenses. Labour remains engaged, other materials wait to be used and construction costs rise as a project extends. Government works may have organised sup-

ply while an individual family struggles to complete the foundation of its own house. Public works have legitimate needs, but the basic needs of citizens cannot become an option in the system that supplies them. Environmental protection presents a serious counterweight. Uncontrolled quarrying can damage hillsides, create dust, disturb watercourses and affect nearby communities. Kashmir cannot treat its mountains as an unlimited source of building material. Quarrying has to follow environmental safeguards, licensing conditions and limits based on the land's capacity. That principle points toward better regulation, rather than toward a closed or opaque market. Kashmir also has a reason to look again at its traditional use of stone. Houses have long used local stone, particularly in foundations and plinths. Where design, geology and local conditions permit, greater use of stone could reduce dependence on fired bricks and potentially reduce some pollution associated with brick kilns. Such a shift would need proper environmental assessment, since quarrying and transporting stone also have environmental costs. Replacing one source of harm with another would solve little. Jammu and Kashmir already has rules governing minor-mineral concessions, including quarry licences and environmental conditions. Official guidance also provides for short-term permits for residents, alongside provisions for government and urgent works. The central question is how these provisions function in practice. How many authorised quarries are operating? How much stone reaches households? What does a legal purchase cost? Can a resident obtain transport documents without unnecessary delay? The government can answer these questions through a system that is visible to the public. Suitable quarry zones can be identified after environmental assessment. The list of authorised quarries can be made public. Legal points of sale can be clearly identified. Transport documents can be simple to obtain and easy to verify. District officials can examine complaints from household buyers and determine whether supplies reserved for government projects are leaving adequate access for ordinary construction. Oversight belongs where it can prevent environmental damage and illegal extraction: at the quarry, during transport and through licensing. It should not turn the household doorstep into the final checkpoint of a process that began with a natural resource belonging to the landscape. Stone may be common in Kashmir, but a house built upon it represents years of saving for a family. A foundation is often the first visible sign that a family's long effort has begun to become a home. Kashmir does not have to choose between protecting its mountains and allowing its people to build. The better system is one that protects the land, keeps quarrying lawful and lets a citizen buy the stone needed for a home openly, during the day and at a fair price.

The author is an advocate practising before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar. He writes on legal, social, political and public issues. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

The Loom Is Slowing in Kashmir

Behind the elegance of the Kashmiri shawl lies a craft that takes months to finish and loses, again and again, to a market that rewards speed.

A Kani shawl can take a craftsman months to finish, sometimes years, worked bobbin by bobbin on a loom that has changed little since the Mughal court first prized it. Sozni embroiderers bend over the same length of pashmina for weeks, adding motifs so fine that a single square inch can hold hours of labour invisible to any buyer glancing at a price tag. This is the plain economic problem sitting beneath the poetry of the Kashmiri shawl: a market built on speed is asking a craft built on time to compete, and it cannot win on those terms without help it is not currently getting.

The Kashmiri shawl earned its place in the world in a different economy altogether. Persian, Central Asian and Mughal exchange influenced its motifs, floral jaal, and paisleys, over centuries of contact rather than trend cycles. Rulers gave shawls as gifts of honour, while nobles wore them as proof of taste. The reputation spread outward until Kashmir itself became known partly through cloth, an unusual thing for a place to be defined by an object made mostly by hand. That history gives the shawl its authority in showrooms from Srinagar to Paris, but it does nothing to protect the person making it today. A young weaver watching a parent spend a year on a single Kani piece, only to see it undercut by a machine-loomed imitation sold at a fraction of the price, has a rational reason to look elsewhere for work.

Skills that survived Mughal courts and colonial trading houses are now being weighed against the ordinary calculation of whether a craft pays enough to raise a family, and in enough cases the calculation is coming out against tradition. Part of the difficulty is that buyers often cannot tell the difference. Handmade Sozni work and machine embroidery can look similar enough over a shop counter that a customer walks away with an imitation believing it genuine, while the artisan who spent months on the real thing competes against a price he never set and cannot match.

“**Authenticity has become a problem of information as much as craftsmanship, and no amount of skill protects an artisan from buyers who cannot verify what they are purchasing.**”

Authenticity has become a problem of information as much as craftsmanship, and no amount of skill protects an artisan from buyers who cannot verify what they are purchasing. The materials complicate the picture further. Pashmina, taken from the undercoat of Himalayan goats, remains the legitimate backbone of the industry. Shahtoosh does not.

The fiber, once prized above all others, comes from the endangered Tibetan antelope, and buying or selling it is illegal for good reason. Any serious plan to protect the shawl has to accept that constraint rather than treat it as an inconvenience, because a craft that rebuilds itself on the extinction of another species has only exchanged one disappearance for another. None of this is abstract to the families who have passed looms and needles from one generation to the next. A shawl given at a wedding, kept for de-

The fixes are not mysterious, even if they are difficult to put into practice. Certification and traceability could let a buyer know, with some confidence, whether a shawl took a year to make or a day. Fair compensation tied to the actual hours a Sozni or Kani piece demands would change the calculation for a young artisan deciding whether to stay. Digital platforms could connect a weaver in Anantnag directly with a customer in New York, cutting out layers of margin that presently reward everyone except the person holding the needle. Documentation of technique and design, before the last master artisans retire, would keep knowledge from disappearing along with them. What connects all of this is a single, uncomfortable truth. Admiration for the Kashmiri shawl has never been scarce, but admiration has not translated into the economic protection that would let the craft continue on its own terms. The valley's weavers do not need another exhibition praising what their hands can do. They need buyers willing to pay for the hours behind the work, and institutions willing to build the certification and market access that make that payment possible. Absent that, the loom keeps slowing, until what remains is the story of a craft rather than the craft itself.

The author is a Srinagar-based columnist. He can be reached at

The Kashmiri Hookah That Outlived Its Innocence

A Kashmiri-American physician's childhood memory of the jajeer explains why sometimes harmful habits may come disguised as hospitality.



Dr. Akhtar Purvez

The Kashmiri version of hookah, the jajeer sat in our house in Gotilpur like a fireplace in a farmhouse: simple, permanent and woven into the fabric of an evening. An older guest would sit with the family while someone prepared the hookah. Soon, the bubbling water would become the sound beneath talk of crops, weather and politics. Nobody in that room used words like carcinogen or chronic bronchitis, and nobody needed to.

The smoke belonged to the visit just as did noon chai and makai czot.

A child growing up in such a room learns the architecture of a place before he understands what any of it costs.

And I was that child, and sometimes the task of preparing the jajeer fell to me.

I walked it to the Nar Koll, a stream that ran through our property, since the village had no running water then, and emptied the old water and refilled it fresh. I packed the tobacco and charcoal, checked that the joints were sealed, took a pull or two myself just to get the charcoal burning, and brought the finished product to whichever elder was waiting.

I felt no shame in this and no danger either. I experienced something closer to pride, the satisfaction of a boy who has done a household job correctly and placed it before someone who receives it with a nod.

That was the sanctioned version of my relationship with tobacco.

But there was another version, conducted alone, that I kept from everyone in the house.

I was five or six, and when the adults left, curiosity pulled me toward the jajeer the way it pulls any child toward anything forbidden and slightly mysterious. I learned to check the shoes by the door before I tried it.

In a house those days, each person owned exactly one pair, and an empty space told you who had gone out. Empty spaces meant safety.

A few times, I would check around, find the space empty, grab the jajeer, and take a deep drag. It felt strange, but somehow satisfying.

One day, I followed my usual routine. But what came next felt like fire running down my throat and into my chest. I coughed until my eyes burned, wheezed, and staggered against the wall, convinced my lungs were on fire.

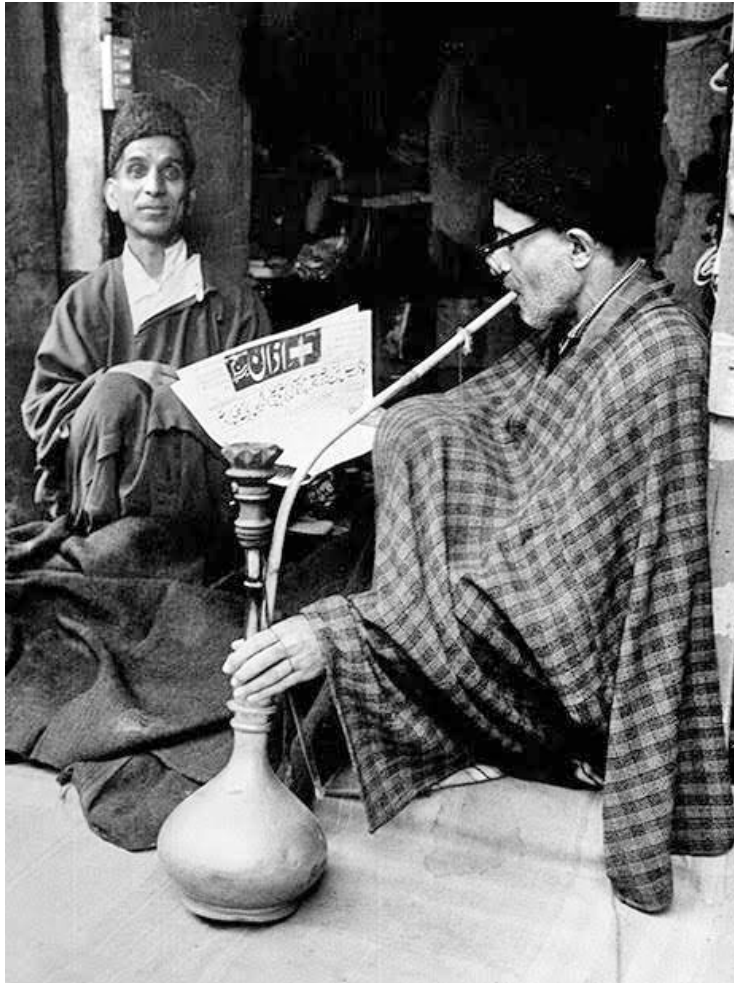
And then, out of a house I had thought was completely empty, came my cousin and a household helper. They had apparently been tracking my secret visits for some time. They had packed red chilli into the smoking passage, waiting for me to return and teach the offender a lesson.

I cried, coughed, swore I would never touch the thing again. Eventually the burning passed, but the memory did not.

I have asked myself since, as a physician who has spent a career answering exactly this question in other people's bodies, why smoking never took hold of me the way it took hold of so many men I would later treat.

Maybe it was biology, or simply circumstance. Or perhaps, somewhere beneath conscious memory, there was still a boy against a wall, his lungs burning from the chilli.

I cannot separate the causes with any confidence. What I can say is that the language around the object changed completely during my lifetime, while the memory of its physical presence in Kashmiri homes in



I find it hard to judge the people who sat around those hookahs, because they knew only as much as their era allowed them to know, and so did their doctors. What unsettles me is the suspicion that we are, right now, living inside some version of the same arrangement.

Gotilpur barely changed at all.

The jajeer of my boyhood had none of the language that would later appear in a hospital chart. It came with a guest, much as pickle came with rice at lunch and dinner.

Elsewhere, the same substance was being dressed in different, equally seductive ways. Cigarettes appeared in films and advertisements across India, Europe and America, sold as symbols of relaxation, adulthood and sophistication.

The science came much later than the habit.

The 1964 Surgeon General's report in the United States, built on review of more than seven thousand scientific articles, finally stated plainly that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer in men and stood as the leading cause of chronic bronchitis.

Knowledge like that does not reach a village home the day it appears in a journal. A habit rooted in generations of hospitality does not disappear the moment science reveals what it can do to the lungs.

By the time I was practicing medicine, I had watched two distant relatives, both longtime smokers, reach the final stage of lung disease in hospitals equipped with everything modern medicine could provide.

The machines and medicos kept reminding us that their lungs were failing, so was their hope. It was as if there was not enough air for them to breathe and survive.

I stood beside these men, gasping for a breath that had once come to them for free, and realized that the clinical language I had spent years learning, airflow obstruction, impaired gas exchange, destroyed tissue, felt strangely small beside what I saw in front of me: a person silently asking for one more breath.

I think of those two men and the jajeer of Gotilpur as opposite points on a single line.

In one room, smoke rose through greetings and gestures. In another, decades on, air itself had become the scarcest commodity.

We now know that the bubbling water, once thought to soften or purify the smoke, provides no real protection. It filters almost nothing that matters, except perhaps our fear of the smoke itself.

The nicotine, the carbon monoxide, the metals and carcinogens pass through it largely unchanged, on their way to lungs and hearts that will eventually be asked to account for them.

I find it hard to judge the people who sat around those hookahs, because they knew only as much as their era allowed them to know, and so did their doctors.

What unsettles me is the suspicion that we are, right now, living inside some version of the same arrangement.

Some object or habit sits in our homes today with the same unremarkable permanence the jajeer once had, accepted because it is part of daily life and unquestioned because everyone around us treats it as normal.

We will not know what it was until distance and evidence shows us the way they eventually showed Kashmir what had been passing, silently, through the water in a hookah bowl.

Decades later, sitting under the Blueridge mountains, my memory, and my emotions, fail to leave me.

I can still see the empty spaces where the shoes had left. I can still hear the water begin to bubble, and feel the certainty of a boy who believes, for one more moment, that nobody is watching.

And find solace in the fact that there is enough air around.

For now.

— The author is a physician, poet, and clinical researcher from Kashmir, based in Virginia, United States. His writing explores the connections between science, memory, literature, and human experience. He can be reached at mansbal@yahoo.com.

What 168 Alpine Lakes in Kashmir Taught Me

A decade in the mountains brought difficult climbs, lifelong friendships, Harmukh Peak and a lesson that cannot be measured in numbers.



Muhammed Omer

The first walks were modest.

After returning home from abroad in 2018, I began exploring the meadows and lower mountains around Sonawari.

I walked around Manasbal, Mohand Marg, Marchoi, Dumail and Trag. I was not thinking about alpine lakes or long expeditions, but I had no idea that those early walks would eventually take me into some of the most remote mountain landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The real change came a year later.

In 2019, I joined the seven-day Kashmir Great Lakes trek with Cliffhangers India. Somewhere along that trail, I saw my first alpine lake.

Something changed that day. The silence of the mountains, the colours of the lakes and the feeling of being far away from the noise of ordinary life transformed me. I became fascinated by alpine lakes. After that, I simply did not look back.

The years that followed demanded a lot. There were financial sacrifices, exhausting climbs, bad weather, water crossings, injuries and uncertainty. There were countless days away from home. The mountains demanded physical endurance, mental strength and consistency.

But difficult journeys had their own rewards. One expedition brought another lake. Another brought a new trail, a new mountain or a new lesson.

In 2022, during the Hirpora expedition, I crossed 50 alpine lakes.

Two years later, during another Kashmir Great Lakes expedition, I reached 100.

Going back to Kashmir Great Lakes

was special for another reason. Several lakes I had missed during my first visit in 2019 were still waiting to be explored.

Then came 2026.

During the Nagaander and Nilgrur Lakes expedition in the Warwan Valley of Kishtwar, I crossed the 150-lake mark and reached 168.

It had taken almost ten years.

The number sounds impressive when written down. But the number itself is not what I value most.

Every lake has a story behind it, and each expedition has its struggles, friendships, risks and memories. The lakes have given me something far more valuable than a number: happiness, peace of mind and a sense of freedom.

Over these years, people came and went. Circumstances changed, so did teams and priorities. But my connection with the mountains did not.

Some of my biggest expeditions have included the Kashmir Great Lakes trek on two occasions, the Greater Lakes Expedition, Hirpora Expedition, Harmukh Lakes Expedition, Lashan Pinjan, Patalwan, Sarbas-Shirasar, Choharnag-Shilsar and numerous alpine lakes across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This year alone, I had the opportunity to explore many more lakes in Ladakh.

There was another dream I had held for a long time.

In 2025, I summited Harmukh Peak. Standing on Harmukh brought a different satisfaction. But if someone asks what continues to pull me back into the mountains, my answer remains the same: the alpine lakes.

Crampon Adventures has also played an important role in this journey. It gave me a platform and an opportunity to explore the mountains at another level. The people I travelled with became part of stories I will remember for the rest of my life.

Over time, I have also come to believe that exploration should not become a race.

We sometimes hear trekkers competing over who has explored 50, 100, 150 or 200 lakes. But these numbers are ultimately for our own satisfaction. There is no finish line waiting



We sometimes hear trekkers competing over who has explored 50, 100, 150 or 200 lakes. But these numbers are ultimately for our own satisfaction. There is no finish line waiting with a government job, a huge cash reward or a life-changing package. Beyond a competition, the mountains are an experience.

with a government job, a huge cash reward or a life-changing package.

Beyond a competition, the

mountains are an experience.

The mountains should not become a rat race. Explore because you love

exploring, climb because you love climbing, and learn because you want to grow.

Young trekkers should stay away from drugs and unlawful activities, find purpose in their passion and learn from those who came before them. Seniors, in turn, should guide and encourage the next generation rather than constantly criticising them.

Young mountaineers should also build proper technical skills in climbing, ice climbing, rope work, navigation and rescue. Take recognised mountaineering courses and learn the craft beyond photographs and numbers.

Most importantly, be honest about summits and alpine-lake explorations. The mountains need no exaggeration. Instead of competing with one another, let us open new routes, explore new valleys and make the mountains safer for those who follow.

I did not cross 150 lakes alone. My friend Fayaz Bhat was with me on the expedition. He also completed his 100th alpine lake.

We both come from Asham in Sonawari, so his achievement makes me especially happy.

I first noticed Fayaz's interest in trekking in 2021-22. Since then, he has joined me on several major expeditions and grown into a strong and committed trekker.

I am also proud that Waheed Ahanger from Sonawari crossed 100 lakes last year. It feels good to see people from our area finding their place in the mountains.

My family, friends and teammates have supported me throughout this journey. Even those who criticised or questioned me gave me another reason to keep going. I chose to answer through the mountains, rather than arguments.

I want to keep walking for as long as I can, so that one day my children do not ask, "Baba, what did you ever do in the mountains?"

There are still many stories to find, and many miles to walk.

— The author is a Kashmir-based mountaineer and trekker who has explored 160+ alpine lakes, peaks and passes across Jammu and Kashmir.

NIT Srinagar hosts 'Alumni Back to Classroom' programme

Distinguished alumni share professional experiences, insights with students

Observer News Service

Srinagar, | Sept: 26: The "Alumni Back to Classroom (ABC)" Programme was successfully conducted today at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, providing a meaningful platform for distinguished alumni to reconnect with their alma mater, interact with students and share their professional experiences, insights and memories.

The programme was organised by the Office of the Dean, Alumni & International Affairs, NIT Srinagar, under the leadership of Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean (Alumni & International Affairs), and was coordinated by Er. Farhan Manzoor Shah, Additional Secretary, NIT Srinagar Alumni Association and ABC Coordinator.

The programme featured eminent alumni and accomplished professionals who interacted with students and shared valuable



perspectives from their academic and professional journeys:

Er. Bharat Bhushan – Alumni of the 1977–82 Mechanical Engineering batch, who shared his professional experiences and reflections from his association with the Institute via an audio message.

Er. Sundeep Saxena – Alumni of the 1977–82 Mechanical Engineering batch, who interacted with students and spoke about the importance of learning, professional growth and maintaining a lifelong connection with one's alma mater.

Dr. Ahmadullah Zahed

– Associated with ICTP, Italy, who shared insights from his international academic and professional exposure and encouraged students to pursue excellence, innovation and wider opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean,

Alumni & International Affairs, said that the Alumni Back to Classroom initiative is an important endeavour to strengthen the relationship between the Institute and its alumni. He emphasised that alumni are an invaluable source of knowledge, experience and

inspiration for the present generation of students.

He said that such interactions enable students to learn not only from textbooks and classrooms but also from the real-life journeys, challenges and achievements of those who have walked the same corridors before them. He expressed his gratitude to the distinguished alumni for returning to their alma mater and contributing to the academic and professional growth of students.

Er. Farhan Manzoor Shah said that the ABC Programme is envisaged as a bridge between the Institute's rich alumni community and its current students.

He highlighted that alumni engagement provides students with an opportunity to gain practical insights, mentorship and exposure to diverse professional journeys.

He expressed gratitude to the Institute administration, distinguished alumni, faculty members and students for their

enthusiastic participation and support in making the programme successful.

Er. Shah further stated that the initiative will continue to provide opportunities for alumni to "Connect, Mentor and Inspire", thereby creating a stronger and more vibrant NIT Srinagar alumni network.

The interaction witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who engaged with the speakers and benefited from their experiences and guidance.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to the dignitaries, distinguished alumni, faculty members, students and all those who contributed to its successful organisation.

The Alumni Back to Classroom Programme reaffirmed the enduring bond between NIT Srinagar and its alumni, while providing an inspiring platform for knowledge sharing, mentorship and meaningful intergenerational interaction.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly Set

inspections and coercive measures against enterprises in connection with approvals, subject to specified exceptions, including complaints of a serious nature.

The legislation also proposes the establishment of a Union Territory Ease of Doing Business Council, headed by the Chief Minister, and an Executive Committee headed by the Chief Secretary for implementation and coordination.

The Assembly is also scheduled to consider a number of Private Members' Bills for introduction.

These include proposed legislation on prohibition of online gaming and fantasy leagues, substance-abuse prevention and rehabilitation, waiver of outstanding electricity dues for specified economically vulnerable categories, right to shelter for landless households, district-cadre reservation in government posts and time-bound healthcare staffing in remote and difficult areas.

Other Bills listed for introduction seek amendments relating to the National Law University Act, solid-waste management, specified trees, establishment of a Bhaderwah University, rehabilitation of natural-calamity victims, government employee transfers, the Reservation Act and regularisation of long-term temporary government workers.

The agenda also includes proposed legislation concerning women's and adolescent girls' health and well-being, establishment of a university campus at Bani, regulation of unsafe and adulterated food, creation of a Gurez Development Authority, amendments to the Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act and employment opportunities for educated youth.

Other proposals deal with a framework for digital news publishers and social-media news channels, prohibition of tobacco products, employment generation and skill development, road maintenance through local labour, expedited disposal of cases affecting public works, enhanced compensation for natural disasters, and statutory protection and regularisation of long-term temporary government employees.

The Assembly is further scheduled to consider Bills concerning participation of local youth in minor-mineral mining and amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010.

Two Private Members' Bills have also been listed for consideration and passing.

One, moved by Tanvir Sadiq, seeks to restore the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960 and the rules framed under it to their original form prior to the 2022 rules.

Another Bill, moved by Sajad Shaheen, seeks the establishment of a university campus at Banihal in Ramban district.

The Assembly is scheduled to meet at 10 am on September 28.

J&K Daily Wagers

organisations, media representatives and other sections of society to join the proposed protest. Paray said thousands of casual daily wagers had been serving the government and the public for more than two decades but were still awaiting a concrete policy for their regularisation.

He referred to the government's decision of March 11, 2025, to constitute a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to examine the issue and submit recommendations and a roadmap for regularisation within six months.

He also cited Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah's assurance in the Legislative Assembly on April 1, 2026, in response to a question by Kulgam MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, that the regularisation process would be initiated in phases during the current financial year.

However, Paray said there was still no clarity on the committee's report or a concrete mechanism for implementing the regularisation process.

He said the uncertainty had affected thousands of workers and their families and urged the government to engage with their representatives and provide a time-bound roadmap.

The Forum also appealed to ruling and opposition legislators, religious scholars, civil society representatives, trade union leaders, senior citizens and other stakeholders to support the protesting workers.

Paray urged the Mufti Azam of Jammu and Kashmir and the wider religious community to raise the issue and highlight the concerns of families dependent on the daily wagers.

The Forum said several political leaders, religious personalities, civil society representatives and trade union leaders had contacted it and expressed their willingness to participate in the September 28 programme.

It appealed to casual daily wagers from across Jammu and Kashmir to reach Srinagar early on September 28 for a peaceful protest march.

J&K Tightens

action is to be taken within one month of its completion.

The government may also suspend a JJB member if a criminal case is registered against them, pending an inquiry. Suspension may also follow an inquiry after the member has been given an opportunity to be heard.

The amendments have also introduced restrictions on appointments to Child Welfare Committees.

Persons associated with organisations receiving foreign contributions will not be eligible for appointment as CWC chairperson or member. Similarly, individuals working with NGOs or organisations implementing the Juvenile Justice Act will be ineligible where their appointment could result in a conflict of interest.

The amended rules also provide for action against CWC chairpersons and members facing complaints. The government may suspend such a person pending inquiry.

Such inquiries are required to be completed within two months, with the government empowered to take appropriate action within one month after completion of the inquiry.

The amendments effectively establish a time-bound mechanism for dealing with complaints against members of bodies responsible for matters concerning children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.(KNO)

Restoring Sight To

days despite the challenging security and terrain conditions in the border region.

Stay Ahead Of

emphasised the need to remain ahead of the threat, maintain a relentless operational focus, and ensure a coordinated, calibrated response while safeguarding the safety and security of the local population.

"True to the spirit of 'Jai se VIJAY', the Indian Army remains resolute in countering terrorism, strengthening synergy, protecting the people, and maintaining a secure environment," the ADGPI added.

The Army chief's security review comes in the backdrop of heightened counter-terror operations across central and north Kashmir. Earlier this month, the Army neutralised a top

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, identified as a Pakistani national named Yasir, during an operation in the dense forest area of Yusmarg in Budgam district.

Forces have maintained relentless operational focus across the Pir Panjal range and adjoining forest corridors to neutralise terror hideouts and thwart infiltration attempts.

Railways Drops

projects requires consultations with stakeholders and clearances, including appraisal by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance.

The proposed Baramulla-Uri line was planned as an extension of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link from the existing terminus at Baramulla towards Uri, close to the Line of Control (LoC).

A senior Railway official said that the projects could have been returned due to issues related to utility or availability of funds.

"The DPR preparation does not mean final approval. There are several other requirements and clearances before a project receives final approval," the official added.

He, however, said that the projects could be considered again in the future, subject to the required approvals and other factors. (KNO)

HC Transfers Judicial

also dismissed a petition seeking quashing of the FIR, holding that there was sufficient material at this stage for continuation of the investigation.

In the connected bail matter, the court granted interim bail to advocate T Nazir, subject to furnishing a personal bond and surety bond of Rs 1 lakh each. The interim bail will remain in force until filing of the charge-sheet.

As regards the advocate, the court noted that she had been enrolled as a provisional advocate in 2022 and finally enrolled in 2024. The prosecution alleged that she was involved in procuring and using the purported decree, while her counsel maintained that she had no role in its fabrication and had merely been asked to obtain certified copies.

The court further noted that she had spent around 15 days in custodial interrogation, had cooperated with the investigation and had no previous criminal antecedents on the material before it. It also took note of her personal circumstances, including that she was the mother of a 12-month-old breast-feeding child.

Borders Are Fixed,

Jawaharlal Nehru had acknowledged that the country had been "out of touch with reality" and was living in an artificial atmosphere.

Singh said the approach towards national security had changed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We have made it clear that we possess the power of argument as well as the argument of power. We will accordingly use the language which one understands," he said.

He said India continued to pursue peace through diplomacy while simultaneously strengthening its defence and strategic capabilities to respond to possible threats.

"We are proponents of resolution through democracy and diplomacy. But, for our security, we can take decisive action too, and we do so," Singh said.

He cited the surgical strikes, the Balakot air strike of 2019 and Operation Sindoor as examples of India demonstrating its military capabilities and willingness to act in response to security threats.

Singh said relying solely on military

preparedness could create confrontation and a security dilemma, while relying only on diplomacy without adequate capabilities could be perceived as weakness.

"A balance of both is necessary," he said. The Defence Minister also said the concept of national security had expanded in the 21st century, with threats extending beyond conventional attacks and territorial borders.

He pointed to cyberattacks, disinformation and smear campaigns as potential threats to critical systems and social stability. Economic security and energy security, he said, were also increasingly linked to national security.

Singh described the idea of viewing national security only through the protection of geographical borders as a "perimeter fallacy", saying modern threats could

emerge across multiple domains.

"Borders are fixed, the boundaries of threats have become very fluid," he said, calling for a holistic approach to national security.

He said the government was working to strengthen defence preparedness and make the armed forces future-ready.

Singh also stressed that national security policy should take into account ground realities and national interest rather than being based on wishful thinking.

"Diplomacy is important, but diplomacy gets strengthened when it is backed by capability," he said.

The conclave was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani and other senior officials and defence and strategic affairs experts.

OPEN KASHMIR HOGAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2026
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EVENT SCHEDULE
GINDUN STADIUM, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR | 6TH - 7TH OCTOBER 2026

REPORTING TIME: 9:30 AM BOTH DAYS

DAY 1 6TH OCTOBER 2026 AGE CATEGORIES: 5 - 15 YEARS				DAY 2 7TH OCTOBER 2026 AGE CATEGORIES: 16 YEARS & ABOVE	
5 - 7 YEARS	8 - 10 YEARS	11 - 12 YEARS	13 - 15 YEARS	16 - 17 YEARS	ABOVE 18 YEARS OPEN CATEGORY
CLOSING CEREMONY FOR ALL ABOVE CATEGORIES WILL BE HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2026				FINAL CLOSING CEREMONY FOR ALL ABOVE CATEGORIES WILL BE HELD ON 7TH OCTOBER 2026	

IMPORTANT NOTICE | SUBMIT YOUR TEAM LIST ON OR BEFORE 2ND OCTOBER 2026
All participating teams are requested to submit their complete team lists to ensure smooth coordination and event management.

Kashmir Runs Stronger

Logos: RUN, CLIMB, CRAWL, BALANCE, OVERCOME, superhits RED FM 93.5, MUNSIF TV, KO, KD, Aman, ANN Entertainment, and various school and club logos.

Rs 1,210 Cr Liabilities Put J&K's New CRIF Road Projects on Hold

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is unlikely to receive approval for new road projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme in the immediate future, with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways citing outstanding liabilities of around Rs 1,210 crore against an annual fund allocation of just Rs 150 crore.

In a communication regarding the approval of road projects under CRIF, the Ministry stated that the Union Territory's existing financial commitments were substantially higher than its annual fund accrual, making it difficult to take up additional projects.

The Ministry said the finalisation of road projects under the scheme depends on several factors, including the priority list submitted by the government, outstanding liabilities of previously sanctioned projects, the status of completed and finalised works, unspent balances from previous years and the annual availability of funds.

"For the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the total outstanding liabilities are about Rs 1,210 crore at present, whereas the annual accrual of funds for State Roads under the CRIF Scheme is at the level of about Rs 150 crore," the communication stated.

It added that, given the substantial gap between the existing liabilities and annual fund availability, it was "extremely difficult" to consider



creating additional financial commitments by approving new projects under the scheme.

However, the Ministry has not ruled out fresh approvals altogether, indicating that new road projects could be considered once significant progress is achieved on already committed works and the outstanding liabilities of sanctioned projects are reduced correspondingly.

The latest communication makes the clearance of existing projects and reduction of pending liabilities key factors for J&K to secure fresh road projects under the centrally funded scheme.

The CRIF scheme provides financial assistance for the development and improvement of road infrastructure, with projects taken up based on fund availability and the priorities of the concerned governments.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the current financial position means that the focus will remain on executing previously sanctioned projects and clearing existing commitments before new proposals can be considered. (KNO)

Haj 2027: 19 J&K HGOs Allocated Pilgrim Quota

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee has allocated quotas to 19 Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) for Haj 2027, officials said on Saturday.

Under Category-I, four companies have been allotted a quota of 74 pilgrims each, a senior Haj official told PTI. These are M/S Labaika Haj & Umrah Services (Umar Nazir Tibeetbagal), M/S Al Hayat Hajj and Omrah Travel Services, M/S Al Khuddam Hajj & Umrah Services, and M/S Universe Travel Corporation.

The remaining 15 companies have been granted a quota of 37 pilgrims each under Category-II, the official said. These include M/S Raj Baba Tour & Travels, M/S Al Ghazali Tour & Travels (Muzamil Bashir Baba), M/S Alhuda Travels, M/S Al Safer Tour and Travels, M/S Fly High Tours and Travels, M/S Al Ansar Tours and Trav-

els (Mushtaq Aziz Mir), M/S Al Haramain Hajj & Umrah Services, M/S Gazi Tour & Travels (Mohammad Abas Pandit), M/S Madina World Travels Pvt Limited, M/S Anabia Holidays and Tourism, M/S Sahar Tour & Travels, M/S Al Haram Tours Hajj & Umrah Services, M/S Khadim Al Mecca Tour & Travels Private Ltd, M/S Leena Travellers (Rasee Jan), and M/S M.G Tours and Travels.

The official said the Committee has advised pilgrims intending to perform Haj through HGOs to register only through organisers allotted quota by the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) and to finalise terms and conditions with the respective HGOs.

Citing the latest advisory issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Committee cautioned that no person will be allowed to perform Haj on Umrah or Tourist Visa, the official added. (KNS)

Ensure Close Coordination Among All Agencies: DGP



KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday reviewed the ongoing counter-terrorism operations along the Udhampur-Kathua belt and stressed the need for continued vigilance, operational preparedness and close coordination among all security agencies.

Prabhat, accompanied by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone Tejinder Singh, visited Udhampur and took stock of the operational situation and the progress of ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the area.

The officers also reviewed security arrangements and the preparedness of forces in view of the prevailing security situation along the Udhampur-Kathua faultline.

During the visit, the DGP felicitated personnel involved in the operations and acknowledged their courage, commitment and profession-

al conduct.

The personnel were commended for their role in the successful Operation Soan, during which two Pakistani Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were neutralised.

Prabhat appreciated the coordinated efforts of the security forces and stressed the importance of maintaining vigilance and operational readiness.

He also called for close coordination among all agencies engaged in counter-terrorism operations to strengthen the overall security response.

IGP Jammu Zone Tejinder Singh accompanied the DGP during the visit and reviewed operational aspects and security measures along the Udhampur-Kathua belt.

The visit comes amid continued security operations in the Jammu region aimed at tracking terrorist networks and preventing attempts to disrupt peace and security in the area.

PHE Tops J&K Power Defaulters With Rs 1,476 Crore Dues

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has emerged as the largest defaulter in payment of power tariffs among Jammu and Kashmir government departments, with outstanding dues of Rs 1,476.11 crore, according to government data.

The data shows that the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (IFFC) is the second-largest defaulter, with outstanding power dues of Rs 594.25 crore.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) owes Rs 344.30 crore, while the Home Department has outstanding dues of Rs 297.93 crore. Municipalities have arrears of Rs 262.75 crore.

The Army has outstanding power dues of Rs 212.75 crore, followed by the Revenue and Relief Department with Rs 170.60 crore and the Housing and Urban Development Department with Rs 166.40 crore.

The Power Development Department (PDD) itself has outstanding dues of Rs 123.73 crore, while the Health and Medical Education De-



partment owes Rs 100.19 crore.

Among other major defaulters, the Military Engineer Services (MES) owes Rs 89.50 crore, JK Cements Rs 59.57 crore and the Tourism Department Rs 57.90 crore.

The department-wise figures were provided by the government in response to a question raised by MLA Sajad Lone in the Jammu and

Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

According to the government data, the total outstanding power tariff against Union Territory and Central Government departments stands at Rs 4,385.30 crore.

The PHE's outstanding dues of Rs 1,476.11 crore account for more than one-third of the total amount listed in the government statement. (KNO)

13.29 Lakh MT Legacy Waste Bio-remediated Across J&K: CS

Says 22 urban water-body rejuvenation projects completed under AMRUT 2.0

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has bio-remediated 13.29 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste as part of its ongoing urban sanitation drive under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), officials said.

The progress was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to assess the implementation of SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 across the Union Territory.

According to the figures presented at the meeting, J&K had set a target of 26.29 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste for bio-remediation, of which 13.29 lakh MT has been cleared so far.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation is scheduled to clear its remaining 0.80 lakh MT by October 2026, while complete remediation in Kashmir Division has been targeted for December 2026. Work on the remaining legacy waste of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation is



also being carried out on a round-the-clock basis.

Progress was also reported in scientific waste processing. Of the 78 Urban Local Bodies targeted for setting up Material Recovery Facilities, 62 have completed the works, while the remaining 16 are targeted for completion by December 2026.

The 225-tonne-per-day Compressed Bio-Gas plant of Jammu Municipal Corporation has achieved 50 per cent physical

Only Those Who Elect Govt Can Dissolve It: Dy CM



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday accused the BJP of seeking to undermine the elected government

and warned that any attempt to interfere with its functioning would amount to a "murder" of democracy and the Constitution.

He questioned what right BJP MLAs had to demand dismissal of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government and asserted that it has been elected by the people and not the BJP.

"If anyone can dissolve us, it is only those who elected us," Choudhary told reporters after reviewing the progress of the ongoing works at the new legislative assembly complex here.

BJP MLAs led by Sham Lal Sharma on Friday demanded the immediate dismissal of the Abdullah-led government, alleging that its recent moves are aimed at reviving an earlier political arrangement and challenging the constitutional framework.

Sharma accused the National Conference government in the Union territory of attempting to overrun its constitutional domain by moving a resolution in the as-

sembly that, he claimed, sought to revive issues related to autonomy and the pre-1953 constitutional arrangement.

Reacting to the BJP's demand, which was raised shortly after the chief minister moved the resolution demanding full statehood restoration in the assembly, the deputy chief minister asked Sharma how can (they) dismiss the government elected by the people?

"...this means you want to resort to hooliganism and use force and coercion. That is exactly what we have been saying -- that the BJP resorts to such tactics," Choudhary said, adding that any attempt by the BJP to interfere with the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir government or "block our freedom would amount to an assault on democracy and the Constitution".

He also accused the BJP of being "anti-democracy, anti-constitutional and anti-public", alleging that its actions and statements were against the interests of the people.

"When you oppose a government elected by the people, you are going against those who voted for it," he said, adding that such conduct amounted to "treason".

BCCI President Calls on LG

SRINAGAR: BCCI President Mithun Manhas on Saturday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here, officials said.

"Mithun Manhas, President, the Board of Control for Cricket in India, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Lok Bhawan," an official spokesman said.

However, the spokesman did not share any further details of the meeting.

Hailing from Doda district in J&K, Manhas was elected unopposed as the 37th BCCI president in September 2025.

A giant of domestic cricket, Manhas played for Delhi from 1997-98 to 2016-17 in 157 first-class games, scoring 9,714 runs. He also 4126 runs in 130 List A matches. (PTI)



Bear Mauls Man in Kulgam

SRINAGAR- A 45-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a bear in the Chimmar area of Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon. An official said that the man was attacked by a bear in Chimmar area of Kulgam.

He said the man was shifted to a hospital soon after the incident and was later identified as Mohammad Rasheed Khatana (45), son of Mohammad Ismail Khatana, a resident of Chimmar.

Meanwhile, details regarding the incident are being verified, while locals have urged the administration to look into the matter and take measures to prevent further attacks. (ONS)

LoP Sunil Sharma Meets Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday and discussed a range of issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Sharma and Shah discussed the security and law-and-order situation, development and governance in the Union Territory, besides matters related to the ongoing Assembly session, according to a statement.

Sharma also apprised the Home Minister of various issues and concerns concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the statement said. The meeting comes amid the ongoing autumn session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, where security, governance, development and other public issues have figured prominently in the proceedings.

The BJP has been raising several issues during the session, including concerns related to power tariffs, employment and various categories of workers.

The meeting also follows a political dispute in the Assembly over a resolution moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah seeking the urgent restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The reference to the 2000 autonomy resolution in the measure triggered strong protests from BJP members.

Sharma had said on Friday that the BJP was prepared to debate the restoration of statehood but would oppose discussion on Article 370 and the 2000 autonomy resolution.

According to the statement on Saturday's meeting, the Union Government reiterated its commitment to peace, development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and assured continued support in addressing key concerns of the people.

The meeting comes at a time when the J&K Government is also pursuing discussions with the Centre on issues including restoration of statehood, reservation, and the finalisation of Transaction of Business Rules. (ONS)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY									
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. ANMT SCHOOL ANANTNAG									
NEAR POWER RECEIVING STATION AKURA MATTAN ANANTNAG (192125)									
Subject:- Provisional selection list of 10th based (FMPHW) paramedical diploma course against left over seats for the year/session-2026/27.									
NOTIFICATION									
It is hereby notified to all the concerned that in pursuance to advertisement Notification No: JKNC-26/157/1400-1409 Dated: 11/09/2026 & Est/ANMTS/Ang/1292-98 dated: 15/09/2026, the provisional selection list of the candidates is issued below in the table for the admission to 10th based (FMPHW) paramedical diploma course against left over seats for the Year/session-2026/27;									
PROVISIONAL SELECTION LIST UNDER 'OM' CATEGORY									
NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	D.O.B	MARKS OBT.	MAX. MARKS	PERCENT AGE	CATEGORY	FORM NO.	
IQRA JAN	MUZAFFAR AHMAD BHAT	KAWARIGAM ANANTNAG	03-10-2004	434	500	86.8 %	OM	04	
WAITING LIST UNDER 'OM' CATEGORY									
NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	D.O.B	MARKS OBT.	MAX. MARKS	PERCENT AGE	CATEGORY	FORM NO.	
IFSHANA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD SHERGOJRI	LISSER CHAWALGAM ANANTNAG	26-02-2009	419	500	83.8%	OM	13	
MUSKAN SUBZAR	SUBZAR AHMAD BEIGH	VESSU ANANTNAG	20-05-2007	396	500	79.2%	OM	11	
PROVISIONAL SELECTION LIST UNDER 'RBA' CATEGORY									
NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	D.O.B	MARKS OBT.	MAX. MARKS	PERCENT AGE	CATEGORY	FORM NO.	
KHUSHBOO HASSAN	GULAM HASSAN BHAT	KAWARIGAM ANANTNAG	01-10-2005	451	500	90.2%	RBA	05	
WAITING LIST UNDER 'RBA' CATEGORY									
NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	D.O.B	MARKS OBT.	MAX. MARKS	PERCENT AGE	CATEGORY	FORM NO.	
SAKIYA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD BHAT	KAWARIGAM ANANTNAG	06-10-2007	419	500	83.8%	RBA	07	
ASIYA BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD SHAH	KARSHANGAM ANANTNAG	28-10-2001	172	500	34.4%	RBA	10	
SELECTION LIST UNDER 'SC' CATEGORY									
NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	D.O.B	MARKS OBT.	MAX. MARKS	PERCENT AGE	CATEGORY	FORM NO.	
SIMRAN KUNDAL	BIAS DEV	ALLAH ARNIA JAMMU	16-05-2008	382	500	76.4%	SC	12	
SELECTION LIST UNDER 'OBC' CATEGORY									
NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	D.O.B	MARKS OBT.	MAX. MARKS	PERCENT AGE	CATEGORY	FORM NO.	
SUHANA SHABIR	SHABIR AHMAD SHERGOGERY	TAILWANI ACHABAL ANANTNAG	16-03-2005	304	500	60.8%	OBC	01	
The provisionally selected candidates shall report for admission by or before 30/09/2026 along with fee Rs=4000/- (Four Thousand only) paid in the form of pay-in-slip (cash/IMPS transfer not accepted) in favour of Govt. ANMT School Anantnag (Ac.No:0814040510000006) & along with below mentioned Original certificates & other particulars;									
1. Date of Birth Certificate.									
2. 10th marks sheet.									
3. Domicile certificate.									
4. Valid Category certificate.									
5. Last attended institute/school leaving certificate.									
6. Character certificate.									
7. Four Xerox copies of above certificates.									
8. Affidavit duly signed by 1st class magistrate									
9. Five (5) recent passport size photographs.									
10. Four (04) ordinary file cover (non plastic).									
The other terms & conditions shall remain same as notified in the notice issued by the JKNC & JKBOPE in this regard from time to time.									
Note:									
1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and if upon verification by the institution /Council at any point of time, candidate is found ineligible, her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio.									
2. Any objection shall be reported within two days only from the date of issuance this notification.									
After that no objection will be entertained.									
No: Est/ANMTS/Ang/ 1311/17									
Dated: 25/09/2026.									
DIPK-6115- 26									
DT: 26/09/2026									
Principal Govt ANMT School Anantnag									

Iran's Hormuz Deal: Where Things Stand

AP

TEHRAN: It's been a busy week for Iranian diplomacy that may have come to nothing.

Iran's president and foreign minister visited New York for the UN gathering of world leaders and proposed a deal with the Trump administration that would end the fighting and open the Strait of Hormuz in seven days. That's if the US ends its military blockade of Iranian ports, releases frozen Iranian assets and waives sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions – none of them new.

What's different after past failed attempts is the speedier timeline. Iran's pitch to President Donald Trump said a quick deal might help him in the midterm elections in November.

Trump early Saturday appeared to share the first indication of his thinking, posting a map on social media of the crucial waterway, calling it the "Trump Strait". Around the same time, Iranian media said President Masoud Pezeshkian was going home.

Here's where things stand as Iran and the US each try to outlast growing economic pain following seven months of war.

The two sides hold their first indi-



rect talks in months.

The US said its envoys and the Iranians held three hours of indirect talks via mediators Tuesday, their first since the countries' previous agreement meant to end the fighting and launch nuclear talks collapsed within days of its signing in June.

The latest talks were good, and the US was open to more, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday. But Trump used his speech to the UN

gathering on Tuesday to threaten to "annihilate" the Islamic Republic. In his own speech a day later, Pezeshkian said Iran would fight "until our last breath."

In his final seconds, however, Pezeshkian said Tehran remained open to diplomacy.

Behind closed doors, Iran describes a new proposal

In a private gathering Thursday on

the sidelines of the UN meeting, Iran's top diplomat described Tehran's new proposal to the US. The conditions for Washington largely echo the ones agreed to in the June deal that fell apart.

At stake are the biggest sources of frustration for both sides.

Opening the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran asserted control of after being attacked by the US and Israel, would ease global markets and relieve some pressure on the US military, which has been guiding commercial ships through the waterway at risk of Iranian attack.

Lifting the US naval blockade of Iranian ports, as well as waiving sanctions on oil sales, would allow Tehran to ship out more of its crude and help its battered economy as its currency hits record lows and inflation soars.

Iran makes another push before heading home

In a sign of Tehran's apparent sense of urgency, Pezeshkian hosted the prime minister of Qatar, the mediator in the indirect talks, early Friday before much of New York rolled out of bed.

"The choice now rests with the United States," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told journalists Friday evening. But the White House



Trump Posts Map of 'Trump Strait' Off Iran

US President Donald Trump has posted an image of the Strait of Hormuz labelled "Trump Strait" shortly after Iran proposed a deal to open the waterway within a week if the US meets certain conditions.

Trump posted an image early Saturday morning on his Truth Social platform of the Strait of Hormuz labelled "Trump Strait," in the first public indication of his thinking after Iran proposed the new deal and suggested it might help Trump ahead of the midterm elections.

would say only that US officials were having positive and constructive conversations with mediators.

Tehran has spent long weeks in discussions with Oman, on the other side of the strait, on how to manage shipping traffic. Its new rush for a deal with Washington, analysts said, reflects its eye on the midterms. Trump might decide an agreement has political benefits. But his rejection risks a return to fighting that would drive oil prices higher just as he needs happy voters.

"Washington may believe that time is on its side: Maintain pressure through November, avoid another major military escalation before the midterms, and reassess afterward. Tehran may reach precisely the opposite conclusion," Danny Citrinowicz, a senior researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, said on X on Saturday.

Trump has said he's in no rush for a deal as the US strains Iran's economy with sanctions. The White House had yet to expand on his "Trump Strait" social media post overnight.

As for Iran, there was no immediate sign its top diplomat had left New York. At home, Iran's security forces have warned they still have targets left to strike.

Pak, Türkiye Pledge Aid to Saudi Arabia

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: The top defence officials of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye have resolved to defend the security of the Gulf Kingdom under the Makkah Defence Alliance in the wake of recent attacks by Yemen, the Pakistan Army said on Saturday.

The trilateral defence agreement, signed by the three countries last month, establishes a framework for collective deterrence and stipulates that an armed attack against any one of them would be regarded as an attack against all.

The meeting of the chiefs of defence forces and chiefs of general staff of the countries was held in Riyadh on Friday, according to a statement by the army.

They reviewed the security situation and the threats facing Saudi Arabia.



"The participants strongly affirmed their commitment to collective defence, thereby demonstrating the resolve of the three countries in defending the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia," it said.

They resented the mysterious attacks targeting the Holy City of Makkah and civilian and economic infrastructure, while appreciating the vigilance and professionalism of the Saudi Armed Forces, the statement said.

The participants also discussed ways to further advance cooperation among the armed forces of the three countries and to enhance intelligence sharing, military coordination, and capability integration.

They said that their meeting in Riyadh reflects the strength of their defence partnership and their shared determination to immediately translate the commitments of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement into effective military cooperation, according to the army.

Nepal Floods: 1,453 Dead, 5,300 Still Missing

Press Trust of India

KATHMANDU: A month after the devastating flash floods hit Nepal's central and northern districts, at least 1,453 people have died and 5,285 remain unaccounted for, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

NDRRMA said the bodies of 1,451 people have been recovered so far, while two others died while undergoing treatment. A total of 13,795 people have been rescued to date, it said Saturday.

Of those rescued, 1,113 people are currently staying in 21 holding centres, including 187 from Nuwakot, 805 from Rasuwa and 121 from Dhading districts.

Flash floods originating near the Nepal-Tibet

border on August 26 devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal.

The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

The disaster also killed 43 people in Tibet, while more than 500 still remain unaccounted for, according to Chinese media.

In Nepal, security agencies have so far provided medical treatment to around 11,000 people affected by the floods, according to NDRRMA. Seven people injured in the floods are currently undergoing treatment, it said.

Identification of the dead remains a major challenge a month after

the disaster. Of the 1,453 bodies recovered so far, 112 have been identified and handed over to their families, according to NDRRMA.

Many of the recovered bodies were badly damaged or fragmented, making visual identification difficult. Nepal Police has therefore been relying on DNA profiling to establish links between recovered remains and people reported missing after the floods.

The police said 1,329 DNA samples have been collected from recovered bodies and remains, and another 2,060 from relatives of missing people.

The authorities have also uploaded details of 1,421 unidentified bodies on the Nepal Police website to help families establish possible identities.

Bangladesh, US Sign MoU on Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh and the United States have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on strategic civil nuclear cooperation to deepen cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The MoU was signed in New York on Friday by Bangladesh Prime Minister's Adviser for Science and Technology Rehan Asad and US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Jacob Helberg, according to Bangladesh's ruling party BNP's media cell.

The agreement comes as Bangladesh seeks to expand and diversify its long-term energy sources. The country is developing its first nuclear power plant at Rooppur and has been pursuing international cooperation in nuclear science and technology.

Under the MoU, the two sides recognised the strategic significance of their diplomatic relationship and its

regional and international security implications, including energy security. They also noted the role nuclear energy can play in meeting the energy requirements of both countries, according to local media reports.

The MoU records the shared position that all civil nuclear cooperation should follow the highest standards of nuclear safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation, according to The Daily Star newspaper.

It also noted that both Bangladesh and the US have International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreements and Additional Protocols in force. Both countries are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Bangladesh and the US had also signed an MoU on strategic cooperation in the broader energy sector in May, aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's long-term energy security through diversified energy sourcing.

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