

SC Proposes Stay On Parts Of Waqf Act

'Properties Declared Waqf Including Waqf By User Won't Be Denotified'

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: In a significant development, the Supreme Court on Wednesday proposed to stay certain key provisions of the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, including the power to denotify properties declared as waqf by courts and inclusion of non-Muslims in central Waqf councils and boards.

The top court proposed to pass the order, which was opposed by the Centre as it sought a detailed hearing before any such interim order.

The hearing relating to 72 petitions against the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 took place before a bench



of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan.

The bench, which will continue with the hearing on Thursday, was miffed over the inclusion of non-Muslims in the central waqf councils and [| More on P6](#)

Would Muslims Be Part Of Hindu Trusts? SC Asks

If Muslims would be allowed to be a part of Hindu religious trusts, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre while hearing pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan asked solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the [| More on P6](#)

ALL MEMBERS OF THE WAQF BOARDS and central waqf Council must be Muslims, except the ex-officio members."

AMARNATH YATRA

JKB Registers Over 4,200 Pilgrims On Day 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank has registered more than 4,200 pilgrims for this year's Amarnath Yatra on the opening day of registration.

The registration for the annual pilgrimage, which commenced on April 14, is being carried out on a first-come, first-served basis and includes the issuance of yatra permits to the eligible pilgrims, a spokesperson of the bank said on Wednesday.

"Marking a strong start to this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra

registration process, the Jammu and Kashmir Bank registered more than 4,200 pilgrims on Tuesday through its 91 designated branches spread across the country," he added.

The spokesperson said this year, the pilgrimage to the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to begin on July 3 and conclude on August 9.

Expressing satisfaction at the response, Amitava Chatterjee, MD and CEO of the bank, said, "It is encouraging to see a good response from devotees on day one. Registering [| More on P6](#)

Dulat: Farooq Privately Backed 370 Rollback; 'Fiction,' Says Abdullah

KO Political Analyst

Srinagar: A controversial claim by former RAW chief A S Dulat has stirred political waters in Jammu and Kashmir, putting the National Conference (NC) on the defensive and prompting sharp reactions from regional political rivals. In his new book 'The Chief Minister and the Spy,' Dulat suggests that former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was "willing to work with Delhi" following the abrogation of Article 370 – a constitutional provision that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

While the NC has strongly refuted the assertion, calling it "a figment of fiction," the timing and source of the claim have given fresh ammunition to parties like the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Peoples Conference (PC)



to question the NC's role in the events leading up to and following August 5, 2019.

In the book, Dulat writes that after his detention ended in 2020, Farooq Abdullah told him: "We would have helped. Why were we not taken into confidence?" He further adds: "Just as BJP had never hidden its intentions towards Kashmir as far as Article 370 was

concerned, so, too, had Farooq been extremely open about his willingness to work with Delhi."

The statement has triggered a political firestorm. Dulat, widely known to be close to the Abdullah family, also writes: "Maybe, he said, the NC could even have had the proposal passed in the legislative assembly in

Jammu and Kashmir."

Dulat recalls Abdullah's emotional reaction to his house arrest: "When he spoke to me about the abrogation later, he was forthright, 'Kar lo agar karna hai (do it if you want to), he said, somewhat bitterly. Par yeh arrest kyu kar na tha? (but why arrest us?)."

Rivals react

Reacting to the revelations, Peoples Conference leader Sajad Lone said he found Dulat's claim credible given his proximity to the Abdullahs. "Dulat sahib has revealed in his upcoming book that Farooq sahib privately supported the abrogation of Article 370. Coming from Dulat sahib makes this revelation very credible. Dulat sahib is the closest ally and friend of Farooq sahib. [| More on P6](#)

'Blown Out Of Proportion': Dulat Clarifies

In response to the controversy surrounding his recent book, former RAW chief AS Dulat dismissed claims about Farooq Abdullah's role in the abrogation of Article 370 as mere speculation.

Dulat refuted the allegations, saying, "Whatever is being said about Farooq Abdullah is not true. People should read the whole book; someone has taken a snippet and blown it out of proportion. All this is rubbish," urging the public to examine the content of his book for clarity. [| More on P6](#)

HADP To Build Rs 1 Lakh Cr Agri-Economy By 2030: CM



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme is a movement to build a sustainable Rs 1,00,000 crore agri-economy for the state by 2030.

He was chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). [| More on P6](#)

The chief minister said digital innovation in agriculture aims to integrate cutting-edge technologies like AI-based advisory tools and real-time monitoring applications to strengthen governance at the grassroots level.

"The programme is not just a policy intervention but a movement to empower farmers, modernise the agri-sector, and build a sustainable Rs 1,00,000 crore

Launches New 'e-SeHAT' App

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday launched the 'e-SeHAT' app and asserted that it would "revolutionise" Jammu and Kashmir's healthcare sector.

The chief minister said the innovative digital solution is tailored to meet the diverse needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including citizens, doctors, and medical professionals. "The goal of this app is to revolutionise healthcare access, reduce strain on polyclinics, and elevate the overall healthcare experience [| More on P6](#)

36 J&K Cops Selected For Hajj Duty In Saudi

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Home Department has ordered the temporary deputation of 36 police personnel to the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to serve as Hajj Officers and Hajj Superintendents for Hajj-2025.

According to a government order, the deputation follows recommendations from the

Justice Palli Sworn In As 38th CJ Of J&K HC



Observer News Service

Jammu: Justice Arun Palli was on Wednesday sworn in as the 38th Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh at a ceremony held here, an official said.

Justice Palli made and subscribed to the oath of office before the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at a function attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Speaker of Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather and judges of high court, subordinate judiciary and other [| More on P6](#)

Parihar, Azeem New HC Judges

M Ahmad

The Supreme Court Collegium has approved appointment of two judicial officers, Sanjay Parihar, and Shahzad Azeem, [| More on P6](#)

Gandbal Boat Tragedy: A Year Later, One Body Still Missing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The river still flows silently past Gandbal, carrying with it memories of a morning that turned into a nightmare. On its banks, life has tried to move on – but for the families who lost their children, neighbours and kin to the cold waters of Jhelum a year ago, time hasn't healed much.

THIS BRIDGE IS A LIFELINE NOW, but it arrived after lives were lost."

April 16, 2024, remains etched in grief. A boat ferrying residents – mostly schoolchildren and women – capsized midstream. [| More on P6](#)

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Man Dies Amid Allegations Of ‘Medical Negligence’ At CD Hospital, Probe Initiated

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A middle aged man from the Dalgate area of Srinagar reportedly lost his life due to alleged medical negligence at the Chest Disease (CD) Hospital on Wednesday, sparking outrage and demands for accountability from his family.

The deceased, identified as Rafiq Ahmad, had complained of chest pain earlier in the day and visited the CD Hospital for a medical checkup. According to his family, the response from the attending medical staff was shockingly negligent.

“We rushed Rafiq to the hospital as he complained of severe chest pain. However, the doctor present there did not treat him properly,” a family member said. “Instead of providing immediate care, the doctor misbehaved with us. After Rafiq

passed away, the doctor fled from the ward,” they added.

The grieving family is demanding a thorough investigation into the incident and stringent action against the doctor they believe was responsible for the negligence. They have appealed to senior health authorities to ensure justice and prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

In response to the allegations, an official from CD Hospital confirmed that a formal inquiry is underway. “An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the facts. If any negligence is found, strict action will be taken against those responsible,” the official assured.

As the probe continues, the incident has raised serious concerns about the quality of patient care and conduct of medical personnel at one of Kashmir's key healthcare institutions.

Fire Safety Mock Drill Held At SKIMS Medical College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of Fire Safety Week, a “hands-on” Fire Safety Mock Drill was conducted at SKIMS Medical College, Bemina Srinagar. The event was a collaborative effort between the Fire and Emergency Services Department, SKIMS Medical College/Hospital Security, Hostel Division, and the Department of Community Medicine.

The drill aimed to raise awareness and build capacity among students, staff, and hostel residents regard-

ing fire safety protocols and emergency response. Participants received practical training in managing various types of fire incidents, including electrical fires and LPG cylinder-related fires, along with detailed demonstrations on the correct use of fire extinguishers.

Expert demonstrations were carried out by Altaf Ahmad and Tanveer from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, who emphasized safety measures and response tactics critical in mitigating fire-related emergencies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I latif Ahmad pandith S/o Ab Malik pandith R/o Dangerpora sopore intend to correct the spelling of my name and caste which has been wrongly entered in my service records as Latief Ahmad pandit S/o Ab Malik pandit . The correct spelling of my name and caste is Latif Ahmad pandith .If anybody has any objection in this regard he may contact to Ssp railway kashmir sgr within seven days.

Insp Latif Ahmad pandith
Arp 981690
phone no 6005171662

FKO

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Arjuman Hilal S/o Hilal Ahmad Pandith R/o Gujwa Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 15/02/2010 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

fko

Naib Tehsildar sariwarpora

Bridge of Bumps: Dalgate-Nowpora Route Leaves Commuters Reeling

Commuters Complain Of Bumpy Rides; E-rickshaws Worst Affected

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The uneven macadamisation of the Dalgate-Nowpora Bridge—particularly at its expansion joints—is posing severe challenges to daily commuters, with many reporting discomfort, pain, and even health risks. Several residents and regular travelers have voiced their concerns to Kashmir Observer, calling the condition of the bridge “unbearable” and “unsafe,” especially for vulnerable passengers.

The bumpy ride created by the poorly laid macadam at expansion joints is the main source of concern. Commuters say the difference in road level at these joints causes sudden jerks and discomfort, making commuting across the bridge a daily ordeal.

“It is difficult for pregnant women to cross the bridge,” said Hussain Dar, a daily commuter. “The bumps at the expansion joints are so sharp that they pose a serious threat to anyone with medical issues, particularly those with neck or back problems.”

Adding to the concern is the increasing use of e-rickshaws on the route. While these vehicles provide affordable transportation, their design is not suited for uneven surfaces. Small wheels and basic shock absorption systems make e-rickshaws highly vulnerable to road irregularities.

“Travelling in an e-rickshaw on this bridge is a nightmare,” said Syed Shaafia, a frequent commuter. “The tiny wheels and weak suspension can’t handle the steep drops at the expansion joints. I feel like I will be thrown out of the vehicle every time it bumps.”

Even the e-rickshaw drivers are unhappy with the bridge's condition. One of them, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said:

“I honestly regretted choosing this route today. The bumps are everywhere—at least ten major ones on the bridge. The passengers complain, the vehicle suffers damage, and I lose time.”

Understanding Expansion Joints

Expansion joints are crucial components in bridge construction. They are designed to allow



A man displays a belt to highlight back pain issues caused by bumpy rides at Dalgate Bridge.

the structure to expand and contract with temperature changes, traffic loads, and other environmental factors without causing damage. These joints are usually filled with flexible materials and are strategically placed across the bridge to absorb stress and movement.

However, when macadam (road surfacing material) is laid unevenly at these joints, it can create sharp vertical drops or raised sections. If these are not aligned properly with the surrounding road surface, vehicles experience harsh jolts while crossing, leading to discomfort for passengers and potential damage to vehicles.

Well-maintained expansion joints should ensure a smooth transition between segments of the bridge, but in the case of Dalgate-Nowpora Bridge, the poor alignment appears to have had the opposite effect.

Accountability and Responsibility in Question

When contacted by Kashmir Observer, the Chief Engineer of Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department clarified that the macadamisation of the bridge was carried out under the Smart City project, not by the R&B department.

“We didn’t do the work,” the Chief Engineer stated. “It was

handled under the Smart City initiative. However, if the bridge is officially handed over to us, we will consider necessary repairs.”

Efforts to get an official response from Dr. Owais Ahmed, the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation and CEO of the Srinagar Smart City Limited, were unsuccessful. Despite repeated phone calls from the reporter, there was no response from his office at the time of filing this report.

A Growing Public Safety Concern

The poor condition of the Dalgate-Nowpora Bridge is not just an inconvenience—it is rapidly becoming a public safety hazard. With thousands of people using the bridge daily, including patients, elderly citizens, and children, there is a growing demand for urgent repairs.

Residents and commuters are appealing to the authorities to take swift action. As the summer season brings increased traffic and tourism in the Valley, the risks associated with these road defects could escalate if left unattended.

Unless the concerned departments—be it Smart City or R&B—take ownership and rectify the problem soon, the Dalgate-Nowpora Bridge may continue to be a daily source of pain, risk, and frustration for the people of Srinagar.

DC Reviews Progress On Major Drainage Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday chaired a meeting of Officers at DC Office Complex here to review the progress of ongoing major drainage projects under execution in the district.

The major drainage projects are aimed to strengthen the existing drainage network system and upgrade the system to protect the

City from water logging and potential flood-like situations.

At the outset, DC took a comprehensive review of ongoing major drainage projects across the district, emphasizing the urgent need for solution-oriented strategies to protect City from water logging and potential flood-like situation during any inclement weather conditions.

During the review meeting, DC directed the concerned to expedite works on the drainage

projects and ensure timely completion of critical drainage infrastructure. He highlighted the importance of sustainable and long-term planning to enhance the City's flood resilience, especially in light of past weather-related challenges.

Dr Bilal urged the Officers to prioritize innovation and efficiency in project execution, while also coordinating closely to address bottlenecks and streamline processes.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAJAT-PnU-JAT25	25/04/2025 at 12:30 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets blocks as per catalogue for 3 months at Jammu Tawi Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in . No. PnU-JAT-1-2025 Date: 16.04.2025		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		1123/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:-		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAJZR-CTG25-11	24.04.2025 at 11:00 Hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Khem Karan, Muksar, Tarn Taran, Sahnewal, Kartarpur, RCF Kapurthala Halt, Kotkapura, Nawan Shahar Doaba, Nakodar, Verka, Jagraon, Firozpur City, Fazilka & Phagwara Railway Stations.
EAJZR-CTG25-12	25.04.2025 at 12:30 Hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Jalandhar Cantt, Railway Stations.
EAJZR-LEDVB25-1	28.04.2025 at 12:30 Hours	Allotment of contract for advertisement rights through factory fitted 18.5" LED screens provided in all coaches by Vande Bharat Train No. 22488/22487.
EAJZR-MPS25-7	30.04.2025 at 11:00 Hours	Allotment of contract for Multi-Purpose stalls (MPS) at Faridkot Railway Station.
EAJZR-OH25-10	30.04.2025 at 11:00 Hours	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sahnewal, Amritsar & Jalandhar City Railway Station. 2) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagatwala & Patti Railway Station. 3) Static media at Goraya & Lohian Khas Railway Station. 4) Static media/overhead of water tank at Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.
EAJZR-MIS25-7	30.04.2025 at 11:30 Hours	1) Allotment of contract for provision, operation and maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine with advertisement rights on body of machine at Railway station Firozpur Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Firozpur Cantt, Amritsar & Phagwara.
EAJZR-PnU25-7	30.04.2025 at 12:30 Hours	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Batala & Muksar Railway Stations.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in No.: MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date: 16.04.2025		
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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR

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GIST of e- Tender Notice No.13 of 2025

Dated:- 15/04/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, bids are invited (In double cover system) from the interested bidders/Registered Contractors/Firms with J&K State/Central Govt., CPWD for the following work:-





S.No.	Name of Work/Contract	Reserve Bid (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @ 10 % (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents in shape of Demand Draft (Non- Refundable) (In Rs.)	Validity of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6
01.	Outsourcing of entry ticketing System of Badamwari Park, Srinagar	54,74,400.00	5,47,440.00	1,000.00	One (1) year from the date of award of contract


The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, BOQ (Bill of quantity) terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.dofkashmir.com/www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	15.04.2025 from 04:00 PM to 05.05.2025 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	15.04.2025 from 04:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	05.05.2025 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	08.05.2025 at 02:00 PM

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
Floriculture Department,
Kashmir.

DIPK-459/25
dated: 16-04-2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883PDD: 0194-2450213FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155CAPD: 18001807011SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200
AIRPORTS	
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 	
RAILWAYS	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259ANANTNAG: 01932-228243BARAMULLA: 0194-102029BIJHERA: 01932-228243PAMPORE: 01933-294132PATTAN: 01954-293507QAZIGUND: 01951-296153	
HIGHWAY STATUS	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)Mughal Road - (Open)Srinagar- Leh- (Open)	

 HIJRI CALENDAR 18 Shawwal 1446	PRAYERS
	FAJR 4: 31
	ZUHR 12:32
	ASR 5: 11
	Magrib 7:06
	ISHA 8: 32

This Day In History

- 1895 - Treaty of Shimonoseki is signed ending the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
- 1930 - Abkhazian ASSR forms in Georgian SSR
- 1932 - Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia ends slavery
- 1939 - Stalin signs British-France-Russian anti-Nazi pact
- 1941 - World War II: The Kingdom of Yugoslavia surrenders to Germany.
- 1945 - German occupiers flood Wieringermeer, Netherlands
- 1945 - Benito Mussolini flees from Salò to Milan
- 1945 - US troops land in central Mindanao, 1946 - Syria declares independence from French administration
- 1967 - Surveyor 3 launched; soft lands on Moon, April 20.
- 1970 - Apollo 13 limps back safely, Beech-built oxygen tank no help
- 1971 - Egypt, Libya & Syria form federation (FAR)
- 1979 - Four Royal Ulster Constabulary officers are killed by a Provisional Irish Republican Army van bomb in Bessbrook, County Armagh; the bomb is believed to be the largest PIRA bomb used up to that point.
- 1982 - Proclamation of the Constitution Act by Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau
- 1986 - IBM produces 1st megabit-chip
- 1986 - Netherlands & Scilly Islands sign peace treaty (war of 1651)
- 1987 - Julius Erving becomes 3rd NBA player to score 30,000 points
- 1987 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1988 - Ethiopian Belayneh Densimo runs world record marathon (2:06:50)

From KO Archives

Next Bus From Uri?

Govt says threat less if passengers travel on their own to 'safer' Uri

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The authorities are considering running the second bus to Muzaffarabad from border town of Uri instead of Srinagar in view of security considerations, official sources said here today.

The idea to run the bus from Uri was discussed during a meeting of the concerned authorities as the town is "much safer" being situated in a high-sanitised zone and having virtually zero militant presence, they said.

Passengers will have to reach Uri of their own raising fears about their safety.

Public circles say if the threat perception was the reason behind government's purported rethink then in that case passengers will become more vulnerable to attacks by groups opposed to the service than they were earlier.

Official sources said other major reason for restricting the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad service to Uri - Muzaffarabad is security costs which would come down drastically in the latter case.

Militant groups Al Nasireen, Al Arifeen. Save Kashmir Movement and Farzandan-e-Millat which claimed responsibility for the attack on the tourist reception centre, have reportedly issued a threat to passengers of the second bus loo.

List of passengers swapped

As the authorities mulled running the second, Muzaffarabad-bound bus from Uri instead of Srinagar India and Pakistan today exchanged list of prospective travelers for the bus which will roll out on April 21.

“We have handed over the list of 47 passengers from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir who have been given clearance to travel (to Srinagar) on the bus.” Regional Passport Officer John S Shilshi said.

Shilshi who returned here from Uri after exchanging the list, said the Pakistani side had cleared 32 passengers to travel on the second bus from the Indian side.

A maximum of 30 passengers from each side would board the bus as agreed between Indian and Pakistani authorities, he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 17 April, 2005)

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KO VIEW

The CM's pitch
For Statehood

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah made a strong pitch for the restoration of statehood on Tuesday, saying now was the “appropriate time” for it. The use of ‘appropriate time’ is telling as this is the phrase recurrently used by the home minister Amit Shah in his frequent assurances about reinstating the J&K’s statehood. It is true that the Union Territory status has outlived whatever purpose it was meant to serve. The CM is right. If anything, the time to restore statehood has come long ago.

Omar made a striking comparison between being the CM of a state and that of a union territory: when he served as chief minister of a state, officials would respond to instructions with ideas and solutions. Now, under the UT setup, those same officials respond with excuses.

However, the CM stressed that the reinstatement of statehood was just the starting point for reclaiming what the people of Jammu and Kashmir lost in 2019. In his own words, he termed the statehood “a prerequisite to start the process of reclaiming what the people have lost in the last six to seven years.”

Striking a chord with people, the chief minister promised reserving jobs for locals to ensuring ownership over natural resources, saying if the other states implemented such policies, why should Jammu and Kashmir be held to a different standard.

Both the prime minister Narendra Modi and the home minister Amit Shah have time and again promised the restoration of statehood at an appropriate time. What they have not given so far is the timeline. This is because the existing arrangement is seen as ideal from the centre’s standpoint and the union government might be loath to alter this favourable arrangement by granting an early statehood to J&K. More so, when in the centre’s apparent calculation, the statehood may unravel the gains made in recent years.

However, Omar has made the case for statehood cautiously, staying well short of antagonizing the centre. And rightly so. His attempt to keep the centre and the LG in good humour are part of his effort to prevail on New Delhi to expedite the restoration of statehood. But would the centre do this? So far there are no signs that New Delhi is even remotely thinking in terms of reinstating statehood. All that the PM Modi and the home minister Amit Shah have offered are assurances. This has created serious doubts in the minds of people if statehood would be restored even in the long term. But then there is every hope that much like the last year’s Assembly election, the PM will pleasantly surprise J&K people with the grant of statehood. And hopefully in the near future.



One Income Isn't
Enough Anymore

Irshad Mushtaq

In an era where inflation consistently outpaces income, managing day-to-day expenses has become an uphill battle. Relying on a single income is no longer enough. The solution? Building a second income stream—your pathway to financial independence.

A secondary income can cushion you against rising costs, unexpected emergencies, and help you save for long-term goals like retirement, travel, or buying a home. It's not just about making ends meet, it's about creating security and flexibility for your future.

If you begin saving and investing as early as your 20s, the magic of compounding can turn modest monthly savings into a substantial financial cushion. Saving just 10,000 a month with a 10-12% annual return can build a sizeable corpus over two decades. Time is your biggest ally—start small, but start now.

In today's digital world, investment options are abundant. Go beyond traditional savings: multi-asset funds combine equities, bonds, and precious metals for balanced growth. Liquid funds offer flexibility with easy access to your money. Global investments through ETFs and international funds diversify your portfolio and open up global growth opportunities.

Opt for low-fee, transparent investment platforms with regulatory backing to ensure your money grows safely.

Financial independence isn't just a dream, it's a strategy. Build multiple income streams, save consistently, and invest wisely. With discipline and planning, your future can be both stable and prosperous.

The author is a reputed financial advisor based out of Srinagar.

Irfan Attari Kashmiri

“
The aftermath
of unaddressed
abuse is grim. Many
survivors suffer
from addiction,
self-loathing, or
end up in abusive
relationships. Some
fall prey to human
traffickers, seeking
escape from the
violence they
endured at home.
Others face a tragic
end, as unresolved
trauma leads to
self-destructive
behavior or even
murder.”



In the quiet corners of family homes, a terrifying reality is unfolding for countless children. It's one that is too often hidden behind the false veil of privacy, tradition, and social expectations.

Family sexual abuse is a silent epidemic, one that remains invisible even as it wreaks havoc on the emotional and mental health of young victims. Tragically, the very place that should offer safety and love—the family home—becomes a source of fear and violation for many children.

Across societies, there's a tendency to focus on dangers that exist outside the home: street crime, cyberbullying, and public violence. Yet, the true source of suffering for many children comes from within their own families.

Fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins, and even sometimes female relatives, are the abusers. These individuals, who hold power within the family structure, use their position to manipulate, control, and harm the most vulnerable. Worse, the fear of destroying family honor or bringing shame often forces the child into silence. When asking for help could lead to further violence or public humiliation, the child is left isolated in their trauma.

The damage done by sexual abuse goes far beyond the immediate physical assault. It causes deep emotional and psychological scars that can last a lifetime. Many survivors struggle with anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts. These effects are compounded by the difficulty in forming healthy relationships and trusting others, which can hinder their future happiness and success.

The trauma from abuse often follows the child into adulthood, creating a cycle of hurt that can extend across generations.

It is essential to understand that family sexual abuse doesn't exist in isolation. The digital world also plays a role in this tragedy. Children, especially teenagers, are exposed to explicit

content online—sometimes before they are emotionally equipped to process it.

In many cases, young perpetrators of abuse have confessed to mimicking behaviors they encountered on the internet, unaware of the harm they were causing. This underlines the importance of digital literacy, parental oversight, and strong boundaries to protect children from premature exposure to harmful content.

In blended families and step-families, the absence of solid emotional bonds can create a dangerous vacuum, leaving children more vulnerable to abuse. The lack of trust or open communication with an adult figure, coupled with unresolved power dynamics and often a culture of silence, creates fertile ground for abusers to exploit.

The stigma surrounding abuse only makes matters worse. In many cultures, speaking out about sexual abuse is taboo, especially when it involves a family member. Victims, particularly girls, are often told that exposing abuse will bring shame and destroy the family. These misguided notions leave children trapped in a cycle of guilt and fear. When some survivors do find the courage to speak up, they are often met with suspicion or victim-blaming, further perpetuating the trauma.

The aftermath of unaddressed abuse is grim. Many survivors suffer from addiction, self-loathing, or end up in abusive relationships. Some fall prey to human traffickers, seeking escape from the violence they endured at home. Others face a tragic end, as unresolved trauma leads to self-destructive behavior or even murder.

India's legal framework, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, was designed to address this issue, but enforcement remains weak. Cultural pressures often prevent families from reporting abuse, and when cases do go to court, the

lack of evidence or reluctance of victims to come forward makes prosecution difficult.

The key to breaking this cycle is visibility and action. Children must be educated about their rights, and communities must create safe spaces where survivors can seek help without fear of shame. Parents have a responsibility to foster an environment where children feel empowered to speak up about any discomfort or harm they experience. Schools, teachers, and health professionals also need to be vigilant, recognizing the signs of abuse and intervening when necessary.

We must also push for stronger enforcement of laws like POCSO and provide mental health resources for survivors. Education campaigns and social awareness programs should be more than just formalities; they should actively engage families and communities to create a culture of openness and support.

This is not a private issue. It is a public crisis that demands immediate attention. The silence around family sexual abuse must be shattered, and reforms must be implemented to protect children from these horrors. By breaking the chains of fear and shame, we can help build a society where all children grow up safe, healthy, and free from the trauma of abuse.

The time to act is now. It's time for families, communities, and policymakers to prioritize the protection of children over outdated notions of honor and shame. Only then can we ensure that the next generation has the opportunity to heal and thrive.

The author is a youth advocate and President of the Foundation for Youth Web, focusing on child protection and empowerment. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.



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Red Tape Derails J&K's Promised Infrastructure

Through your esteemed publication, I wish to draw urgent attention to the prolonged and painful delay in the Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel projects—developments once envisioned as transformative lifelines for South Kashmir and the Chenab Valley. Sadly, nearly nine years after their sanction under the Bharatmala Pariyojana in 2017, these projects remain buried under layers of bureaucratic red tape and policy ambiguity.

Originally proposed to bypass the treacherous Sinthan Top Road and establish all-weather connectivity, the tunnels were tendered in 2023, only to face an unexpected setback when the bids were cancelled in 2024. The reason: refusal of security clearance to the lowest bidder by the Union Home Ministry. Since then, repeated political assurances—including

those from Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and state officials—have failed to translate into progress.

What's more disturbing is the recent rejection of the project proposals by the Public Investment Board (PIB) in March 2025. The PIB cited high costs and “adequate alternate roads” as justification. However, such reasoning seems to ignore the very purpose these tunnels were meant to serve. Technical studies and detailed project reports (DPRs) prepared by reputed agencies have clearly established the impracticality of expanding NH-44 beyond four lanes due to geological constraints. In contrast, NH-244—originating from Chenani and terminating in Anantnag—was developed as a strategic, scalable alternative to alleviate traffic pressure and ensure year-round access.

In fact, significant groundwork has already been laid: land acquisition

is complete, forest clearances are near, and considerable public funds have been invested in upgrading the surrounding infrastructure, such as the Anantnag-Vailoo road and the Al-stop connector. To claim now, almost a decade later, that these tunnels are unfeasible is not only disheartening but also an affront to long-term infrastructure planning and public trust.

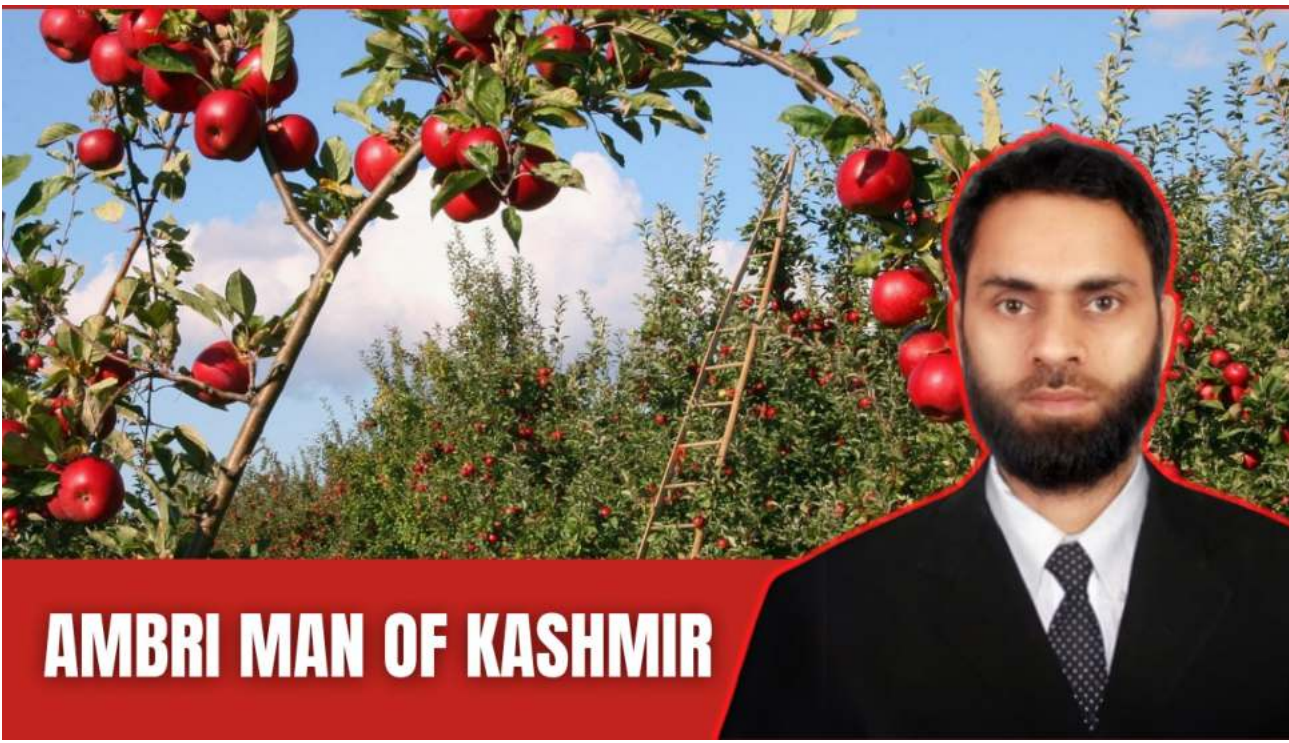
This stalemate is not without precedent. Projects like the Mughal Road Tunnel and even the Baglihar Dam faced similar setbacks before eventual revival. Elsewhere, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and Upper Tapi Dam overcame initial rejections through restructuring and international financing—particularly from agencies like JICA, which has a history of supporting major Indian infrastructure projects.

Therefore, the government must seriously consider revisiting the

Singhpura-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel projects under new funding models or international partnerships. These tunnels are not just about engineering, they are about equitable development, regional integration, and safer futures for two historically underserved regions.

It is imperative that both the Central Government and the Union Territory administration act decisively to revive these critical projects before the opportunity slips away forever. The public's patience is wearing thin. What remains is a fragile but persistent hope that political will and public pressure will finally bring these buried promises to light.

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi
M.Tech Infrastructure Development & Management
Member ASCE, IAENG & IIQS



The Man Who Rescued Kashmir's Forgotten Apple

Once nearly lost, the Ambri apple is thriving again, thanks to a quiet scientist who believed Kashmir's most prized fruit was worth saving.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad

In the orchard-rich valley of Kashmir, one apple once stood above all others: the Ambri. Known for its rich aroma, long shelf life, and distinct taste, it was the pride of the region. But as new, faster-growing varieties took over, the Ambri quietly slipped from favour. Most believed its time had passed. But one scientist didn't.

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a soft-spoken horticulturist with deep roots in the valley, spent decades working to save this rare apple from extinction. Today, he is known across the region, and among scientists across India, as the "Ambri Man of Kashmir."

Years ago, Dr. Bhat saw what few others did: that the Ambri was not just a fruit, but a part of Kashmir's heritage. Where others gave up, he got to work. He traveled through remote villages and high-altitude orchards to collect surviving Ambri trees.

He took samples, preserved genetic material, and laid the groundwork for a revival. His research led to the creation of the Ambri Apple Research Centre in Pahnoo, Shopian, part of SKUAST-K, where he leads efforts to improve and promote the apple.

One of the biggest problems with Ambri was time. Traditional trees took up to 15 years to bear fruit and that was a tough sell for Kashmiri farmers looking for quicker returns. But through new grafting methods and improved rootstocks, Dr. Bhat reduced that waiting period to just three years. This changed everything. Suddenly, Ambri made sense again, not just as a cultural symbol, but as a viable crop.

Another challenge was its unpredictable harvests. One year it might bear fruit, the next it might not. Dr. Bhat and his team studied pruning techniques, soil nutrition, and plant hormones to find a solution. The result

was more stable, dependable yields. Farmers began to take notice.

He didn't stop at the orchard. Dr. Bhat analyzed the fruit's nutritional value, sweetness, acidity, and aroma. The data confirmed what old-timers had long claimed: Ambri wasn't just special, it was one of the best. This helped make the case for its return, not just in Kashmir, but in national and international markets.

The quiet scientist also worked to protect its identity. Through official tests to prove its distinctiveness, he helped secure recognition for Ambri as a unique apple variety. Then came new breeding techniques—some traditional, some modern—that produced stronger, healthier versions of the fruit, better able to handle pests and changing weather, while keeping the flavor and charm that made Ambri famous in the first place.

Today, Dr. Bhat's improved Ambri selections are growing again across Kashmir. Some have already been approved for wide release, while others are in the pipeline. These new strains have better colour, longer shelf life, and stronger resistance to disease. Most importantly, they hold on to what made Ambri beloved in the first place: its fragrance, flavor, and character.

Dr. Bhat's work has been recognized in universities, farming communities, and government circles. But the recognition he values most comes from the people who now walk through their orchards and see Ambri apples growing again—healthy, abundant, and full of promise.

-Dr. Waseem Ahmad works at the Ambri Apple Research Centre, Pahnoo Shopian, SKUAST-K, and can be reached at waseembhat@jkn@yahoo.com.

Rehbar-e-Math Can Drive Kashmir's AI Shift

The proposed scheme can solve Kashmir's math teacher shortage, improve student outcomes, and reduce graduate unemployment.

Rayees Yaseen

In many government-run schools of the valley, the absence of specialised mathematics teachers has led to a worrying decline in learning outcomes. The subject is frequently taught by non-specialists, resulting in poor conceptual understanding, lack of engagement, and ultimately, underperformance in examinations.

The damage is twofold: not only are students struggling, but mathematics graduates are also grappling with unemployment

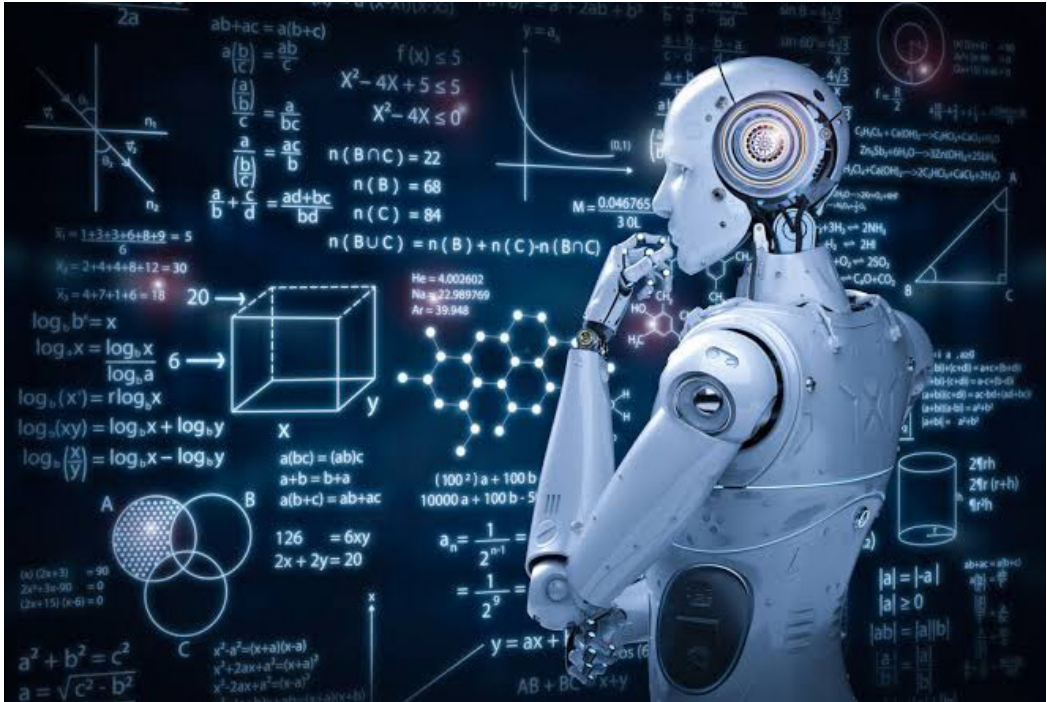
cal thinking—is closely tied to its capacity for innovation. Fields such as computer science, AI, robotics, and medicine all rest on strong mathematical foundations. For Kashmir to be part of this global movement, foundational learning must begin early and be handled by professionals.

The scheme outlines a clear implementation strategy. Eligible candidates would be required to hold a B.Sc. in Mathematics along with a B.Ed. qualification. A merit-based recruitment process, possibly including a qualifying exam,

cal barrier surrounding mathematics, a fear that has silently shaped the academic choices and career paths of thousands.

The initiative arrives at a time when global economies are investing heavily in STEM education. Countries like the United States, Germany, and China are leading the charge through strong policy support and research-led strategies. Kashmir must not be left behind.

When integrated with AI, Rehbar-e-Math Scheme perfectly aligns Kashmir with global trends in STEM education. The



due to limited teaching opportunities.

The proposed Rehbar-e-Math scheme could offer a much-needed solution. Inspired by the Rehbar-e-Khel initiative that strengthened physical education in schools, this programme envisions the systematic recruitment of trained mathematics graduates as schoolteachers. The goal is to simultaneously improve classroom instruction and reduce joblessness among qualified youth.

According to education experts, a nation's "quantitative ability"—its collective proficiency in mathematics and analyti-

would ensure fairness. Selected candidates would receive short-term training before deployment, particularly in underserved rural areas.

To offer stability and career progression, recruits would receive a fixed stipend and be considered for permanent roles after a two-to-five-year probationary period, contingent on performance.

If executed effectively, Rehbar-e-Math could yield lasting benefits: improved student performance and reduced unemployment among educated youth. More importantly, it could break the psychologi-

initiative will lay the groundwork for Kashmir's intellectual and professional future.

Policymakers now face a clear choice: continue on the current path and risk deepening educational and economic gaps, or act decisively to empower the region's youth through targeted reform. Rehbar-e-Math is not just an education scheme, it is an opportunity to rebuild the region's intellectual and professional future, one equation at a time.

-The author can be reached at rayeesshah157@gmail.com

Therapy Vs. Gossip: Why We Confide in Everyone Except Professionals?

Opening up to friends and family can feel comforting. It provides immediate relief, a sense of being heard, even validated. But informal conversations often lack the depth, privacy, and non-judgmental empathy required to address real emotional wounds.

Gowher Bhat

We talk all the time. To friends. To cousins. To co-workers. We share our struggles over late-night phone calls, during casual strolls, or at wedding gatherings. We speak of heartbreak, family tension, work stress, or feelings of being lost. But when it comes to seeking therapy—real, professional help—we hesitate. We pause. We withdraw. We stay silent.

This contradiction lies at the heart of how many people deal with emotional pain. There's a cultural tendency to equate therapy with something being seriously "wrong." This stigma has kept countless individuals away from the very support that could transform their emotional well-being.

Despite the rising awareness around mental health, the reluctance to consult therapists persists. According to the National Mental Health Survey of India (2015-16), nearly 14% of the country's population suffers from some form of mental health disorder—approximately 150 million people. Yet only a small fraction receive treatment from a trained professional.

In many regions, this gap is even more visible. According to a 2021 report by Médecins Sans Frontières in collaboration with the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), over 45% of adults in certain areas show signs of significant mental distress, with women being disproportionately affected. Yet mental health infrastructure remains underdeveloped, with

only a handful of practicing clinical psychologists and psychiatrists for millions of people.

The reasons for this treatment gap are complex: lack of access, affordability, and above all, the fear of being judged—by family, friends, or society. For many, it feels safer to confide in a familiar face—a cousin, a neighbor, or a colleague—than in a trained therapist. This pattern of informal venting has its own consequences.

Opening up to friends and family can feel comforting. It provides immediate relief, a sense of being heard, even validated. But informal conversations often lack the depth, privacy, and non-judgmental empathy required to address real emotional wounds. Advice is often thrown around casually. Stories are sometimes repeated without permission. Concerns can be dismissed or minimized. At worst, the conversation shifts from concern to entertainment—from compassion to gossip. Pain becomes a story passed around. Struggles become fuel for whispers.

What may have started as an honest moment ends up reframed as rumor. This isn't healing. This is harm disguised as closeness. The illusion of emotional relief masks a deeper need—the need to be seen, understood, and supported without judgment or agenda. That's what therapy offers.

Therapy is not about giving advice or offering quick fixes. It's not a lecture or a prescription for happiness. Instead, therapy is a confidential space where your emotions, thoughts, and experiences



can be unpacked with clarity and care. It is about helping individuals make sense of patterns that cause distress and building tools to respond to life with resilience and self-awareness.

Dr. Thema Bryant, president of the American Psychological Association and a renowned trauma expert, says, "Therapy is not for people who are weak. It's for people who want to be well. It's a path of courage, clarity, and self-respect."

Her words resonate deeply with the reality many face, where emotional distress is often carried silently, passed from one generation to the next.

In India, psychiatrist Dr. Shyam Bhat has spoken often about how society—especially in traditional or conservative communities—has internalized emotional suffering. "We think pain is something to be hidden or endured quietly. But

unspoken pain doesn't vanish—it grows louder within. Therapy gives us a way to hear that voice and work through it."

The belief that therapy is only for "serious" problems keeps people from accessing it earlier. But mental health, like physical health, exists on a spectrum. We don't wait for a heart attack to visit a doctor. Why should we wait for emotional collapse to consider therapy?

The World Health Organization's Mental Health Atlas (2020) also draws attention to the chronic shortage of mental health professionals. The country has less than 0.75 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, far below the global median of 3.28. Many areas face similar challenges, with most government-run mental health institutions underfunded and community-based mental health services remaining almost nonexistent.

Even when help is available, myths and misinformation abound. Therapy is seen as a luxury for the rich, or as a sign of "madness." Some fear that discussing their emotions might make things worse. But evidence suggests otherwise. Numerous global and regional studies confirm that structured psychotherapy can reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression, and trauma, often more sustainably than medication alone.

Dr. Kristin Neff, a psychologist and pioneer of self-compassion research, explains, "The way we speak to ourselves during difficult moments has profound effects on our mental health. Therapy teaches us to reframe that inner voice with gentleness instead of self-blame."

In communities where vulnerability is often dismissed, this kind of reparenting is revolutionary. It helps not only individuals heal, but

also opens up space for cultural transformation.

When we rely only on casual conversations for emotional release, we risk forming loops of unhealthy communication. Gossip replaces empathy. Judgment replaces curiosity. Trust erodes. People become guarded, ashamed, and isolated.

But when someone chooses therapy, they model a healthier path—they send a quiet but powerful message: it's okay to talk. It's okay to ask for help. It's okay to begin healing.

Imagine a culture where saying "I'm going to therapy" is as ordinary as saying "I'm going to the doctor." Imagine young people growing up in families that value emotional literacy. Imagine marriages where conflict is not met with silence, but with curiosity and effort. Imagine friendships where listening means really listening.

This shift begins with small acts: choosing not to judge those who seek help; encouraging a friend to explore professional support; learning about mental health ourselves; and most of all, having the humility to acknowledge our own emotional struggles.

Therapy doesn't mean you're broken. It means you're brave. It means you're ready to grow. And in a place where emotional well-being is often neglected, that kind of emotional courage is not just personal—it is powerful.

-The author is an English language trainer based out of Pukwama.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

SC Proposes

boards and asked the Centre whether it was willing to include Muslims in Hindu religious trusts.

The Supreme Court proposed that the properties declared as waqf including “waqf by user” won’t be de-notified but the Centre opposed the suggestion and sought a hearing before such a directive.

The top court also asked the Centre if Muslims would be allowed to be part of Hindu religious trusts.

“The properties declared by courts as waqfs should not be de-notified as waqfs, whether they be by waqf-by-user or waqf by deed, while the court is hearing the challenge to the Waqf Amendment Act 2025,” the CJJ proposed

The top court went on, “All Members of the waqf boards and central waqf Council must be Muslims, except the ex-officio members.”

The bench, which did not issue a formal notice as of now, said it would resume hearing on the petitions at around 2 pm on April 17.

The top court also expressed concern over the violence that followed the law’s enactment and said it was disturbing when it was seized of the matters.

The CJJ further proposed to pass an order to say that ex-officio members could be appointed regardless of their faith but others had to be Muslims.

The apex court questioned Mehta on how “waqf by user” can be disallowed as many would not have requisite documents to get such waqfs registered.

“Waqf by user” refers to a practice where a property is recognised as a religious or charitable endowment (waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there isn’t a formal, written declaration of waqf by the owner.

“How will you register such waqfs by user? What documents will they have? It will lead to undoing something. Yes, there is some misuse. But there are genuine ones also. I have gone through privy council judgments also. Waqf by user is recognised. If you undo it then it will be a problem. Legislature cannot declare a judgment, order or decree as void. You can only take the basis,” the bench said.

Mehta, however, submitted there was a large section of Muslims who did not want to be governed by Waqf act.

The bench then asked Mehta, “Are you saying that from now on you will allow Muslims to be part of the Hindu endowment boards? Say it openly.”

The apex court said when a public trust was declared to be a waqf 100 or 200 years ago, it couldn’t suddenly be taken over by the waqf board and declared otherwise.

“You cannot rewrite the past,” the bench said.

Mehta submitted that a joint parliamentary committee had 38 sittings and examined 98.2 lakh memorandums before Parliament’s both houses passed it.

The CJJ at the start of the hearing said, “There are two aspects we want to ask both the sides to address. Firstly, whether we should entertain or relegate it to the high court? Secondly, point out in brief what you are really urging and wanting to argue? We are not saying there is any bar on SC in hearing, deciding pleas against the law.”

Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, referred to the Waqf Amendment Act and said was challenging the provision that says only Muslims could create waqf.

“How can the state decide whether, and how I am a Muslim or not and hence, eligible to create waqf?” Sibal asked.

He added, “How can government say only those who are practising Islam for last five years can create waqf?”

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who represented some of the petitioners, submitted that Waqf Act would have all India ramifications and pleas should not be referred to the high court.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, opposing Waqf Act, said Waqf by user was an established practice of Islam and couldn’t be taken away.

The Centre recently notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following heated debates in both houses.

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

About 72 petitions, including those by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammad Jawed, have been filed challenging the validity of the Act.

The Centre, on April 8, filed a caveat in the apex court and sought a hearing before any order was passed in the matter.

A caveat is filed by a party in the high courts and the apex court to ensure that no orders are passed without

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CJJ Khanna also said one high court could be asked to deal with the pleas.

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Dulat: Farooq Privately

Virtually his alter ego,” he wrote on X.

Lone suggested the August 4, 2019, meeting between the Abdullahs and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the key moment. “I can visualise Farooq sahib saying – Humey roney deejaye, aap apna kaam karein, hum aap kay saath hain. It now seems 2024 was a prize for services rendered in 2019. Of course, in national interest.”

PDP’s youth president Waheed Para also slammed the NC, accusing it of complicity in Kashmir’s disempowerment. “The fiery speeches, the staged outrage, the carefully crafted image of ‘fighting the BJP’ – it was all theatre... In truth, they were complicit – quiet facilitators of our disempowerment,” Para said.

Echoing this sentiment, Iltija Mufti posted on X, “Dulat sahab, an ardent Abdullah supporter, has shared how Farooq sahab agreed with Delhi’s illegal move of abrogating Article 370. With this, it’s clear that Farooq sahab chose to stay in Kashmir instead of the Parliament to help normalise the gutting of J&K’s constitution & subsequent betrayal.”

Farooq Fires Back
Confronted with the claims, Farooq Abdullah hit back, expressing dismay over Dulat’s portrayal. “It is

unfortunate that he calls me a friend, a friend can’t write like this... He has written such things which are not true... A book was written about the Royal family of England, by one of their family members. (Queen) Elizabeth used only one word – ‘recollections may vary,’” he said.

Abdullah also denied several anecdotes in the book, including Dulat’s claim that he advised Abdullah on cabinet formation after the 1996 elections. “He says I (Dulat) told him to make a small cabinet. There were 25 ministers in my cabinet; why should I ask him?” he asked.

The NC leader rejected the idea that the party ever considered supporting the BJP. “He has written that we (NC) were ready to join hands with the BJP. This is inaccurate... If we had to betray (Article) 370, why would Farooq Abdullah (pass a resolution on autonomy) with a two-thirds majority in the assembly?”

Dismissing Dulat’s alleged influence in his political decisions, Abdullah said it was the then-US ambassador to India, Frank Wisner, who persuaded him to contest the 1996 elections—not Dulat.

“Wants to make the book controversial”

NC’s chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq termed the book an attempt at self-promotion. “He (Dulat) wants to make himself relevant, he wants to make it (book) controversial. The book contradicts itself. It says that for seven months, the Centre was trying to gauge the sense of Farooq sahib. If that would have been true, would Farooq sahib run the PAGD (People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration) after seven months (when he was released)?”

The party argues that its consistent position—whether through the autonomy resolution or its role in the Gupkar alliance—demonstrates a firm commitment to Article 370 and the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Blown Out

“What I said was that Dr. Abdullah had reconciled with the abrogation of Article 370, not that he supported it,” Dulat was seen saying in an interview with NDTV.

“I never said Farooq Abdullah supported the abrogation of Article 370. I have been misquoted. He was also against the imprisonment and heavy security presence,” he added.

The controversy stems from earlier reports claiming that in the aftermath of the August 2019 constitutional changes, the Indian government informally requested Dulat to reach out to Abdullah, who was then under house arrest. According to excerpts from Dulat’s book, he was told by someone from Delhi to get in touch with Abdullah, with the understanding that he would not oppose the move publicly or speak on Pakistan. However, Dulat insists this was misrepresented, and the insinuations were untrue.

Describing NC President Farooq Abdullah as a pivotal political figure, Dulat said, “Farooq is a leader who can bridge the gap between Delhi and Kashmir.”

On the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood, Dulat expressed scepticism, and said, “Statehood won’t be given. I don’t think so, at least not for a long time.” He further questioned the assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, citing that despite prior claims, the statehood has not been restored. Dulat referenced discussions with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who reportedly met the Home Minister and was assured that statehood would be granted soon, but it had yet to materialise. (inputs from agencies)

Chief justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh Justice G S Sandhawalia, sitting and retired judges from Justice Palli’s parent high court of Punjab and Haryana, along with advocates, family and friends also attended the event held at the Convention Centre.

On April 12, Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued notification regarding appointment of Justice Palli as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh days following retirement of Chief Justice Tashi Rabistan. Justice Rabistan retired from service on April 9 and accordingly Justice Sanjeev Kumar has been serving as the acting chief justice since then.

On April 4, the Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice Sanjeev Khanna had recommended Justice Palli of the Punjab and Haryana High Court for the position of Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Born on September 18, 1964, Justice Palli graduated in Commerce and completed his Bachelor of Law from Chandigarh’s Panjab University in 1988 and commenced his legal practice at the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

He gained expertise across diverse areas of law including civil, criminal, constitutional, revenue, industrial and labour law. He was appointed Additional Advocate

General for Punjab on September 1, 2004, a position he held until March 2007.

Palli was designated as a Senior Advocate on April 26, 2007. He served as Amicus Curiae in various contentious matters before the High Court.

He dealt with diverse subjects and matters having important legal propositions before Division and Full Benches. He also appeared before the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court and also argued several important matters in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.

He was elevated to the Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on December 28, 2013. He was serving as Executive Chairman of Haryana State Legal Service Authority from may 31, 2023 and was nominated as a Member of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on October 31, 2023, for two years.

Parihar, Azeem

as judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Supreme Court Collegium approved the proposal for appointment of these Judicial Officers as Judges of the High Court in its meeting held on April 16, according to a statement issued by the Apex Court.

Born on December 19, 1968 in Horna Palmar Kishtwar, Sanjay Parihar commenced his judicial career on December 1, 1997. Over the years he has held several pivotal positions including Principal District and Sessions Judge in several districts. He remained Presiding Officer TADA/POTA Court, Anticorruption Court, MACT Jammu, Special Tribunal, Sales Tax Tribunal and Registrar of the High court.

Similarly, Shahzad Azeem entered the judicial service on August 5, 2011, and served among others as the Director of the J&K Judicial Academy and Registrar General of the High Court.

JKB Registers

more than 4,200 pilgrims on a single day reflects the trust people have in the bank’s service delivery and commitment to this sacred pilgrimage.”

“We have ensured seamless arrangements at all designated branches with dedicated helpdesks, registration counters and trained staff to facilitate hassle-free registration. As always, the Jammu and Kashmir Bank remains deeply committed to be a meaningful part of this significant spiritual journey,” he added.

Pilgrims can register themselves in real time at any of the designated bank branches after undergoing Aadhaar-based biometric eKYC authentication, which will enable them to obtain their RFID cards without the need to wait in long queues.

HADP To Build

agri-economy for Jammu & Kashmir by 2030.

“We are redefining how governance reaches the grassroots. HADP is making agriculture smart, data-driven, and future-ready,” Abdullah said.

Terming progressive farmers as the backbone of agricultural transformation, the chief minister said, “Their stories of success inspire confidence in our mission and reaffirm our belief that change is happening, village by village, farm by farm”.

Reiterating his government’s

unwavering support, he affirmed that every scheme, every platform, and every rupee invested under HADP is aimed at directly benefiting the farmer.

“Our government will continue to walk alongside our cultivators in this journey of growth and innovation,” he added.

Since its rollout in April 2023, HADP has achieved notable milestones like the development and multiplication of high-quality seeds, promotion of oil-seeds and cash crops, technological advancements in sericulture, formation of 300 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and the launch of the JK Soil & Land Resource Information System, the officials said.

Earlier, Mission Director Rahul Yadav presented a comprehensive overview of HADP’s evolution, highlighting the preparation of 29 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) within a record four-month period.

Launches New

for all beneficiaries,” Abdullah said on social media.

The chief minister commended the team for developing the “extensive application” and called for enhancing its user-friendliness by incorporating additional features, such as integrating the appointment system of empanelled private health institutions.

Abdullah also instructed concerned officials to conduct a hands-on training through scheduled workshops for staff to familiarise them with the application.

“Once the staff is trained, awareness campaigns can be launched to educate the public about the app and its benefits,” he added.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring, he called for reviews every week by the secretary of the Health and Medical Education Department and monthly by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo. He also said that the minister in charge should assess the app’s performance and progress quarterly.

Health Secretary Syed Abid Rashid said that the department has developed a cutting-edge digital application designed to guide and support patients and their attendants in accessing healthcare facilities and services across both public and private sectors in Jammu & Kashmir.

He highlighted that the app offers tele-diagnosis and initial healthcare consultations, accessible from home, offices, or hospitals, especially beneficial in remote areas.

It offers detailed information on healthcare institutions, including doctor availability, appointment booking options, diagnostic and surgical services, as well as tele-consultation, telemedicine, and emergency care, he added.

“For the general public, the app includes tools for health promotion and disease prevention, an AI-powered symptom checker, health tracking capabilities, medication reminders, integration with wearable devices, and multilingual support,” he said.

“The app also supports medical students by providing information on academic courses, hostel accommodations, library facilities, and student exchange programmes,” he added.

It facilitates a coordinated referral mechanism through hospital

networking for efficient patient transfers and emergency support. The app also provides comprehensive details on health insurance schemes such as PMJAY, CGHS, and ECHS.

Furthermore, it promotes skill development through CPR and Basic Life Support (BLS) training, workshops, and various continuing education programmes.

36 J&K Cops

Farooq Ahmad, Haroon Rashid Bhat, Parviat Ahmad, Arshid Hussain, Farooq Ahmad Wani, and Ibrar Ahmad.

Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI) Zahoor Ahmad Wani, Bilal Ahmad Ganaie, Tahir Maqbool Malla, Mohd Abbas, and Maksood Ahmad Selection Grade Constables (Sgct) Mohammad Rafie Bhat, Mohd Aslam Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Mir, Raja Faheem Nabi, Imtiyaz Ahmad, John Mohammad, Mehraj Ul Shafi, Peerzada Mahboubul Haq, Wasim Sikander, Mohd Amin Bhat, Ruyaz Ahmad, and Javid Ahmad, Constables Aaqib Inayat Ullah, Adil Ahmad Sofi, Rafeeq Ahmad Malik, Suhail Ahmad Wani, and Reyaz Ahmad Hurra.

These personnel have been directed to report to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, CGO Complex, New Delhi, on April 21, 2025, for completion of requisite formalities.

An advance Travelling Allowance (TE) has also been sanctioned for their journey to and from New Delhi, as per government rules. (KNO)

Gandbal Boat Tragedy

claiming eight lives. One body, that of 40-year-old Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, was never found. For his family, every ripple of the river is a reminder of the search that never ended.

Today, a bridge stands where there was none – finally constructed after years of delay. It’s functional, sturdy, and much needed. But for many in Gandbal, it’s a monument not of development, but of delay. A structure that rose only after death demanded it.

“This bridge is a lifeline now, but it arrived after lives were lost,” said Mohammad Umer, a local. “Had it been constructed earlier, maybe our children would still be alive.”

On this first anniversary, special prayers were held in Masjids for the victims and the people paid homage while sharing memories of the incident. Yet, the pain is raw – because for many here, the bridge is not a symbol of progress, but of promises too long broken.

Earlier, the tragic incident had sparked widespread outrage across the Valley, with civil society groups demanding accountability and better infrastructure in vulnerable areas.

Despite the public outrage that followed the tragedy, and a magisterial probe being ordered, the report remains under wraps.

Gandbal’s bridge was inaugurated on December 14, 2024 – nearly nine months after the tragedy, and nearly a decade after its construction was first proposed. Work had begun in 2016–17, only to be halted by bureaucratic limbo and shifting priorities.

“Governments came and went. Politicians made announcements. But nothing happened until our children died,” said another resident. “Now, we have a bridge, but we have lost our future.”

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"3,000 J&K Pilgrims Choose Private Hajj Travel Annually Since 2015"

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Even as around 3,000 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir chose private Hajj Group Operators (HGOs) over the last decade for their annual pilgrimage, private operators are staring at an uncertain future following a drastic reduction in India's private Hajj quota for 2025.

"Since 2018, around 3,000 pilgrims from J&K have opted each year to undertake the holy journey through private tour operators, except during the pandemic years," reveals the data provided by the Jammu & Kashmir Association of Hajj & Umrah Companies (JKAHUC).

However, with the Union government slashing the private Hajj quota from 52,000 to just 10,000 this year, JKAHUC has raised alarm and sought immediate intervention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In J&K, the trend of performing Hajj through private HGOs has remained steady at around 3,000 pilgrims every year since 2015. The only dip we witnessed was in 2022, right after Covid restrictions were lifted, when only 500 pilgrims booked with us," Sheikh Feroze, President of JKAHUC said.

The association fears that the drastic quota cut may result in the cancellation of thousands of

already-booked pilgrims, many of whom have paid in full. "This decision has left pilgrims and operators alike in deep uncertainty. We urge the Prime Minister to restore the previous quota and prevent a major crisis," Feroze said at a press conference in Srinagar on Tuesday.

While the government quota remains intact this year, accommodating around 3,600 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir, private operators say they are bearing the brunt of policy changes.

Orientation and vaccination drives for government-quota pilgrims are already underway

National data shows that in 2019, out of 1.39 lakh Indian pilgrims, over 27,000 chose to travel through private HGOs. The trend dipped in 2022 to just over 11,000 private Hajj pilgrims due to pandemic aftermath but rebounded to pre-Covid levels in 2023 and 2024.

Adding to the uncertainty is a temporary suspension of Umrah, tourist and visit visas by Saudi authorities ahead of the Hajj season.

With the Hajj season drawing closer, JKAHUC has appealed to the central government to take swift action to restore the private Hajj quota and avoid a situation where thousands of pilgrims from J&K and elsewhere may be forced to cancel their long-cherished spiritual journey—(KNO)

Deputy Speaker's Post Remains Vacant In J&K Assembly

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly has completed over five months of its five-year term, yet the crucial post of deputy speaker remains vacant.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the election for the deputy speaker must be conducted "as soon as may be". "The Legislative Assembly shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the Assembly shall choose another member to be Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be," reads sub-section (1) of section 19 of the law.

'Kashmir's Shift To Horticulture Increases Rice Dependence On Other States'



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Experts have raised serious concerns over the increasing trend of converting agricultural land to horticulture in Kashmir, warning that the region is becoming dangerously dependent on other states for its staple food—rice.

An officer of the Agriculture Department said that Kashmir is already around 30–40% food-deficient, but the ongoing trend of conversion over the past five to six years has made the region even more reliant on other states.

He said thousands of hectares of paddy land in Kashmir have been turned into orchards, mostly for apple cultivation. While this shift has brought economic gains to some farmers, it has drastically reduced local rice production.

"Kashmir was once self-sufficient in rice production, but the rapid land-use conversion is now threatening food security. If this trend continues, Kashmir will be 100 percent dependent on other states for rice in the next few years," he added.

He further said that although horticulture boosts income, it also makes Kashmir vulnerable to supply disruptions and market volatility. "In times of natural disasters or political unrest, reliance on external food supplies can create crises," he added.

Another official said that historically, regions like Kulgam and Pulwama were known as the rice bowls of Kashmir. However, over the past one or two decades, Kul-

gam has lost over 50 per cent of its paddy fields to non-agricultural uses, including horticulture and urban development.

He said that in Pulwama, there are areas where there were almost no orchards just a few years ago. "However, after the introduction of high-density apples, around 60 per cent of paddy land has been converted. If the demand for high-density apples continues, there won't be a single patch of paddy land left," he said.

The officer said that while farmers are getting good returns from this conversion, it is making everyone more dependent on other states for staple food like rice.

According to data, the area under paddy cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir decreased from 1,62,309 hectares in 2012–13 to 1,34,067 hectares in 2021–22, marking a 17% decline. However, experts believe the current decline could be even greater.

Officials said that currently, 60–70% of the rice consumed in the region is sourced from states like Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as private channels.

They said that approximately 35,000 hectares of paddy fields have been converted to non-agricultural uses over the past decade.

"There is currently no law to prevent people from converting paddy land to other uses, but the government needs to act urgently—otherwise, it may soon be too late," the officials added—(KNO)

Fresh Rains Cool Down Kashmir; MeT Warns Of Wet Spell From April 18

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day after Kashmir experienced the hottest day of the season so far, fresh showers swept across the Valley on Wednesday, bringing a sharp dip in temperatures.

Srinagar and several other areas, particularly in north and central Kashmir, witnessed evening rains accompanied by gusty winds.

The Meteorological Department reported that the weather remained mostly cloudy throughout the day. However, the rain showers by evening significantly cooled down the region.

According to Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department, the weather is expected to stay generally dry on Thursday. However, starting from the evening of April 18, a fresh wet spell is likely to hit the region, with light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches forecast across most parts of the Valley. Moderate



to heavy rainfall is expected at scattered to isolated places, accompanied by thunder and gusty winds.

The MeT department has issued yellow and orange alerts for April 19, anticipating a peak in weather activity on that day.

On April 21, the Valley may see cloudy skies with light rain and thunder at scattered locations. From April 22 to 25, the weather is expected to remain

largely dry, before potentially turning cloudy again between April 26 and 27.

The MeT department has issued an advisory urging people to follow traffic and administrative guidelines, warning of potential landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in vulnerable areas. Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations on April 18 and 19 due to the adverse weather forecast.

THE MET DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED yellow and orange alerts for April 19, anticipating a peak in weather activity on that day.

Kashmir's Walnut Industry Faces Chinese Threat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The once-thriving walnut industry in Kashmir is facing a severe crisis as demand for its organic walnuts has sharply declined from 85% to just 30% over the past four years.

Growers and traders are deeply concerned as sales have dropped drastically from 1.70 lakh metric tonnes in 2020 to a mere 30,000 metric tonnes in 2024. The primary reasons behind this decline include the influx of cheaper Chinese walnuts, inadequate processing facilities, and weak marketing strategies.

In local markets, Kashmiri organic walnuts are currently priced between Rs 700–800 per kilogram, while Chinese walnuts sell for nearly half the price at Rs 350–400 per kilogram.

This stark price difference is largely due to China's mass production methods, which rely heavily on chemical fertilizers, allowing for large-scale exports at lower costs.

A critical challenge for Kashmir's walnut industry is the lack of processing units to enhance

the quality of the produce after harvest. Experts explain that while Kashmiri walnuts are rich in oil, their natural color does not turn white due to insufficient processing, making them less attractive in both domestic and international markets.

Official data from the Horticulture Marketing Department reveals that only 15% of walnuts are currently being sold through formal channels.

Official sources reveal that the absence of a proper grading system and the failure to promote organic certification have further worsened the situation.

To revive the industry, the horticulture department has launched new initiatives aimed at supporting the annual production of 2 lakh metric tonnes across 70,000 hectares. Key measures include establishing processing units, securing organic certification and Geographical Indication (GI) tags, improving marketing efforts, and implementing a stronger grading system.

District-wise production figures highlight significant disparities, with Anantnag leading

at 11,915 metric tonnes, followed by Kupwara at 8,824 metric tonnes and Ganderbal at 5,454 metric tonnes. Other districts like Pulwama, Budgam, Kulgam, Shopiya, and Srinagar contribute smaller but notable quantities.

Wholesale traders like Abdul Rahim Bandyar from South Kashmir's Pulwama pointed out additional challenges, noting that nearly 10% of Kashmiri walnuts turn out empty upon cracking, and their smaller size makes them less appealing compared to the larger kernels of Chinese walnuts.

Efforts, as per the officials, are underway to boost production through research on high-yielding mountain varieties. Under the Krishi Samagra Vikas Yojana, the government is promoting walnut cultivation and plans to provide farmers with essential facilities, including processing units. The department is also working on obtaining GI tags to enhance the marketability of Kashmiri walnuts once processing improves—(KNO)

'Use J&K Samadhan Portal For Grievance Redressal'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Under Secretary of the Department of Public Grievances, Azeeta Qureshi, on Wednesday appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to come forward and register their complaints through the J&K Samadhan web portal, which was launched last year by the Lieutenant Governor.


Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Qureshi emphasized the role of the department in ensuring effective grievance redressal. "Earlier, it used to be the Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell, but it was formally structured as the Department of Public Grievances two years ago," she said.

Describing it as an "umbrella department," Qureshi said it allows any citizen to register any grievance related to government services. "The JK Samadhan portal is accessible through both iOS and Android platforms. We also have a toll-free helpline at 1905," she informed.

Qureshi highlighted that the portal uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to manage complaints efficiently. "Complainant details, including name, phone number, and location, are recorded. An OTP verification ensures that the complaint is genuine," she added.

Explaining the scope of the portal, she noted, "If someone is not receiving water at home, it will be resolved quickly depending on the priority. But I must clarify that not all demands can be addressed as grievances. Requests like building bridges or reservoirs fall outside our purview. However, genuine issues—like delays in receiving a certificate from a Tehsildar or unresolved IAY (Indira Awaas Yojana) matters—are taken up seriously."

Qureshi encouraged citizens to make use of the platform and file appeals when necessary, adding that such cases are escalated to the highest level for prompt action.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No: 05 of 2025-26 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal :-

S.No.	Name of Work	Advertisement Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rupee(s)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C/M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
01	Flood protection works on Zojilla Nallah and other vulnerable spots near hospital etc.	67.90	3000	2,04,000/-	60 days	AAY	UT CAPEX
02	Construction of Catch water drain near the hospital etc at base camp Baltal	30.00	1500	90,000/-	60 days	AAY/ BEE	UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 02 (Two Works)
Position of AAA: Underprocess

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

	Publishing Date	16-04-2025 02:00 P.M
01	Download Date Start	16-04-2025 02:00 P.M
02	Bid submission Date Start	16-04-2025 02:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date End	24-04-2025 04:00 P.M
04	Bid opening Date	25-04-2025 11:00A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 25.04.2025 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

5) The earnest money shall be forfeited if: -

a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the GFR-2017, Manual for procurement of works 2022 with upto date amendments, PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

NO: IFCD/GBL/575-624
Dated: 15.04.2025
DIPK-440-25
DT: 16/04/2025

(Er. Iftikhar Nadeem Mattoo)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control Division
Ganderbal

UNRAVEL KASHMIR