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1 Killed, 56 Injured In Ramban Accidents

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A tourist from West Bengal was killed and 56 people, including nine security personnel, were injured in two separate road accidents within half an hour on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district on Saturday, officials said.

The first accident involved a passenger bus carrying tourists from Srinagar to Jammu. The bus, bearing a West Bengal registration number, collided with a hill-side near Maroog at around 8:50 am after its driver allegedly lost control, resulting in the death of a woman passenger and injuries to 47 others.

The deceased was identified as Jamuna, a resident of West Bengal. The group was returning after a holiday in Kashmir, officials said.

Four of the injured, identified as Suchitra, Lakshwanti, Kedar Patra and Fouji Ram, were referred to Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu for further treatment.

The remaining injured passengers were stated | [More on P6](#)

Centre Eyes New Hydropower Projects In J&K, Sawalkot In Focus

Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiroo, Kwar projects progressing; Power Secy says ongoing projects will help meet J&K's power needs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre is considering new hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir, including Sawalkot, even as work on major projects such as Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiroo and Kwar is progressing, Union Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal said on Saturday.

Agarwal said the ongoing projects would help meet the power requirements of Jammu and Kashmir and also contribute to meeting electricity demand in other parts of the country.

"We are already working on big projects like Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiroo, Kwar. And



we are making good progress. And we are getting the full support of the UT administration. We will also think about other new projects," Agarwal told reporters

in Srinagar.

On the proposed Sawalkot hydropower project, he said discussions were underway and indicated that the Centre intended to take up

the project in the future.

"We are thinking about Sawalkot. We definitely want to work on this project in the future," he said.

The projects are being developed through the Chenab Valley Power Corporation Limited, a joint venture between the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Agarwal said the UT administration was extending full cooperation to the ongoing hydropower projects.

"All these projects that I have told you about are in your UT. And they will not only meet your demand, but will also meet the demand of the rest of the country,"

he said.

The Power Secretary was responding to questions about J&K's dependence on power supplied from outside despite its identified hydropower potential of around 14,500 MW.

Earlier, Agarwal visited the Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp at Jogger's Park, Rajbagh, Srinagar, organised under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

He said the visit was aimed at reviewing developments in J&K's power sector, including projects being implemented under the Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme and the | [More on P6](#)

Army Commander Reviews Kashmir Situation



Press Trust of India

Srinagar, Oct 3: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Saturday reviewed the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness in the Kashmir Valley.

In a post on X, the Army's Northern Command said Sharma reiterated the need for enhanced inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing and integrated coordination to strengthen operational readiness, facilitate rapid response and enhance the effectiveness of joint operations.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, chaired a comprehensive | [More on P6](#)

241 Tourist Complaints Received In J&K In 2026

₹16.95 lakh in fines imposed and ₹36.43 lakh refunds facilitated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Enforcement Department received 241 complaints from tourists between January 1 and October 1 this year, of which 140 have been disposed of while 101 remain pending.

According to data, the department imposed fines amounting to 16,95,700 on erring service providers during the period and facilitated refunds worth 36,43,440 to aggrieved tourists.

The data showed that J&K recorded 15,45,347 domestic tourist arrivals during the period, while 16,020 foreign tourists visited the Union Territory.

Senior Superintendent Tourism Enforcement SD Choudhary said the department was engaging with both service providers and tourists to identify gaps in hospitality



and improve the overall visitor experience.

He said an outreach event was organised to seek feedback from stakeholders and create greater awareness about appropriate conduct and responsibilities among service providers and visitors.

"The purpose of this event is to interact with all the service providers and tourists. Because some people are lacking in hospitality, which is a very basic thing here. | [More on P6](#)

Cases From FIR To SC Will Be Disposed Of Within 3 Yrs: Shah

Says BNS will streamline justice delivery after full rollout

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that after the full implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), cases would be disposed of within three years from the registration of an FIR to the Supreme Court.

Addressing a state-level conference of cattle rearers in Bhopal after inaugurating an exhibition on the new criminal law, Shah said the country's criminal justice system, once known for delays, would undergo a major transformation following the implementation of the new laws.

"I have come especially to tell the people and the youth that after about one and a half years, once the new criminal law is fully implemented, any case, from the filing of an FIR to the Supreme Court, will



be disposed of within three years," he said.

Shah said the criminal laws introduced during British rule were framed to protect the colonial government and its interests, while the new legislation was intended to protect citizens.

"The new criminal law has been introduced to protect the dignity of the citizens of India. Its basic principle is justice, not punishment," he

said, adding that punishment would be prescribed where necessary to deter crime.

Shah said that after the new criminal laws were fully implemented, India's criminal justice system would become one of the most modern in the world.

The Union minister also criticised the Congress over the creation of a separate Ministry of Cooperation, saying demands for an independent cooperative ministry had existed for decades.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi established the ministry after taking office and claimed that cattle rearers would be among those benefiting most from the cooperative sector.

Shah also highlighted the growth in India's milk production, saying it had increased from 14.7 crore tonnes in 2014-15 to | [More on P6](#)

J&K At Take-Off Stage In Rooftop Solar: Power Secy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has entered the "take-off stage" in rooftop solar adoption under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Union Power Ministry Secretary Pankaj Aggarwal said on Saturday, while noting that the Union Territory still needs to build momentum in the sector.

Aggarwal made the remarks after visiting the Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp at Jogger's Park, Rajbagh, Srinagar, organised under the rooftop solar scheme.

He said his visit was aimed at reviewing developments in J&K's power sector, including work under the Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and the PM Surya Ghar programme.

"There is a lot of work happening in J&K under the central government scheme of RDSS and, again, today what we are witnessing is the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. It is quite encouraging," Aggarwal said.

He said around 50 lakh people



across the country had availed benefits under the rooftop solar scheme.

"I am pleased that a good start has been made in Jammu and Kashmir in this direction as well. J&K has recently achieved an initial milestone of 100 megawatts, and once the momentum builds, rapid progress will definitely follow," he said.

Responding to complaints from beneficiaries regarding delays in subsidy payments, Aggarwal said the subsidy disbursement system of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was | [More on P6](#)

AgriStack Covers 80.7% of J&K Land Parcels, Farmer IDs Lag

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's ambitious AgriStack exercise continues to face an implementation gap, with only 80.7 per cent of identified land parcels approved under the platform even as the government has directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure 100 per cent coverage of eligible farmers.

A latest review chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo showed that the administration has achieved complete digitisation of foundational land records across all 20 districts, 207 tehsils and 6,818 villages. However, the broader AgriStack process remains incomplete.

Against a base of 71,04,737 Khasras, data entry has been completed for 65,77,944 parcels. Of these, 58,17,502 have been verified and 57,30,681 approved.

This leaves | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Saffron Growers Pin Hopes On Timely Rainfall

Agencies

Srinagar: Saffron growers in Kashmir are pinning their hopes on timely rainfall, fearing that prolonged dry weather and high temperatures could hurt flowering and further reduce production this season.

Growers said inadequate soil moisture has raised concerns across saffron-growing areas, stressing that rainfall at this stage is critical for flowering and yields.

Abdul Majeed Wani, president of the Saffron Growers Association Kashmir, said high temperatures were a concern as saffron corms require favourable weather and adequate moisture for proper flowering.

"Temperatures are quite high these days, and this can affect flowering. When corms do not get favourable conditions and adequate moisture, the number of flowers declines, ultimately affecting

production," Wani said.

He said climate change and erratic weather have already taken a toll on saffron cultivation, leading to a sharp decline in production over the years.

"Production has declined considerably in recent years, and if timely rains do not occur this season, farmers fear further losses," he said.

Wani said more farmers had taken up saffron cultivation this year, but adequate moisture remained essential for the crop's success.

"Without sufficient moisture at the right time, growers' investments can be affected," he said.

Another grower said farmers were hoping for favourable weather in the coming days as saffron is highly sensitive during the flowering period.

"Timely rain can make a significant difference. If dry conditions persist, yields may again remain poor," he said.

Government | [More on P6](#)



PLAYERS IN ACTION DURING DAY 3 of the five-day Irani Cup match at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Vague Allegations No Basis For Preventive Detention: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Underlining that vague allegations cannot form the basis of preventive detention and that unexplained delay in considering a detainee's representation infringes his valuable procedural rights, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed the PSA detention order against a Shopian resident.

A bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal while allowing a petition filed by Mashooq Ahmad Shah, held that the detention grounds lacked necessary particulars and had prevented him from making an effective representation against his detention. The court also found that the authorities had taken more than one-and-a-half months to decide his representation without offering any explanation for the delay.

The authorities had contended that | [More on P6](#)



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Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE KASHMIR,
LALMANDI SRINAGAR
AUCTION NOTICE

Open Auction Notice is hereby issued for the auction of unserviceable items lying at FTEC, Ganderbal, on an "as is where is" basis, as per the details mentioned below. The auction shall be conducted on 07.10.2026 (Wednesday) at 02:00 PM at the Office of FTEC, Ganderbal. Interested bidders may participate in the auction subject to the terms and conditions prescribed. The detail of the material to be auctioned is given as under:-\

S. No.	Category of Unserviceable Items	Reserve Price (Rs.)	EMD Amount (Rs.)
01	Metal & Plastic Items	42,935/-	2,500/-
02	IT Equipment		
03	Office Furniture		

Terms and Conditions

- The auction shall be conducted through open and competitive bidding at FTEC Ganderbal.
- All bidders shall deposit the prescribed EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) in the form of CDR/FDR or cash at the time of registration for participation in the auction. No bidder shall be allowed to participate in the auction without registration and depositing the required EMD by 01:00 PM on 07.10.2026.
- The reserve price is fixed at Rs. 42,875/- (Rupees Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Five Only). Bids below the reserve price shall not be considered.
- Interested parties may inspect the unserviceable items at FTEC Ganderbal on any working day during office hours, up to 07.10.2026 till 01:00 PM.
- The unserviceable items shall be auctioned on an "as is where is" basis, and no claim regarding its quantity, quality or condition shall be entertained after conclusion of the auction.
- The Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 100% of the bid amount immediately upon being declared the successful bidder.
- The Auction Committee shall have the right to regulate the bidding and fix the minimum increment between successive bids during the auction.
- In the event of any dispute arising between the parties, the matter shall be referred to the Director Agriculture, Kashmir, whose decision shall be final and binding on both parties.
- The EMDs of unsuccessful bidders shall be released upon submission of an application to the Member Secretary, Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).
- The auction process shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017, and other rules/instructions issued by the Government from time to time.

DIPK-6346/26
dated: 03-10-2026

Sd/-
(Ishtiyag Ahmad Khan)
Accounts Officer
(Member Secretary A.C.)
Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION SOPORE**

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Fax No:- 01954-222626 email: executiveengineerstdsopore@gmail.com

NIT NO.STDS/ 18 of 2026-27

Dated: 01/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules of SBD forming part of this document. The detail of works is as under

1.	Name of the Work	Construction of Electrical Yard comprising Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Line Bay, Transformer Bay, Distribution Transformer, 11 kV Indoor Switchgear, Common Equipment and Miscellaneous Works for upcoming Sub Station for Associated Hospital Handwara
2.	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	191.68
3.	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non-refundable)	₹ 3000/-
4.	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	₹ 3,83,400/-

Critical Dates

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 02 nd October, 2026; 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	05 th October, 2026; 04:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)/ Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date	26 th October, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	28 th October, 2026; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of Technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

All other details viz. Eligibility Criteria, Terms & Conditions, Schedules are mentioned in the SBD forming the part of the document.

No: STDS/TS/1063-66
DIPK-NB-1779/26
Dated: 03/10/2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer, KPDCL
Sub Transmission Division Sopore

**The Jammu And Kashmir
Board Of School Education**
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 112000258 Session: Bi-Annual Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by self error against my Father's name as Mushtaq Ahmad Gojar Matray Instead of Mushtaq Ahmad Gojar Matravi

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

Name: Sadiya Akhter
Father's name: Mushtaq Ahmad Gojar Matravi
Mother's Name: Roshan Jan
DOB: 01-10-2008
Residence: Ajas Distt Bandipora
Mobile no: 6005884697



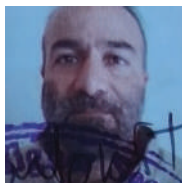
fko

**The Jammu And Kashmir
Board Of School Education**
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-12th) under Roll No. 374471 Session: Bi-Annual Year 1996 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by self error against my name as Ishfaq Anjum Samoon Instead of Ishfaq Anjum Eijaz

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

Name: Ishfaq Anjum Eijaz
Father's name: Khalid Hussain Samoon
Mother's Name: Sajda Usmani
DOB: 03-05-1975
Residence: Nusoo Bandipora
Mobile no: 7889425720



fko

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motor cycle bearing regd no: JK04D 2149. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahamd Bhat
S/o Mohammad Jaffar Bhat
2ND OWNER Mushtaq Ahmad waza
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Waza

bmrg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name and date of birth have been wrongly recorded in my service records as Aira Shamim, DOB 15-12-2018, whereas her correct name and date of birth are Ayra Shamim, DOB 18-12-2020. I have applied for the necessary correction. If anyone has any objection, he or she may submit it within 7 days of this prior notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

Shamim Ahmad
Mohammad Yassen Sheikh
Chamkote, Karnah

NZ

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as HABIBULLAH KHAN While as my actual name is HABIB ULLAH KHAN C/O MOHD YAQOOB KHAN R/O NARIZAB KALAROOSE KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period

HABIB ULLAH KHAN
C/O :- MOHD YAQOOB KHAN
R/O :- NARIZAB KALAROOSE, KUPWARA

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as AALIYA JAN While as my actual name is ATTIQA AHAD C/O ABDUL AHAD DAR R/O KUNAN KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained

ATTIQA AHAD
C/O :- ABDUL AHAD DAR
R/O :- KUNAN, KUPWARA

qns

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD
OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**
NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE
ATTENTION PLEASE



The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he/she has lost his/her qualification certificate/s having the following description: -
ROLL NO:- 5141513
CLASS :-10TH
YEAR & SESSION:- BIENNIAL- 2019
REGISTRATION NO :- N17480470039
NAME:- JUNAID MEHRAJ
FATHER'S NAME :-MEHRAJ U DIN ZARGAR
MOTHER'S NAME :-SHAMEEMA BEGUM
DATE FO BIRTH :-20-10-2003
RESIDENCE:- TREHGAM KUPWARA
Now the candidate has applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S, Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.
(Besides, the lost "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE ", bearing Serial NO/s 19APBI-4015618 is being treated as "CANCELLED")
No:F(Certs-I-DQC)/B/KD/20

qns

Sd/- Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD

**THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF
SCHOOL EDUCATION**
(SUB OFFICE KUPWARA)

PUBLIC NOTICE
ATTENTION PLEASE



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10TH) under Roll No. 9354 session :-Oct-Nov Year: 1987 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by School /parent against my Name & Fathers Name as SHABER AHMAD SHIEK & RUSTUM SHIEK instead of SHABIR AHMAD SHIEK & MOHD RUSTUM SHIEK
Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.
The correct particulars be recorded as under:-
Name:- SHABIR AHMAD SHIEK
Father's Name:- MOHD RUSTUM SHIEK
Date of Birth: 01-02-1972
Residence: RAWATHPORA KRALPORA KUPWARA
Mobile No.-7889951334

qns

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420140023243 issued in favour of UMER KHALIQ GANAI Parentage AB KHALIQ GANAI

Whereas an application has been recieved by one UMER KHALIQ GANAI Parentage AB KHALIQ GANAI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as UER KHALIQ GANIE Parentage AB KHALIQ GANIE Which needs to be changed as UMER KHALIQ GANAI Parentage AB KHALIQ GANAI.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 4902 4250 8263 the name is entered as SARA AKHTER while my actual name is SARAH. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SARAH
W/O BASHIR AHMAD DAR
R/O HUMHAMA SRINAGAR

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that M/s ALAMDAR AGRO CARE, situated at J&K Bank Complex, Shop No.1 & 2, Beerwah, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, through its Proprietor Majid Hassan Dar S/o Ghulam Hassan Dar, intends to obtain the requisite licence/permission from the concerned competent authority for carrying on the business of wholesale and retail sale of pesticides and seeds at the aforesaid premises.Any person having any objection, claim or complaint regarding the issuance of the said licence in favour of the above-mentioned firm/shop may submit the same in writing before the concerned competent authority within the prescribed period from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the competent authority may proceed with the issuance of the requisite licence as per rules.

Name of Shop/Firm: M/s ALAMDAR AGRO CAREAddress: J&K Bank Complex, Shop No.1 & 2, Beerwah, Budgam, J&K
Proprietor: Majid Hassan Dar
Father's Name: Ghulam Hassan Dar
Business: Wholesale & Retail Sale of Pesticides and Seeds

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I intend to change/correct my name in my Aadhaar Card from Makhie Jan to Mahkee Jan.

If any person has any objection regard he/she may contact the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Mahkee Jan

D/o Gh Quadir Allaie

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my ward , Salib Naseer Parray, has been wrongly written in his school records as 25-10-2012 while his correct DOB is 20-11-2013 as per Birth Certificate issued by Police Station Kunzer. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned School within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Naseer Ahamd Parray
F/o Salib Naseer
R/o Usan Bangil Tehsil Kawarhama

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shahnawaz Hussain Ganaie, S/o Mohd Ishaq Ganaie, R/o Kripalpura Payeen, Post Office Pattan, Tehsil Singpora, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Shanawaz Hussain Ganie" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2350-7693-3914, which is incorrect.

My correct and actual name is "Shahnawaz Hussain Ganaie." Both names pertain to one and the same person.

Any person having any objection in this regard may report the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that I, Nisar Ahmad Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir, R/o Sanoor Kalipora, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam, intend to register the birth events of my daughters, namely:

- Uzmah Jan, D/o Nisar Ahmad Mir – DOB: 15-04-2013
 - Mir Sana Nisar, D/o Nisar Ahmad Mir – DOB: 16-05-2015
- The said birth events occurred at my residential home and are proposed to be registered with the BDO Office, Sanoor Kalipora. Any person having any objection to the registration of the above birth events may submit the same before the BDO Office, Sanoor Kalipora, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir
R/o Sanoor Kalipora, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam

bmrg

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as FAREEDA BANO While as my actual name is FAREEDA WANI C/O WALI MOHAMMAD SHEIKH R/O CHUNTIWARI MACHIL KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period

FAREEDA WANI
C/O :-WALI MOHAMMAD SHEIKH
R/O :- CHUNTIWARI MACHIL, KUPWARA

qns

Altaf Bukhari Vows 'Documentary Proof' in Saedpora Hotel Row

Agencies

Srinagar: Apni Party founder-president Altaf Bukhari has vowed to release documentary proof linking the contractor of an allegedly unauthorised hotel at Saedpora Harwan in Srinagar to the National Conference top brass, even as the NC dismissed his charges and claimed the man at the centre of the controversy belongs to Bukhari's own party.

The row erupted after Advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Nasir Aslam Wani Sogami, claimed that the man identified only as Chawla — accused of raising the hotel — has been traced to his nest in Altaf Bukhari's own Apni Party. Sogami, in an interview, rejected Altaf Bukhari's allegations, insisting the NC government has neither allotted any land to any Chawla nor granted any building permission for the hotel.

According to Sogami, Chawla acquired 15 separate parcels totalling 15 kanals through separate deeds and began construction without permission from the LCMA — work that “we have got immediately stopped by the authorities”. He alleged that both the land acquisition and the illegal construction were facilitated by people associated with Bukhari's party, and that the contractor too belongs to the Apni Party.

Altaf Bukhari hit back swiftly, accusing the Advisor of just attempting to mislead the people about the identity and political affiliation of those involved.

According to the Apni Party president, 30 kanals of land have been transferred through illegal registration to a Mumbai-based businessman, who is raising a multi-storey hotel in violation of several laws.

He explained that there are two people of the same name in Saedpora Harwan — one associated with the Apni Party and until recently an elected DDC member from Srinagar, with no link to the Mumbai businessman; the other, he claimed, closely linked to NC and the CM and his family and engaged as the contractor for the hotel.

Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari vowed to soon release documentary proof connecting the contractor to the Mumbai businessman on one side and to the NC top brass on the other.

Clarifying his charge, Altaf Bukhari said he never claimed the government allotted the land to the businessman. His allegation, rather, is that the businessman bought proprietary parcels in blatant violation of the domicile law now in force in J&K, that registration was carried out by officers of the NC government, and that a parcel of state land was annexed along with them with the connivance and facilitation of the current dispensation.

Construction, he said, continued in full swing with the government's full knowledge until he made the issue public, and was halted only after that — a claim that directly contradicts Sogami's assertion that the work was stopped immediately. (KNS)

Tourist Police Engages Visitors, Stakeholders to Strengthen Tourism Services

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Oct 3: The Tourist Police on Saturday organised a tourist interaction event at Zabbarwan Park here, bringing together senior officials of the Tourism Department, representatives of the Tourist Police, tourism stakeholders, service providers and visiting tourists.

The event, organised under the initiative of Dr S.D. Chowdhury, SSP Enforcement and Deputy Director Tourism (Enforcement), focused on strengthening coordination among the Tourism Department, Tourist Police and various stakeholders to ensure a safe, transparent and hassle-free experience for tourists visiting Kashmir.

During the programme, officials interacted directly with tourists and recorded their testimonials and experiences. The feedback and testimonials are proposed to be disseminated through official social media platforms and news portals to showcase visitors' experiences and assess their wider impact on the tourism profile of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials also held discussions on issues concerning tourist safety, transparent pricing and quality service delivery. The participants stressed the need to prevent touting and unfair practices while ensuring that tourists are free to choose their accommodation, transport, shopping and other services without undue pressure.

Tourism stakeholders and service providers actively participated in the



interaction and put forward suggestions aimed at improving tourist facilitation and strengthening the overall tourism ecosystem.

The event concluded on a positive note, with participating stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to closer coordination and collective efforts to make Jammu and Kashmir a safe, transparent and welcoming destination for visitors.

Those present included Was-eem Raja, Joint Director Tourism, Kashmir; Dr S.D. Chowdhury, SSP Enforcement and Deputy Director Tourism (Enforcement); Inspector Aftab Ahmad Lone, SHO Tourist Police; Shaista Khan, Officer-in-Charge, Tourist Office, Zabbarwan Park; Raashid Raina, Deputy Director Publicity; and representatives of various travel and tourism associations.

NIT Hosts Expert Talk on Advanced Fibre-Reinforced Polymer Composites

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in association with Dhaatu Mitra-The Metallurgy Club, organised an expert talk on “Advanced Fibre-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Composites for Structural Applications.”

The session was delivered by Dr. R. T. Durai Prabhakaran, Professor and Dean (Research & Consultancy), IIT Jammu, who has dual affiliation with the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Materials & Metallurgical Engineering.

The programme was held under the patronage of NIT Srinagar Director Prof. Anurag Mishra. Dr. Srinibash Mishra, Head, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, served as Convener, while Dr. Anshul Gupta and Dr. Nitika Kundan were the Coordinators.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Anurag Mishra, Director, NIT Srinagar, said expert talks of this nature provide our students and faculty members with valuable exposure to emerging research, technologies and contemporary developments in their respective fields.

“Such interactions facilitate knowledge exchange while creating

opportunities for academic and research collaborations with leading institutions and experts. NIT Srinagar will continue to promote such programmes to strengthen academic engagement and broaden research opportunities for its students and faculty,” he added.

In his key address, Dr. Prabhakaran discussed FRP composites, their material systems, manufacturing techniques, mechanical performance and structural applications.

He highlighted their high strength-to-weight ratio, design flexibility and corrosion resistance, besides their growing use in civil, mechanical and aerospace structures.

Water Shortage Triggers Road Blockade in Srinagar's Kralkhud

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Women from Basant Bagh, Habakadal and Kralkhud areas of Srinagar took to the streets on Saturday over acute water shortage, blocking the road in Kralkhud and disrupting vehicular movement as residents demanded

immediate restoration of regular water supply.

The protesters said prolonged disruption in water supply has caused severe difficulties for households in the affected areas, forcing women to come out on the road to draw attention to the shortage.

The Jammu & Kashmir Forest Development Corporation.

(South Extraction Circle Harnag Anantnag)

ABBREVIATED TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

e-NIT No. 10 of 2026-27/South Dated 03.10.2026.

For and on behalf of Managing Director J&K Forest Development Corporation Ltd., General Manager South Extraction Circle J&K Forest Development Corporation Ltd., invites e-Tenders from Contractors registered with the J&K Forest Development Corporation Ltd. for execution of various Timber logging operations, viz., Extraction, Off Road Transportation and Road Transportation activities in advertised coupes as per details in Annexure-1 to the General Tender Notice (SBD & BOQ) issued vide this office e-NIT endorsed vide No. 1522-41/GM/S/Hrg dated 03.10.2026. The Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The calendar of events shall be as under:

#	Activity	Date & Time
01	Publishing Date	05.10.2026 from 1600 Hrs
02	Document Download start Date	05.10.2026 from 1800 Hrs
03	Bid Submission Start Date	05.10.2026 from 1800 Hrs
04	Document Download End Date	19.10.2026 at 1800 Hrs
05	Bid Submission End Date	19.10.2026 at 1800 Hrs
06	Technical Bid Opening Date	21.10.2026 at 1100 Hrs
07	Uploading of Technical Bid Evaluation Sheet	Immediately after the completion of evaluation of technical Bid.
08	Financial Bid Opening Date	Immediately after the completion of technical evaluation
09	Uploading of Financial Bid Evaluation Sheet	Immediately after the completion of financial evaluation
10	Declaration of the Successful bidder	To be Notified Later

The tenders (Technical Bids) will be opened online in the office of Managing Director, J&K Forest Dev. Corporation, Forest Complex, Rajbagh Srinagar. In case of un-foreseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day or else notified separately. The detailed tender documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on www.jktenders.gov.in.

(Mudasir Mehmood, DCF)
General Manager South
Extraction Circle Harnag Anantnag

No:1542-61/GM/S/Hrg
DIPK-NB-1792/26
Dated:03.10.2026



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
IAPM Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkmail.com

Possession Notice

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

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated **30.01.2026** thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Irfan Ahmad Mayer (Borrower) S/O Shafiq Ahmad Mayer R/O Iqbal Colony, Shalteng to repay an amount of Rs 1665177.92 (**Rupees_Sixteen lacs Sixty Five Thousand one hundred seventy seven paise ninety two only**) being the balance outstanding as on **31.12.2025** in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 03.10.2026

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs. 18,59,214.92 (Rupees Eighteen Lac Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen paise Ninety two only)** as on 30.09.2026 together with future interest thereon from **01.10.2026** and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Note: *This Possession Notice is issued in supersession of the earlier Possession Notice issued in the account on 28.09.2026 under Sec.13(4) of SARFAESI Act and published on 30.09.2026 in the daily Kashmir Observer and the Daily Alsafa News, which is hereby withdrawn on account of certain procedural deficiencies. The present notice may therefore be treated as the only operative notice under Sec. 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in the instant NPA account.*

Description of the Immovable Property:

A piece of land measuring land measuring 4 kanals belonging to Mr. Nadeem Ahmad Mayer under Khasra No 1717 min, Khata No 670, Khewat No 147 at Mouza Gupt Ganga, Tehsil Srinagar (North), District Srinagar

Authorized Officer



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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS


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

HIGHWAY STATUS


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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
21 Rabi-ul-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 07
ZUHR	12:21
ASR	4: 32
Magrib	6: 19
ISHA	7: 39

This Day In History

- 1363 - End of the Battle of Lake Poyang; the Chinese rebel forces of Zhu Yuanzhang defeat that of his rival, Chen Youliang, one of the largest naval battles in history with 850,000 taking part (approx.)
- 1537 - The first complete English-language Bible (the Matthew Bible) is printed, with translations by William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale.
- 1914 - Dardanelles: French & British fleet bombards Turkish forts
- 1921 - League of Nations refuses to assist starving Russians
- 1922 - Protocol of Geneva signed: Austria gains independence
- 1933 - Esquire magazine is 1st published
- 1940 - 12 German aircrafts shot down above England
- 1940 - Adolf Hitler & Benito Mussolini confer at Brenner Pass in Alps
- 1949 - United Nations' permanent NYC headquarters is dedicated
- 1956 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga Australia
- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik 1, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958 - Transatlantic commercial jet passenger service began (BOAC)
- 1958 - Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1960 - Courier 1B Launched; 1st active repeater satellite in orbit
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1963 - Hurricane Flora, kills 6,000 in Cuba & Haiti
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 7; crash lands on Moon
- 1966 - France performs nuclear test at Mururoa atoll
- 1967 - 1st World Series since 1948 not to feature NY Yankees, Giants or the Dodgers
- 1967 - Omar Ali Saifuddin III of Brunei abdicates in favour of his son, His Majesty Sultan Hassanall Bolkiah.
- 1969 - UN starts issuing postage stamps at Geneva headquarters.
- 1976 - Supreme Court lifts 1972 ban on death penalty for convicted murderers
- 1976 - Official launch of the Intercity 125 High Speed Train (HST).

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)] By Through Publication.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)
Ground Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh - 160017

DEMAND NOTICE

THROUGH PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/1410/2025 01-09-2026

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Versus
M/S. REE ENTERPRISES AND ANOTHER

TO
(CD 1) M/S. REE ENTERPRISES M/S. REE ENTERPRISES SITUATED AT ASHINA TRESPONE, LADAKH THROUGH ITS
(CD 2) SH. KAZIM BEGH S/O SH. GHULAM BEGH R/O CHIKGROUNG TAMBIS, KARGIL, DISTRICT LADAKH.
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3) in OA/1417/2024 an amount of Rs 2656927 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousands Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Only) along with pendentelitte and future interest @ 8.00% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 06/12/2024 till realization and costs of Rs 29000 (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/ Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in Appearance before this tribunal on 17.10.2026, at 10.30AM.
4. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 01/09/2026
RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)

The Mystery in the Land Records

Discrepancies between maps, settlement records and fields in Levдора show how an old mistake can survive generations of updates.



Mohammad Amin Mir

Survey No. 10 in Levдора, a village in Tehsil Qazigund of Anantnag district, stands in the revenue record at 8 kanals and 11 marlas. Measured on the spot against the village Massavi, the original settlement map, it came to 7 kanals and 5 marlas. The field is short by 1 kanal and 6 marlas, and the paper has no way of knowing it.

I served as Patwari of Levдора for about two years, roughly a decade ago, and the disparity was no isolated case.

Survey Nos. 32, 64 and 186 showed similar differences between the Record of Rights and the map, along with several other fields.

These are professional observations from my tenure, with no comprehensive survey behind them, and they need testing against the original settlement documents and a proper technical survey before any one names a cause.

The dates still invite suspicion.

Levdora's settlement is about a century old, and some of these differences may date back to the original settlement work.

The two documents were meant to match. The Jammu and Kashmir Government's own explanatory material describes the Massavi as the original settlement map and the Misal Haqiat as the record prepared during the settlement or its revision.

The map shows the layout of the fields. The record lists the landholders, their rights and the fields that make up their holdings.

When the area recorded in the RoR differs from a reliable survey of the actual boundaries, neither figure can simply be treated as correct.

The difference could come from a clerical mistake, an error in the original calculation, a changed boundary, a subdivided field carrying a Min or Bata number, or a map that no longer matches the ground. Each possibility would need a different remedy.

Time hardens such errors. Over a hun-

dred years, the land has passed through inheritance, partition, sale and acquisition, with revenue entries updated at every transfer while the old maps and measurement records went on identifying the fields.

An error planted at settlement could have travelled through all those updates without anyone tracing its source. Digitisation makes entries searchable and easy to preserve, but it copies the inherited figure faithfully, including the wrong one.

A database can hold 8 kanals and 11 marlas indefinitely, with perfect efficiency, for a field that holds less.

The Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996, governs records of rights and annual records, with two of its provisions being particularly relevant here.

Section 31 presumes entries in properly prepared records to be correct until the contrary is proved. Section 32 lets an aggrieved person seek correction before the Collector, the Deputy Commissioner, subject to statutory requirements and limitation. Both suit a dispute over a single entry.

A discrepancy across several fields is different from a simple clerical error. A landholder should not have to bear the burden of correcting figures fixed a century ago without due inquiry. Clerical or arithmetic errors may follow a set procedure, while disputes over original measurements or the Massavi and RoR require fuller examination.

No record can be changed merely because an area discrepancy exists.

The consequences fall on ordinary households. The area in the Jamabandi decides what can be sold, what an heir receives, how a partition is divided, what a bank will accept as security for a mortgage and where a boundary dispute begins.

A citizen who finds that the record disagrees with the field has no clear office to approach and no clear statement of which evidence will be accepted. The result is a landowner moving from one Tehsil desk to another over an error in a document he never helped prepare.

The department could start at the village. Officials would lay the Massavi, Misal Haqiat, measurement records, Jamabandi and mutations side by side and document each survey number where the recorded area conflicts with the map.

Qualified survey personnel would then verify those fields, examining reference points and boundaries and remeasuring

under the applicable rules where necessary.

Where a proposed correction could alter ownership shares, possession or the rights of adjoining landholders, those people must be heard, which keeps a technical fix from becoming a fresh quarrel.

Clerical mistakes, arithmetic errors, map inconsistencies, disputed boundaries and questions of ownership belong in distinct categories, each with its own authority and procedure.

A designated team of revenue and survey officials, working to a fixed timeline, could record findings on verified cases and recommend action to the competent authority, sparing citizens repeated rounds of the Tehsil office.

Any approved correction should be entered in the records and digital system, with an audit trail showing why it was made, while the original settlement documents remain preserved.

Whether Levдора is an exception is unknown. A pilot assessment in villages where discrepancies have been reported would show whether the problem is isolated or whether a broader technical review is warranted.

It would also separate errors in recorded area from disputes over possession or title, which are different problems, and merging them would trouble landowners and officials alike.

The Financial Commissioner (Revenue), the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and the Survey and Land Records authorities should open a preliminary inquiry into Survey Nos. 10, 32, 64 and 186 and clarify the procedure for resolving such discrepancies.

If the examination traces the problem to the old settlement, the department should determine the legally permissible correction. If it finds another cause, the remedy should follow the evidence.

The department can count how many records it has typed into a database, and that count says little about whether they describe the land beneath them.

Somewhere in Levдора, a landholder owns a field that the record says is larger than it is, and whoever inherits it will inherit the difference.

The author works in the revenue department and can be reached at miramin354@gmail.com.

Who Gave Them the Mandate?

Retired officials who form forums and speak as civil society hold a letterhead, and a letterhead confers no constituency.



Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

Official power ends in small subtractions. The office is vacated, the nameplate comes down, the files are closed and the corridors of authority fill with other people.

The chair disappears, but the voice acquired beside it survives, and for some retired officials it grows into a second career in representation.

Yesterday they exercised authority through an institution, but today they claim legitimacy through a letterhead.

The method is common.

A few known faces gather, an organisation is formed and a grand designation is coined. A handful of agreeable voices become a forum, the forum becomes civil society, and civil society, rendered as concerned, conscious or sensitive citizens, becomes the voice of the people by some curious alchemy.

Someone starts a WhatsApp group. The discussion runs on without result and ends by fixing the date of the next general body meeting.

Where, in all of this, did the public hand over its voice?

A press release is easy, a memorandum is easier, and a photograph is easiest of all.

Titles make relevance visible, and they open doors to people in power and to the press. The harder work is harder to show: staying engaged, asking tough questions, following up with institutions and demanding accountability after the story has moved on.

The result is a politics of the one-day concern, an issue born in a press release, sustained by a headline and forgotten before the ink dries.

The chronology of conviction tells more.

Some questions become public causes only after the people raising them have left office. Positions surface in retirement that were missing, or even resisted, while the same individuals held institutional authority.

People may change their minds, and intellectual honesty sometimes demands it. The difficulty begins when a person pretends never to have held the earlier view.

A society that values public memory should be able to ask such questions without being accused of disrespect. Experience earns regard but no immunity from scrutiny. Retirement confers no second, invisible office of Permanent Representative of the Public Conscience.

Having something to say is a right all citizens share, but a mandate to speak for others



A city is a community of citizens who all hold a voice, and none of them holds the right to confiscate the voices of the rest. The most democratic sentence a self-appointed public leader can learn is also the simplest: "I speak for myself, unless the people have asked me to speak for them."

has to be earned.

An NGO cannot manufacture a constituency, a designation cannot manufacture legitimacy, and a newspaper headline cannot manufacture consent. Proximity to former power cannot manufacture democratic authority either.

Public life has begun to mistake visibility for legitimacy, publicity for advocacy, association for representation and repetition for public opinion.

The danger is subtle. Institutions do not have to collapse for the public voice to grow weaker. It happens when those most comfortable speaking for the public slowly take over that space, leaving citizens as spectators instead of participants.

Former officials can bring their experience to public life, and citizens can organise, criticise, advocate and dissent. Any claim of representation still meets one elementary democratic question: where is the mandate?

A city is a community of citizens who all hold a voice, and none of them holds the right to confiscate the voices of the rest. The most democratic sentence a self-appointed public leader can learn is also the simplest: "I speak for myself, unless the people have asked me to speak for them."

Holding up this mirror accuses no one. It helps all of us see ourselves more honestly.

The author is a senior consultant surgeon, who writes frequently on healthcare reforms. He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com.

Kashmir Needs a Neurolaw Debate

MRI, fMRI and EEG can reveal aspects of the brain, but they cannot photograph intention, guilt or choice. The law must decide how much weight such evidence deserves.



Zobiya Bhat

A brain scan enters a courtroom like a map enters a disputed territory, useful and incomplete and easily mistaken for the ground itself.

Courts already set these images beside witness accounts and forensic reports. The practice is called neurolaw, and it invites judges to weigh what the brain reveals about impulse, memory, intention and control.

Understanding neurological injury, developmental stage or prolonged stress can sharpen judgments about accountability.

The graver risk is that the image starts to replace the person it describes.

Criminal law has long assumed that someone who knows an act and chooses it bears responsibility. Brain injuries, neurological disorders and developmental differences strain that assumption, because they can weaken impulse control, decision-making, emotional regulation and the capacity to foresee consequences.

Courts in several jurisdictions have examined such evidence in cases involving juveniles and intellectual disabilities.

The scan decides nothing about guilt. It adds one fact about capacity, and that fact gains force only when interpreters decline to treat correlation as causation.

An unusual structure may coexist with ordinary behaviour, and a statistical link between a neural feature and a

type of action leaves open whether the feature produced the act under review.

The difference sounds technical until a sentence hangs on it.

Images persuade by how they look. Coloured maps of activity and detailed structural views seem definitive, but MRI, fMRI and EEG record structure or blood-flow changes and do not photograph thought.

Someone must translate the data, and the translation has limits. Courts therefore face two questions: what the scan displays, and what conclusion that display can support.

An image treated as self-explanatory inflates its own certainty and crowds out the other evidence in the room.

The adolescent brain makes the stakes plain. Systems governing planning, impulse control and long-term consequence keep maturing through the teenage years. That fact leaves responsibility intact and changes what a proportionate response looks like.

A justice system that ignores the unfinished architecture of a young brain applies adult measures to capacities still under construction. The same logic applies, with different contours, to adults whose brains injury or disease has altered.

Kashmir adds local weight to these questions.

Communities here have lived through prolonged conflict, displacement, loss and psychological stress. Trauma cannot serve as a universal alibi, and none of it cancels criminal responsibility.

Prolonged stress nonetheless leaves measurable traces on impulse regulation, emotional processing and decision-making. A justice system that registers those traces gains better tools for rehabilitation and mental-health support, especially for the young people who enter it.

Accountability and treatment can coexist: a person can be held responsible while the system asks whether intervention lowers the chance of further harm.

India has already drawn one boundary.

In Selvi v. State of Karnataka in 2010, the Supreme Court examined involuntary narcoanalysis, polygraph tests and



Neuroscience has entered the legal space and will not leave it. The decisive question is how much weight a court assigns to it. It can illuminate injury, developmental stage and certain impairments, but it cannot convert a human being into a biological diagram.

brain-mapping, and held that forcing them on a person violated constitutional protections against self-incrimination and the right to personal liberty. The judgment reaches beyond those methods.

Scientific power alone does not authorise intrusion, and evidence gathering that reaches inside a person calls for a balance the law, not the laboratory, must set.

Future tools that claim to identify memories, emotional responses or attention states will press the same question harder. Information about the brain feels more intimate than online data, and pressure to undergo neurological testing because investigators find it useful already tests the line between inquiry and invasion.

Over-reading a finding creates a second danger.

An abnormality invites a tidy story in which something

is wrong in the brain and the crime is therefore explained. Two people with similar scans can act differently, because behaviour grows from biology, surroundings, experience, relationships and choice. The brain does not operate apart from a life.

Squeezing a medical finding into a single explanatory sentence produces the appearance of science while erasing how action actually comes about.

Money bends the field further. Advanced imaging and specialist interpretation remain expensive, and when such evidence is available mainly to those who can pay, a technology framed as making justice better informed introduces a new inequality.

The defendant with resources obtains a neurological narrative and the defendant without resources does not.

The court then weighs two unequal bundles of information under the same formal rules.

Neuroscience has entered the legal space and will not leave it. The decisive question is how much weight a court assigns to it. It can illuminate injury, developmental stage and certain impairments, but it cannot convert a human being into a biological diagram.

Witness testimony, forensic work and established legal principles keep their force, and the questions of consent and privacy stay open.

As the science advances, the law will absorb new knowledge while testing every claim made in its name, particularly where fundamental rights are engaged.

A scan can reveal something about a person, and the part it cannot reach is the part a court exists to judge.

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

The Changing Face of Kashmir's Famous Feast

A feast once judged by the precision of its cooks is now judged by its bulk, and the reforms meant to restrain it have all collapsed.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

The Trami of my childhood held about 1.5 kg of mutton, seven dishes, and no chicken. Nobody thought it meagre.

But today, the same copper vessel takes 7 to 8 kg of mutton, the menu runs past twenty dishes, and each basket comes with four plastic bags for the leftovers everyone expects.

Those bags are the most honest objects at the modern feast, because they admit that the surplus was planned before the first dish was served.

The wazas who built this cuisine came mostly from Shehr-e-Khaas, from the hubs of Bhorikadal, Maharajgunj and Wazpora. Before the copper Trami became standard, families gathered around the Tathuol, a large wooden casket or plate that served eight or more guests.

Master lineages such as the Khossas, Bandaris, Shatian, Cheetghar and Mahraji wazas set the benchmark, and their skill showed in smallness and precision.

The meal opened with the wafer-thin Truthe Kebab, close to what the Harisa-wallas set on a simmering plate today. A Rista was a small thing, and what we now call a Rista was then a Gushtaba.

A common belief holds that Wazwan arrived whole from Central Asia or Iran. Aab Gosht

does carry a Persian name, but Gushtabas, Ristas, Methi Maaz and Tabak Maaz are cooked nowhere in Central Asia. Even the kebab went its own way.

Central Asian and Iranian kebabs are thicker and larger and come with grilled tomatoes, while the Kashmiri kebab developed its own forms, textures and spicing.

Wazas built the feast from local ideas, indigenous techniques, genuine saffron and the Mawal flower, which supplied colour and aroma.

A cuisine invented here cannot blame a foreign import for what it has become, so the inflation is a local choice.

Look at what that choice produced.

Kebabs now come in a pistol design and Gushtabas the size of a grenade, and the table adds heavy cold drinks and ice cream.

Meanwhile, many wazas have dropped Mawal and real saffron for synthetic food colours and chemical dyes.

The feast gained kilos and lost its natural ingredients, and the result is injurious to health.

A dish can grow larger every year while its flavour grows less honest, and the guest at a crowded lawn is poorly placed to notice.

Kashmir has tried to stop it.

The government tried Guest Control policies, and in 1988 the Samaj Sudhar Committee mounted a social pressure movement under prominent figures including Dr. G. Q. Allaqaband and the late Mohammad Shafi Pandit, the first Muslim IAS officer of Jammu and Kashmir.

The restrictions worked for a while, and some people used them as a reason to keep their own tables simple. But that restraint lasted only as long as the rules were enforced. Once that pressure weakened, the reform began to fade.



THE TATHUOL SEATED EIGHT OR MORE GUESTS AROUND A SINGLE VESSEL, AND THE TRAMI OF MY CHILDHOOD HELD 1.5 KG. The four bags per basket today assume that a surplus will exist before any guest has sat down, and a community that plans for waste has already decided what its hospitality is for.

Back then, those rules had real impact.

A close relative of mine married the daughter of a wealthy Non-Resident Kashmiri business

tycoon, and the father met Sheikh Abdullah in person to win permission to spend his dollars freely on the wedding.

I was among the invitees, and I

have never seen a Wazwan so lavish, with so many overwhelming dishes.

A man with money felt he had to petition for the right to spend it, which tells us how seriously the

limits were once taken. It also tells us what happens when the petition succeeds, because the feast becomes the standard against which neighbours measure themselves.

Presentation has also followed the menu. The wazas and their helpers, once plainly dressed, now serve in snow-white pherans, and the Tchuo Khantal, the four-sided Kashmiri cap, has given way to tall chef hats.

The servers look neat and professional, and I do not begrudge them that. Still, the change costs a piece of our heritage and mirrors the spending that surrounds it.

A hopeful development comes from an unexpected direction.

Many in the younger generation of the great waza families stayed away from the ancestral trade, drawn by higher education and white-collar careers. Some of them have returned with restaurants and home-delivery units run on hygienic, scientific lines.

The business earns a sustainable income, keeps authentic skills in use and employs others. The logic is plain enough.

A paying customer chooses a dish he wants to eat, while a host performing for his neighbours chooses a quantity he wants them to see.

If craft survives, it may survive in the commercial kitchen while the wedding lawn goes on competing.

The Tathuol seated eight or more guests around a single vessel, and the Trami of my childhood held 1.5 kg.

The four bags per basket today assume that a surplus will exist before any guest has sat down, and a community that plans for waste has already decided what its hospitality is for.

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

The Caveman We Got Wrong

The caveman is a cartoon drawn from what survives, and the record of how the first people lived describes something more patient, cooperative and learned.



Muskan Shafi Malik

Most settles on the gravel terraces of the Narmada, and a dozen people begin their morning. One man strikes a quartzite cobble until a cleaver emerges, then tests its weight against his palm. Women dig wild yams and bitter tubers with fire-hardened sticks and strip ripe berries into folded bark. A tracker bends over hoofprints in wet silt and judges the stride of a wild bovid, while two children gather acacia twigs within an elder's reach. By dusk a brushwood windbreak guards a small hearth, and embers brighten as the dark cools.

The scene is a reconstruction, and the line between reconstruction and evidence decides how much of it we can believe.

Archaeology demonstrates the tangle: the composition of a blade, butchery marks on a deer femur, micro-wear from plant scraping, charred seeds, the chemistry of hearth ash.

Dialects, child-rearing customs, rules of sharing and the anxieties of a band settling into darkness remain inference. The club-wielding brute of popular memory fills that void with violence because violence is easy to draw. The evidence points toward gathering, ecological knowledge and cooperation.

Even the label misleads.

The Stone Age is an archaeological classification and never a single global era. Chris Gosden's Prehistory and Graeber and Wengrow's The Dawn of

Everything both resist placing societies on one ladder toward "civilisation", and Graeber and Wengrow describe a series of social experiments that makes more sense when we look at "what's really there".

Archaeologists do recognise three adaptive stages.

The Paleolithic brought flaked stone tools and mobile or semi-mobile bands living by hunting, foraging and gathering. The Mesolithic brought post-glacial diversification, microliths, fishing and repeated seasonal occupations. The Neolithic brought domesticated plants and animals, settled communities, pottery and ground-stone tools.

Each transition came at a different time in a different region, because people answered the landscape in front of them.

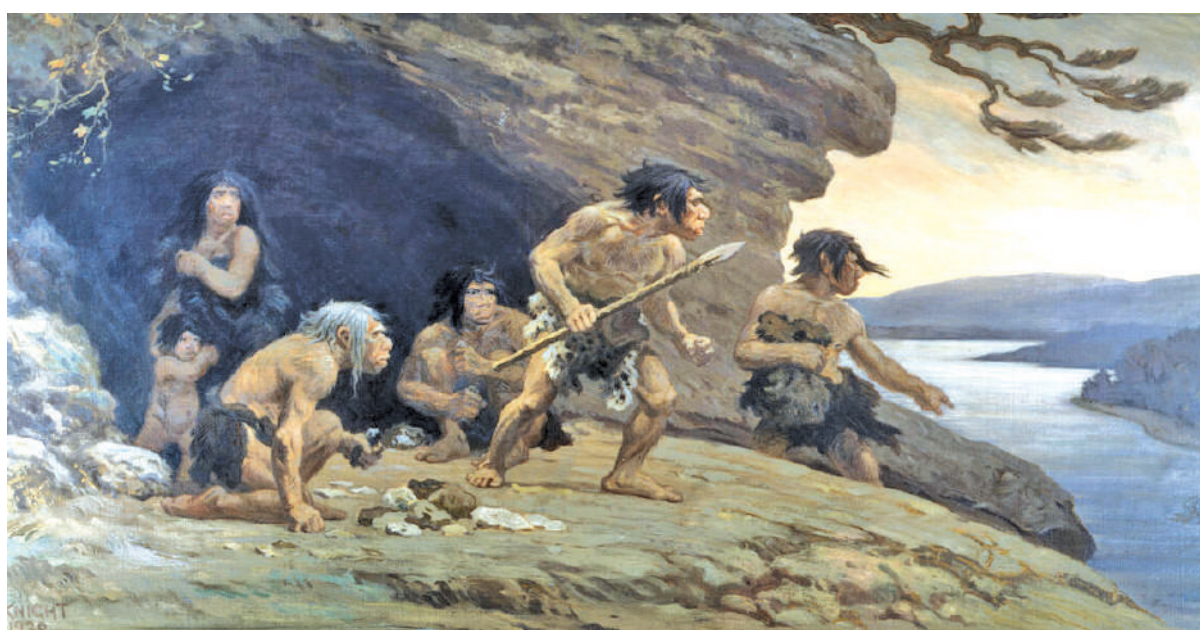
Making a tool was a cognitive act. A knapper had to identify fine-grained quartzite or chert, understand conchoidal fracture, isolate a striking platform and deliver controlled force to turn a raw core into an implement.

In South Asia, the sequence runs from pebble-chopping tools of the Soan/Sohan tradition to the sophisticated Acheulean biface. Workshop sites at Isampur and the Hunsgi Valley quarries show systematic extraction and working of stone, and Attirampakkam pushes South Asian Acheulean handaxes and cleavers back beyond 1.5 million years.

Smaller flake scrapers and points followed, then the Holocene microliths documented in the Narmada and central river valleys.

Upinder Singh and other historians stress that these assemblages were more than hunting weapons. Microwear analysis reveals multipurpose toolkits used to butcher meat, split bone for marrow, dig tubers, work wood and scrape hides. The tools record a daily economy of processing, far from a gallery of static objects.

Fire entered that economy slowly. Early humans may have exploited



Environmental archaeologists now look beyond bone and cut marks to burnt remains, microscopic phytoliths, ancient starch grains preserved in sediment or on stone edges, wear on fossilised hominin teeth, and stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes that reveal what people ate.

lightning fires first, then learned to maintain, transport and eventually produce flame themselves.

J. A. J. Gowlett calls the discovery of fire "a set of processes happening over the long term" and rejects the idea of a single event.

A controlled hearth gave warmth, light after dark and protection from predators, and it tempered wooden spears and heat-treated certain stones. Cooking softened fibrous tubers and tough meat and reduced some toxins, though scholars warn against imagining refined cuisines appearing overnight.

The hearth also changed time and space. Bands could stay together after sunset, and that gathering may have encouraged sustained talk, cooperative toolmaking, food distribution and

collective memory.

The evidence has limits here: a burnt patch of soil documents heat and fuel management and falls short of proving storytelling. Gowlett nonetheless calls fire "a main motor of the social brain", tying it to biology, technology, economy and symbolic life.

Stone gave humans an edge, and fire gave them a new environment within the environment.

Food followed the same logic of breadth.

Prehistoric subsistence was a broad-spectrum foraging economy that drew on large ungulates, small mammals, birds, fish and freshwater molluscs, alongside tubers, berries, seeds, wild grasses and nuts.

Riverside communities leaned on aquatic fauna, grassland bands

tracked migratory game, and tropical woodland foragers relied heavily on plants, so archaeology finds no single Stone Age diet.

Environmental archaeologists now look beyond bone and cut marks to burnt remains, microscopic phytoliths, ancient starch grains preserved in sediment or on stone edges, wear on fossilised hominin teeth, and stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes that reveal what people ate.

Hunting itself was a discipline of knowledge.

Success depended on reading spoor, anticipating migrations, knowing where water would last the season and driving herds toward ravines, natural traps and river crossings. Large animals brought physical danger and demanded coordinated groups and

shared meat, but hunting was one precarious strand among several.

Hominins scavenged carcasses, dug roots and took small game when large hunts failed. Survival rested on cognitive maps and environmental literacy, which makes cooperative knowledge the engine of the whole system.

The cave dweller owes part of his fame to preservation bias.

Rock overhangs shield deposits from weather, while open-air sites erode, so caves dominate the surviving record. Bands mostly camped on river terraces, lake margins and forest edges, and sites such as Paisra in Bihar and Hunsgi in Karnataka show repeated activity and occupation.

Shifting ecology set their movements: animal migrations, seasonal plant growth, drying waterholes and the search for good stone. Base camps, brief kill sites and seasonal extraction stations took the place of villages.

Short reoccupations over millennia produced palimpsests, scatters of stone in which separate moments of human life compress into one landscape.

That record shows people constantly bargaining with their surroundings, selecting stone, tracking animals, gathering plants, tending fire and moving in company.

A handaxe reveals how stone was worked, a hearth that fire burned, a butchered bone how an animal was processed.

None of them says what a person thought while making the tool, sitting by the flames or looking across the river at dusk.

If these people could work stone, command fire and read a landscape this closely, did they also give meaning to the invisible world through symbols, pigments, ornaments and marks, and perhaps the earliest forms of imagination?

— The author holds a Master's degree in History from Aligarh Muslim University. She can be reached at muskanshafimalik@gmail.com.

India Defeats Pakistan to Win Asian Games Cricket Gold

Press Trust Of India

Nisshin: India defeated Pakistan by 19 runs here on Saturday to clinch their second consecutive gold medal in the Asian Games men's cricket event. After posting 211 for six on a batting-friendly track, India restricted Pakistan to 192 for six despite a gusty 96 (50 balls; 7 sixes, 5 fours) from Hasan Nawaz.

Axar Patel was the pick among the bowlers for India with figures of 4-0-29-2.

Earlier in the match, half-centuries from Abhishek Sharma (61) and Tilak Varma (51 not out) powered India to a daunting total here at the Korogi Sports Park. India's women's team had also successfully defended its gold earlier in the mega-event.

India 211/6 in 20 overs



(Abhishek Sharma 61, Tilak Varma 51 not out; A Minhas 2/25, A Daniyal 2/43)
Pakistan 192/6 in 20 overs (Hasan Nawaz 96; Axar Patel 2/29) by 19 runs.

KU DSW hosts a series of programmes to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti 2026 at KU

"Youth need to understand and embrace Gandhian values of truth, peace and non-violence" – VC

Observer News Service

Srinagar, October 3: The Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir, organised a series of programmes to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti 2026, celebrating the life, ideals and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi through art, creativity, dialogue and social responsibility.

The programme was presided over by Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofer Khan, as the Chief Guest, while Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal and Controller of Examinations Prof. Majid Zaman Baba were the Guests of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Nilofer Khan highlighted



the continued relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy in contemporary society. She said that Gandhi's ideals of truth, non-violence, peace and service remain important for guiding young people towards responsible citizenship.

The Vice Chancellor also connected Gandhian philosophy with

the growing concern of drug addiction among young people, observing that when young lives are destroyed by addiction, it amounts to a form of violence against their own lives. She stressed the need for collective efforts to protect and guide the younger generation towards healthy, creative and productive pursuits.

The VC appreciated the Department of Students' Welfare for using creative and participatory activities to engage students with Gandhian thought.

Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal said that Gandhi's message of truth, simplicity, compassion and peaceful social change continues to offer valuable lessons for society. He emphasised that students, as future citizens and leaders, have an important role in translating these values into action in their daily lives. Controller of Examinations Prof. Majid Zaman Baba appreciated the participation of students and said that such programmes provide young people an opportunity to express their understanding of Gandhian philosophy through art,

speech and creative expression.

The programme featured a range of activities, including a Painting Competition on the theme "Gandhian Values in Contemporary Society", a Poster Making Competition on "Truth, Non-Violence and Peace", and a Caricature-making activity portraying Mahatma Gandhi.

A Speech Competition was also organised on the topic "Gandhian Philosophy and Its Relevance in the Contemporary World", providing students a platform to reflect on the continuing relevance of Gandhi's ideas. Students from 22 institutions of vally participated in the competition.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre Eyes New

rooftop solar programme.

The official said the Centre was also looking at further opportunities to harness J&K's hydropower potential.

He said the ongoing projects would not only strengthen power availability in the Union Territory but would also add to the country's overall electricity generation capacity. (with KNO inputs)

Army Commander

Security Review & Coordination Meeting at #Srinagar and reviewed inputs in the presence of key stakeholders on the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and coordination mechanisms," it said.

1 Killed, 56 Injured

to be stable and were expected to be discharged within a few hours, officials said.

Following the accident, a Quick Reaction Team of the police and CRPF was rushed from District Police Lines, Ramban, to assist in the rescue operation.

However, the security vehicle carrying the personnel overturned near Kela Morh while heading towards the accident site, injuring six police personnel and three CRPF jawans.

The injured security personnel were stated to be stable.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of life and assured that the seriously injured would receive the best possible medical treatment.

"Deeply anguished by the tragic bus accident in Ramban, in which one person lost her life. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Spoke with DC Ramban to ensure best possible treatment for the seriously injured shifted to GMC Jammu. Praying for their speedy recovery," Sinha said in a post on X.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh also said he had spoken to Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas

Khan after learning about the accident. "....all possible assistance and medical aid are being provided. My office is in regular touch with the authorities," he said in a post on X.

Authorities have initiated necessary rescue and relief measures following the accidents.

241 Tourist Complaints

We want to get their feedback so that we can improve and share their do's and don'ts," Choudhary said.

On tourist arrivals, Choudhary said the footfall had remained encouraging despite intermittent challenges and was expected to improve further.

"Alhamdulillah, the footfall has been very good and you can see that it will continue to improve. Because the footfall is always good. Although we have faced some problems many times, but even after that our footfall is good and improving," he said.

Choudhary said the number of complaints remained below one per cent when compared with the overall tourist footfall.

"Complaints keep coming, but if we look at the tourism ratio and the complaint ratio, it is not even one per cent," he said.

He said the department takes legal action on complaints and seeks to resolve grievances at the earliest while maintaining communication with the complainants.

"But all the complaints that come, we get rid of them. And within the shortest possible time, we do all the legal actions to the satisfaction of tourists," Choudhary said.

"We communicate with them and get their feedback and close the footfall," he added. (KNS)

Cases From FIR

25 crore tonnes over the following decade.

He said the government was working to improve cattle breeds using modern technology and prevent livestock from falling sick.

Shah also said the government had set a goal of making India the world's leading country across sectors by August 15, 2047.

J&K At Take-Off

portal-driven and that the central subsidy was being transferred directly to beneficiaries.

"So far as we understand, the MNRE subsidy disbursement system is totally portal-driven and it has been quite well streamlined. The flow of subsidy from the central government is quite smooth and it is directly to the beneficiaries," he said.

On demands for enhanced subsidy support from the J&K administration, he said the matter could be discussed with the Chief Secretary.

"One gentleman suggested that if the UT top-up subsidy could be better, and we will have a discussion with the Chief Secretary when we meet him," Aggarwal said.

On solar power development nationally, the Power Ministry secretary said large-scale solar capacity in India was predominantly ground-mounted, particularly in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

He said 164 GW of solar capacity was connected through ground-mounted installations, which have been extensively deployed in these states.

J&K, however, has a different trajectory, with rooftop solar expected to play a more significant role because of the region's geographical and land-use considerations.

"J&K has made a good start in PM Surya Ghar and it takes time to build momentum in the state. Now we are in the take-off stage and it will do very well," Aggarwal said.

Vague Allegations

intelligence inputs indicated that Shah was involved in activities considered prejudicial to the security of the Union Territory. They also stated that he had earlier been bound down under Sections 126/170 of the BNSS.

The court, however, found the allegations in the detention grounds to be vague and lacking material particulars. It noted that the grounds did not specify when Shah had allegedly attempted to contact youth or identify the persons with whom he was said to have established contact. The court also observed that associations or persons allegedly having extremist leanings, with whom he was stated to maintain contact, had not been named.

The court further held that such vagueness deprived the detainee of an effective opportunity to make a representation against his detention and amounted to a violation of the constitutional guarantee under Article 22(5). The court observed that vagueness in the grounds of detention strikes at the root of the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority and vitiates the detention order.

The court also took note of the delay in considering Shah's representation. The representation was received on January 14, 2026, but was decided only on March 2, 2026, with no explanation offered by the respondents for the delay of more than one and a half months.

Referring to the Supreme Court's judgment in Sarabjeet Singh Mokha vs District Magistrate, Jabalpur, the bench held that an unexplained delay in deciding a detainee's representation infringes the valuable procedural safeguards available under preventive detention law.

The court further held that Section 13 of the J&K Public Safety Act requires the grounds of detention to be communicated within the prescribed period and provides the detainee an earliest opportunity to make a representation. It said the representation must consequently be considered at the earliest opportunity.

Holding that the unexplained delay rendered the detention order illegal, the court quashed the order (No.16/DMS/PSA of 2025), passed by the District Magistrate, Shopian, on

December 23, 2025.

Subsequently it directed the respondents to release Shah from preventive custody forthwith, provided he was not required in connection with any other case.

Kashmir Saffron

data reflects the sector's challenges. Production fell from 17.33 metric tonnes (MT) in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022 before marginally improving to 14.94 MT in 2023. Growers said output dropped sharply thereafter, with production in 2024 estimated at around 30 per cent of normal levels and nearly 10 per cent in 2025.

They said repeated declines in output have hit farm incomes and raised concerns about the long-term viability of saffron cultivation.

Growers said interventions under the National Mission on Saffron (NMS) helped rejuvenate saffron fields and encouraged cultivation, but stressed that the benefits would remain limited without reliable irrigation and protection of saffron crops.

Wani urged the government to ensure irrigation infrastructure in saffron-growing areas remains functional and accessible.

"Farmers should not be left entirely dependent on rainfall, especially when weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable," he said.

Growers also expressed concern over the alleged illegal removal and diversion of saffron crops, saying it could undermine efforts to revive the sector.

They urged authorities to strengthen monitoring, prevent illegal siphoning of crops and ensure revival measures reach genuine growers.

Calling for urgent intervention, they sought restoration of irrigation facilities and revival of the saffron development project, saying a coordinated approach involving irrigation, climate-resilient practices, quality planting material and field-level support was essential to safeguard Kashmir's

traditional saffron sector.(KNO)

AgriStack Covers

around 13.74 lakh Khasras outside the approved AgriStack database, including more than 5.26 lakh parcels where data entry had not been completed at the time of the review.

The gap is also evident in the generation of Farmer IDs. Only 1,21,472 Farmer IDs have so far been generated across 1,663 villages, despite the exercise covering more than 71 lakh Khasras across the Union Territory.

The government has directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure that every eligible farmer is covered and furnish certificates confirming that no eligible beneficiary has been left out.

They have also been asked to resolve issues involving unclaimed farmer buckets and land parcels linked to more than one district within two months.

The figures highlight a distinction between digitising underlying land records and completing the farmer-level architecture envisaged under AgriStack. While the administration has achieved its target for foundational land-record digitisation, parcel approvals and Farmer ID generation are yet to reach full coverage.

Meanwhile, the Digital Crop Survey for Kharif 2026 has recorded substantial progress, with 30,61,696 agricultural plots surveyed across 5,714 villages, representing 96.55 per cent of the target. Supervisors had approved 27,27,189 of these plots at the time of the review.

The generation of Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers (ULPINs) has also expanded to 5,275 villages, with 33,47,011 ULPINs generated as of September 25.

The administration is further considering integration of digitised land records with the Reserve Bank of India's Unified Lending Interface, which could facilitate the use of verified land and farmer data for formal credit delivery. (KNT)

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ASHA Workers Protest, Demand Pay Hike



Agencies

ANANTNAG: ASHA workers on Saturday staged a protest at the Sports Stadium in Anantnag under the banner of the Trade Union Coordination Committee (TUCC), demanding the fulfilment of their long-pending demands, including an enhancement in their monthly remuneration.

The protesting workers, raising slogans in support of their demands, said they have been performing crucial grassroots-level responsibilities in the healthcare system but continue to face financial difficulties due to what they described as inadequate remuneration. The protest, as reported by KNO, was led by ASHA Workers' President Shaheena Akhtar and Trade Union General Secretary Muzfar Ahmad Ganai.

Addressing the gathering, the

speakers said ASHA workers serve as an important link between the health department and communities, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. They said the workers remain engaged in various activities related to maternal and child health, immunisation, nutrition, awareness programmes and other public health initiatives.

The protesters demanded that the government enhance their monthly remuneration and ensure that their financial compensation is commensurate with the responsibilities entrusted to them.

"ASHA workers are performing essential duties at the grassroots level and often work in difficult circumstances. Their remuneration should reflect the nature and extent of their responsibilities," the speakers said.

They demanded that the govern-

ment consider their long-pending issues on priority and take concrete measures to improve their financial and working conditions.

The speakers sought parity with ASHA workers in other states, stating that the government should examine the remuneration being provided elsewhere and take appropriate measures to improve the compensation of ASHA workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several protesters said that despite being the frontline workforce of the public health system, ASHA workers continue to face financial uncertainty.

"We are working in villages and remote areas and remain available for different health-related activities. We want the government to recognise our contribution and address our genuine demands," the protesters said.

The TUCC leaders warned that failure to address their demands would compel them to intensify their agitation. They, however, said that the workers would continue to pursue their demands through democratic and constitutional means and urged the government to initiate dialogue with their representatives to resolve the issues.

The protesting workers appealed to the administration and the concerned authorities to intervene and ensure that their demands are considered at the earliest—(KNO)

INDIA Alliance Constituents to Hold 'Save Democracy' Marches



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Constituents of the INDIA alliance in Jammu and Kashmir, will jointly hold 'Save Democracy' marches across the Union Territory from today as part of a nationwide campaign against alleged irregularities in the electoral process.

According to the details available with KNO political parties including ruling National Conference (NC), Congress, Peoples Democratic Party and NPPI will jointly organize protest marches in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir between October 4 and 8.

The announcements were made at a joint press conference at the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk here following a meeting of senior leaders of the alliance parties to chalk out the programme.

The leaders said the Jammu march on October 7 would form part of the first phase of the INDIA bloc's nationwide campaign launched on October 2, and would focus on their allegations of "vote chori" and their demand for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Senior leaders who attended the meeting included JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, former minister Mula Ram, Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, JKNC Provincial President Ratan Lal

Gupta, former MLC Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, PDP leaders Ram Paul Sharma, Rajinder Singh Manhas and Sat Pal Charak, and NPPI leader Gagan Pratap Singh.

The leaders said like-minded opposition parties have decided to jointly raise what they described as manipulation of the electoral system and seek changes to ensure what they called an independent and impartial Election Commission and a fair electoral process.

They alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise has resulted in the deletion of more than 13.30 crore voters and claimed that eligible citizens had been deprived of their right to vote. The allegations were made by the opposition parties as part of their wider campaign against the electoral process.

The alliance leaders said the campaign would seek to raise what they described as threats to democratic institutions and the electoral system. They attributed the campaign to concerns raised by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders, as well as recent media reports.

The leaders said opposition MPs would march to the Election Commission office in New Delhi on October 6 and seek an appointment with the President of India. They also announced plans for five mega rallies in different parts of the country as part of the campaign. -(KNO)

Girl Injured in Leopard Attack in Kulgam

KULGAM: A seven-year-old girl was injured after being attacked by a leopard in the Damhal Hanji Pora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

An official said that the girl sustained injuries in the leopard attack in Damhal Hanji Pora, Kulgam.

He said the girl was shifted to SKIMS Srinagar for specialised medical care and identified her as Shahida Akhtar (7), daughter of Rafia Kalas, a resident of DH Pora, Kulgam.

Meanwhile, the incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area, while locals have urged the authorities to take immediate measures to prevent further leopard attacks—(KNO)

Man Injured in Gas Cylinder Explosion in Kupwara

KUPWARA: A man was injured after a gas cylinder exploded accidentally at his residence in Bandi Haril area of Handwara in Kupwara district on Saturday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the gas cylinder exploded accidentally at Bandi Haril, Handwara.

He said the house owner sustained injuries in the incident and was shifted to GMC Handwara for medical treatment. He was later identified as Mohd Rafiq Bherwal, son of Ab Jameel.

Meanwhile, the official said the incident caused partial damage to the kitchen of the house, while an investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

Dozen Rohingya Shelters on Jammu Forest Land Demolished

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: The authorities on Saturday demolished nearly a dozen illegally constructed huts, mostly occupied by Rohingya immigrants, on forest land in Jammu, marking the second major eviction drive targeting the community in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir within a month.

The anti-encroachment drive was carried out by the forest department in collaboration with the Forest Protection Force, revenue department and police at Rahim Nagar within the Raika Forest on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said.

Among those whose structures were demolished was a native of Jammu, Stephen, who alleged that he was not served



any prior notice before the eviction drive.

He claimed the demolition team arrived early in the morning and gave little time to the occupants to remove their belongings.

Expressing concern over the loss of his belongings, Stephen said he had been living in the area for the past 10-12 years and had nowhere to go with his children following the demolition drive.

A forest official claimed the occupants had been

warned twice within a fortnight before the demolition drive.

"The residents were allowed to remove their belongings before the structures were demolished," he said, adding that the belongings were taken out first while the children and women were moved outside with the assistance of women's police personnel.

There are video recordings of the operation during which only structures

identified as illegal were razed, he said.

The official said the area spans roughly five hectares and the department prepared detailed data about the encroachments.

"The action was not directed against any particular community or group, but was solely aimed at removing encroachment from forest land. The forest rules are the same for everyone. There is no question of targeting any particular group. This action was solely against encroachments on forest land," the official said.

He also warned that action would be taken against the other identified encroachments, and suggested that those requiring accommodation should seek rented housing or acquire land through legal means.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Website: www.ifckashmir.com

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, KASHMIR IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR

ENGINEERING COMPLEX, NEAR SILK FACTORY, RAJBAGH SRINAGAR - 190008

Phone: 0194-2311834 Fax: 0194-2311085.

SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE

M/s Jaab Infratech Private Limited (M/s J.B. Constructions) Through its Managing Director, Mr. Javaid Ahmad Boza

Subject: Show-Cause Notice

References:

1. This Directorate e-NIT No. 23 of 2023-24 dated 07.10.2023.

2. Allotment Order No. DB/216 of 2023-24 dated 29.11.2023.

3. This Directorate e-NIT No. 25 of 2025-26 for the work "Remodelling of Babul Canal" (estimated cost Rs.873.60 lakh).

4. This Directorate letter No. CE/I&FCDK/8009 dated 02.07.2026.

5. Chief Engineer, CI&D Wing, JKPDCL, Kashmir letter No. CE/CID/PDC/Kmr/3960 dated 07.07.2026.

WHEREAS, M/s J.B. Constructions was originally registered with the Chief Engineer, Civil Investigation & Design (CI&D) Wing, JKPDCL, Kashmir, vide Registration Certificate No. 297/AAY/CE/CID/PDC/2010-11 dated 27.01.2011; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, M/s Jaab Infratech Private Limited was incorporated and a fresh Registration Certificate No. 140/AAY/CE/CID/PDC/2023-24 dated 26.04.2023 was issued in its favour, with an endorsement regarding consideration of the credentials of the erstwhile Firm; and

WHEREAS, the erstwhile Firm (M/s J.B. Constructions) participated in e-NIT No. 25 of 2025-26 for the work "Remodelling of Babul Canal", estimated at Rs.873.60 lakh. During technical scrutiny, issues arose regarding (i) the validity of the original Registration Certificate after incorporation of the Company; (ii) the transferability/use of the technical credentials and experience of the erstwhile Firm by the Company; and (iii) the status of works reportedly awarded in the name of the erstwhile Firm after incorporation of the Company. The matter was accordingly referred to the Chief Engineer, CI&D Wing, JKPDCL Ltd., Kashmir, vide this office letter No. CE/I&FCDK/8009 dated 02.07.2026 for clarification; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer, CI&D Wing, JKPDCL Ltd., Kashmir, vide letter No. CE/CID/PDC/Kmr/3960 dated 07.07.2026, has clarified that, upon incorporation of M/s Jaab Infratech Private Limited, M/s J.B. Constructions ceased to exist as an independent legal entity for execution of future contracts, while its technical credentials and past experience may be considered for determining the eligibility of the Company, subject to applicable tender conditions and rules; and

WHEREAS, it has further been clarified that Registration Certificate No. 297/AAY/CE/CID/PDC/2010-11 dated 27.01.2011 remained valid only up to 26.04.2023 and stood superseded by the fresh Registration Certificate issued in favour of M/s Jaab Infratech Private Limited; and

WHEREAS, despite the above, M/s J.B. Constructions participated in this Directorate's e-NIT No. 23 of 2023-24 dated 07.10.2023, in Joint Venture with M/s Thakur Constructions, and furnished the aforesaid Registration Certificate as part of its bidding documents, although the same had ceased to be valid on 26.04.2023; and

WHEREAS, on the basis of the credentials so furnished, Allotment Order No. DB/216 of 2023-24 dated 29.11.2023 was issued in favour of M/s J.B. Constructions in Joint Venture with M/s Thakur Constructions; and

WHEREAS, in view of the subsequent clarification furnished by the Chief Engineer, Civil Investigation & Design (CI&D) Wing, the validity of the participation of M/s J.B. Constructions in the aforesaid tender and the consequential allotment requires examination; and

WHEREAS, in subsequent tender processes, including e-NIT No. 25 of 2025-26 for "Remodelling of Babul Canal", the Company has relied upon the technical credentials/experience of the erstwhile Firm. The Company is accordingly required to clarify the nature, period and basis of such credentials and their admissibility under the applicable tender conditions; and

WHEREAS, the above facts call for clarification regarding the validity of the registration certificate relied upon in the 2023 tender, disclosure of the changed legal status of the Firm, and the basis on which the credentials of the erstwhile Firm have been relied upon in subsequent tender processes; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

You are hereby called upon to show cause in writing as to why appropriate action, as may be warranted under the applicable rules and tender conditions, should not be taken in the matter particularly with regard to the following:

1. Why Allotment Order No. DB/216 of 2023-24 dated 29.11.2023 should not be reviewed, in view of the clarification furnished by the Chief Engineer, CI&D Wing that Registration Certificate No. 297/AAY/CE/CID/PDC/2010-11 had ceased to be valid on 26.04.2023.

2. Why the incorporation of M/s Jaab Infratech Private Limited and issuance of the fresh Registration Certificate dated 26.04.2023 were not disclosed at the time of bidding in e-NIT No. 23 of 2023-24 dated 07.10.2023.

3. Whether the experience/credentials relied upon by the Company in e-NIT No. 25 of 2025-26 pertain to works executed by M/s J.B. Constructions before or after 26.04.2023. Documentary evidence in support thereof shall be furnished.

4. Why the earnest money, bid security and/or performance security, as applicable, furnished in the aforesaid tenders, should not be dealt with in accordance with the applicable rules and tender conditions, if so warranted.

5. Why appropriate action under the applicable rules and tender conditions should not be taken in respect of the issues arising out of the above facts and circumstances.

You are hereby directed to submit your written explanation along with all relevant supporting documents within 05 days from the date of receipt of this notice. In case no reply is received within the stipulated period, the matter shall be considered ex parte and further action shall be taken in accordance with the applicable rules.

Sd/-

No.: 16585-89

DT: 29-09-2026.

DIPK-6391-26

DT: 03/10/2026

(Er. Dev Raj Bhagat)

Chief Engineer.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

NIT No: 83/R&B of 2026-27

Dated:-01-10-2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Development of Tangmarg-Ba-too-Warpora Agri/Rural Tourism Circuit.	58.28	1600/-	116560/-	180 days	Priority Works -Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY	Director Tourism Kashmir	1 st

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-10-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02-10-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	02-10-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	13-10-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14-10-2026 11:00 AM

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. / Serial No. / name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money Deposit to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money Deposit should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security within 03 days @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money Deposit @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer

6. jurisdiction shall be J&K.

7. Time Extension:-

i. The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase I decrease in proportion with additional I deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.

ii. Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in writing not later than fifteen days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such a request the period for which extension is desired.

iii. Abnormal / bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.

iv. On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

v. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

37. The tender I bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

39. Any Typographical error in units or items shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022 or as per Technical sanction.

40. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/5888-98

Dated: 01-10-2026

Sd/-

Draftsman

DIPK-6363-26

DT: 03/10/2026

Sd/-

Technical Officer

R&B Division Tangmarg.

FLYDUBAI ATTACK

Omani Co-Pilot Attacked Indian Captain With Axe

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK: An Omani citizen, Hamam al-Hammami, has been identified as the flydubai co-pilot who attacked Indian Captain Smit Machchhar and allegedly attempted to take control of a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight this week, according to media reports.

Al-Hammami was reportedly previously barred from flying in Oman over concerns about his radical ideological views, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday, quoting people familiar with the matter.

On flydubai flight FZ1073 on Wednesday, he attacked Machchhar with a crash axe, typically kept in the cockpit for use in emergencies, seriously injuring him.

The motive for the attack remains unclear.

The flight, carrying 174 passengers, transmitted emergency signals and made a rapid descent of more than 17,000 feet from 34,000 feet.

The captain was lying injured on the cockpit floor when he realised the plane was descending and decided to make "one last

push" to open the cockpit door, according to the BBC.

This enabled passengers to overpower the attacker, after which two reserve pilots landed the aircraft safely at Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Airport in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk city, where al-Hammami was taken into custody.

The UAE, which is leading the investigation, said on Saturday that its investigation had revealed the co-pilot attempted to carry out a "terrorist act".

Several other news publications, including CNN, identified al-Hammami by name, although his identity has not been officially confirmed.

"The alleged attacker is an Omani national named Hamam al-Hammami," the WSJ report said.

CNN, citing two sources and an Israeli official, also identified the pilot as Omani citizen Hamam al-Hammami. He was born in the UAE to an Omani father and a Syrian mother and has spent several years of his life in the UAE.

CNN cited another source, a regional diplomat, saying al-



Hammami was removed from flight training because of concerns over his radical views and was subsequently given another role at Oman's national airline. It was not immediately clear to what extent he was vetted before being hired by UAE-based airline flydubai. News reports citing sources said he had been working for the airline for about eight months.

Al-Hammami completed a



three-year distance-learning course in aviation management at Buckinghamshire New University in the UK and graduated in 2023, the BBC reported, quoting the university. The university said he did not undergo any pilot training at the institution.

The UAE, which is leading the investigation, said on Saturday that its investigation had revealed the co-pilot attempted to carry out a "terrorist act".



UAE Attorney General Hamad Saif Al Shamsi said the co-pilot attacked the captain inside the flight deck with a crash axe and attempted to take control of the aircraft.

He said investigations were continuing to establish the full circumstances, motives and any links related to the incident.

On Friday, Machchhar, who is undergoing treatment at a hospital in the UAE, spoke to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi over the phone, recounting the terrifying moments after being attacked. He said he was fighting for his life but was determined not to let others die.

The pilot is in stable condition and he is "recovering well", the Indian Embassy in the UAE said in a social media statement on Saturday. "We are in touch with his family and local authorities, extending support for a speedy recovery. Our thanks to UAE gov. for their care. We join well-wishers in praying for his good health."

Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on Saturday visited Machchhar in hospital and praised the Indian pilot for his courage and sense of responsibility.

Hamdan, who is also the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, said the flydubai pilot had "embodied the highest degrees of courage, responsibility, and care for human life."

"From us, and from the leadership of the nation, he has our full appreciation and praise," he said. "We are proud that he is

part of our team... part of the story of our nation... and part of what the UAE stands for... a nation of compassion... a nation of peace... and a nation of life."

Machchhar has been hailed as a "true hero" by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In an interview with CNN on Wednesday evening, Netanyahu said the injured pilot, passengers and other crew members had "managed to prevent a 9/11 disaster".

Speaking to Fox News on Thursday, Netanyahu said the attacker shouted "Kill me, kill me!" after being subdued on the flight.

Netanyahu said the remark suggested the attacker was suicidal and that it appeared he had intended to bring down the plane. He also said the attacker had "undergone Islamist radical indoctrination".

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said on Thursday that an Israeli woman, Tali Manes, raised the alarm after hearing a commotion from the cockpit. Her husband and three other men then entered the cockpit after Machchhar managed to open the door despite his injuries, BBC reported.

Robotic Surgery Gains Rapid Ground in India: Experts

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India is rapidly emerging as a major centre for robotic surgery, with Delhi NCR leading the country in both robotic-system installations and the volume of robotic-assisted procedures, according to experts.

The experts were participating in the Society of Robotic Surgery (SRS) India 2026 conference, which is being held here, bringing the global organisation's international meeting to Asia for the first time and highlighting India's growing capabilities in advanced, minimally invasive and robotic-assisted surgery.

Addressing the conference through a video mes-

sage, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said India was at an "exciting juncture" in healthcare innovation, with strengths in technology, artificial intelligence, digital health and a rapidly expanding ecosystem of surgical robotics.

"India has the opportunity not merely to adopt the technology of the future but innovate, develop and lead," Nadda said, adding that the country was increasingly becoming an important global destination for healthcare innovation and advanced surgical technology.

Delhi NCR has 39 hospitals with robotic systems, while 11 hospitals have more than one such system, making the region the country's leading hub for robotic-system in-

stallations, according to data presented at the conference.

The number of robotic-assisted procedures in the region has risen sharply from 2,257 in 2021 to 3,594 in 2022, 5,024 in 2023, 7,595 in 2024 and 10,937 in 2025 -- an almost five-fold increase in four years.

"Delhi NCR has emerged as a leading force in India's robotic surgery journey, with the highest concentration of robotic-system installations in the country and a rapidly expanding volume of procedures," said Dr Vivek Bindal, organising chairman, SRS India, and principal director and head, Department of Minimal Access, Bariatric and Robotic Surgery, Max Hospital, Delhi.

Asian Games Men's Hockey

India Beat Malaysia 5-1, Qualify for LA Olympics

Press Trust of India

KAKAMIGAHARA: Reigning Olympic bronze medallist India hammered Malaysia 5-1 to defend their men's hockey gold in the Asian Games here on Saturday, and the triumph also secured them a direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

While writing a new chapter in the history of Indian hockey, the eight-time Olympic champions also clinched their fifth Asian Games gold, and the second in a row for the first time.

The Indians made an attacking start as the play was mostly in the Malaysian half in the first quarter.

India converted three pen-

alty corners through skipper Harmanpreet Singh (11th, 57th minutes) and Jugraj Singh (23rd), while vice-captain Hardik Singh scored from a penalty stroke in the 42nd minute and Shilanand Lakra completed the formalities with a field goal in the 54th minute.

Malaysia's lone goal was scored by Shello Silverius from a field effort in the 14th minute. Malaysia secured the silver, while Pakistan won the bronze by defeating South Korea 5-3 earlier in the day.

It was double glory for Indian hockey from the Asian Games as the women's team also won the gold after 44 years, stunning reigning Olympic silver medalist and defending champions China 1-0 on Friday.

India Fight Hard but Brazil Emerge 4-0 Winners

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: India fought gallantly for initial 25 minutes but five-time champions Brazil showed the vast gulf between the teams with a neatly executed 4-0 win in their FIFA international friendly here on Saturday.

Carlo Ancelotti's new-look side, which is in a rebuilt mode post their pre-quarterfinal exit in the World Cup 2026, largely played within themselves without injecting much pace in their historic friendly.

India, backed by a crowd that swelled to 51,402, had their moments in the first 25 minutes but were unable to find the goal.

Esteveao (28th minute),

Pedro (42nd) and Samuel Lino (58th, 90+5th) scored for the South Americans, who controlled the game without hitting top gear.

Coming off a gritty 1-1 draw against 44th-ranked Panama, India quickly found themselves up against an opposition, who played at a vastly different level.

Yet, Khalid Jamil's side competed with them.

Jamil made two changes from the Panama game, bringing in experienced midfielders Anirudh Thapa and Sahal Abdul Samad for Apuia and Ricky Shabong.

Thapa made an immediate impact, clearing a dangerous low cross after Vini-cius Jr was sent clear on the left in the second minute.

The intervention drew a huge cheer from the home crowd.

India continued to frustrate Brazil in the early stages as Manvir Singh provided an outlet on the left, while Ryan Williams and Ashique Kuruniyan looked to exploit space on the counter. Manvir had a chance to break clear, only for Marquinhos to make a crucial recovery run and take the ball away.

At the other end, Vini-cius was Brazil's main threat and the Real Madrid star twice tested Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, including with a shot after dancing past Abhishek Singh, but the Indian goalkeeper was equal to the first effort.

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25	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x
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