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After 4 Yrs, J&K Set For RS Polls On Oct 24



Counting On Same Day; Nominations Close Oct 13

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday announced the schedule for elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which have remained vacant since February 2021.

The notification states that the official election notification will be issued on October 6, with the last date for filing nominations on October 13. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 14, while candidates can withdraw by October 16. Polling is scheduled for October 24, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with counting of votes at 5:00 PM the same day.

The four vacant seats were previously held by Mir Muhammad | [More on P6](#)

'Better Late Than Never,' Say Parties

Press Trust Of India

"Better late than never" was the common refrain of political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as they welcomed the Election Commission's decision to hold elections to four vacant Rajya Sabha seats from the Union Territory next month. Biennial elections to fill the four seats, lying | [More on P6](#)

Political Numbers Point To NC-Congress Sweep

Observer News Service

With the Election Commission of India (ECI) announcing elections to four vacant Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu | [More on P6](#)

Will Strike Decisively At Terrorist Hideouts: LG

Highlights India's Strategic Restraint & Border Development

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, on Wednesday highlighted India's strong stance against terrorism and the comprehensive development of border areas during an interaction with senior officers from the Indian Armed Forces, civil services, and friendly foreign countries at the National Defence College.

Referring to Operation



Sindoor, LG Sinha said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the operation marked | [More on P6](#)

Multi-Crore Land Scam Police Carries Out Multiple Raids

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday carried out multiple raids across the Valley in connection with a fraudulent land compensation case, officials said.

According to police, the case involves compensation for land under the transmission line in Watrad, Dalabal, and Kachwari villages in Khansahib tehsil of Budgam district, which was allegedly withdrawn in favour of non-existent individuals, depriving genuine landowners.

Investigations revealed that crores of | [More on P6](#)

Bar Council Elections: SC Sets Jan 2026 Deadline

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said elections in state Bar Councils have to be held by January 31, 2026 keeping mind the long pendency.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N Kotiswar Singh said verification drive for LLB certificates cannot be a ground for postponing the elections.

"Having regard to the fact that elections to the State Bar Councils have not been held for decades, we have impressed upon senior counsel

appearing for the Bar Council of India to ensure that elections of all State Bar Councils are held, if not simultaneously, in phased manner, by January 31, 2026," the bench ordered.

The top court was informed that the ongoing drive for verification of LLB certificates of advocates revealed a large number of fake degrees.

"There are people with fake degrees or no degrees at all. Then there are criminals who disguise themselves as lawyers to enter courtrooms and create violence," | [More on P6](#)



J&K remains unfulfilled, even though we have demanded it democratically, peacefully, and responsibly."

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the Leh unrest underscores the need for the Centre to move beyond day-to-day crisis management and address the root causes of discontent.

"This isn't from the Kashmir Valley, | [More on P6](#)

Leh Violence A Wake-Up Call On J&K Statehood: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the unrest in Leh should serve as an eye-opener about how the people of Jammu and Kashmir feel over the continued denial of statehood, even though Ladakh had not been promised one.

The remarks came after protests demanding statehood in Ladakh turned violent, leading to arson, street clashes, four deaths, and at least 45 injuries, including 22 police personnel.

"Ladakh wasn't even promised statehood; they celebrated UT status in 2019 and now feel betrayed and angry," Abdullah wrote on his X handle. "Now try to imagine how betrayed and disappointed we in J&K feel when the promise of statehood to

Leh Protests Turn Deadly: 4 Killed, 70 Injured

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Four people were killed and 70 others injured in intense clashes between protesters and security personnel during the Leh Apex Body (LAB) sponsored shutdown in Leh town of Ladakh on Wednesday, Press Trust of India reported quoting unnamed officials.

Police had to resort to firing to bring the situation under control after the protesters, who had launched an agitation for statehood for Ladakh and extension of the Sixth Schedule, indulged in widespread violence, attacking a BJP office and several vehicles, they said.

As the sun set on what is arguably the worst day of violence in recent memory in the cold desert region, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk called off his fortnight-long hunger strike to press for statehood



and extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh.

With several of those injured in a critical condition, there are fears the death toll could go up.

The clash started Wednesday morning after hundreds of protesters took to the streets. Earlier, they have been observing a hunger strike and called a

complete shutdown to press their statehood demand.

The BJP office was vandalised and set on fire as were several vehicles.

As the day progressed, flames and dark smoke clouds could be seen from afar. Police resorted to firing and teargas shelling to bring the situation under control after | [More on P6](#)

Ladakh LG Warns Of Stern Action Against Culprits

Holding vested interests responsible for the unrest, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh,

Kavinder Gupta, announced a curfew across the Leh district to prevent further bloodshed. Expressing deep grief over the tragic deaths, he conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Four people were killed and more than 45 others, including 22 policemen, were injured in daylong clashes during a shutdown sponsored by the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which is sponsoring an agitation for the past five years for statehood for Ladakh. A BJP office, a police vehicle, and several other cars were set ablaze by the protesters.

Gupta termed | [More on P6](#)

THE ADMINISTRATION IMPOSED PROHIBITORY orders under Section 163 of the BNSS to ban the assembly of five or more people.

Wangchuk's 'Provocative' Speeches Incited Mob: Centre

KO WEB DESK

The Central government on Wednesday blamed activist Sonam Wangchuk's "provocative" speeches for the violence in Leh that killed four persons and injured over 70 others.

In their statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said, "On 24th September, at around 11.30 am, a mob instigated by his (Sonam Wangchuk's) provocative speeches left the venue of the hunger strike and attacked a political party office as well as Government office of the CEC Leh." | [More on P6](#)

Pahalgam Attack

Police Arrest Key Logistic Supporter

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday arrested a person from South Kashmir who had allegedly provided logistical support to terrorists responsible for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, officials said here.

"Based on an intelligence lead, Srinagar police arrested an Over Ground Worker from South Kashmir's Kulgam district. He was identified as Mohd Yousuf Katari (26)," an official said.

Mohammad Kataria was arrested after a forensic analysis of weapons and equipment recovered during July's Operation Mahadev, which saw security forces track down and neutralise two gunmen who slaughtered 26 people at Baisaran Valley, a popular tourist spot near Pahalgam.

Kataria will be produced in court and sent to judicial custody, sources said.

The officials said that he had a role in providing logistical support to the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack who were later killed during Operation Mahadev. In the July 29 encounter, the Army's elite para commandos had gunned down the three terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar.

They included Suliman alias Asif, who is believed to be the mastermind of the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mainly | [More on P6](#)

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2

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Saida Begum W/D/O Late Ab Khaliq Mir R/o Kreeri for issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned Ab Khaliq Mir S/o Jabar Mir has passed away on 07/03/2025. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION DECEASED	WITHAGE	OCCUPATION
1	Ab Hamid Mir	S/o	58	Farmer
2	Wali Mohd Mir	S/O	52	Govt Employee
3	Nazir Ahmad	--	47	Labour
4	Bashir Ahmad	-	45	Farmer
5	Jana Begum	d/O	60	H/maker

The applicant has applied for issuance of Legal Heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar
fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

To Whomsoever It May Concern:

It is hereby notified that in compliance with the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) Order No. 362, the fee structure of Foundation World School, Illahibagh for the academic year of 2025-2026 shall be as under:

- Tuition Fee: 6740 per month (as applicable)
- Annual Fee: 14290 per annum

All stakeholders are advised to kindly take note.

Sd/-
Management -

Foundation World School, Illahibagh

iko



Yazdan Hussain Tibu

On this special day, we shower you with love, prayers, and blessings.

May your life always be filled with laughter, happiness, good health, and endless success.

With heartfelt wishes from your loving family

Baba, Mama, Boba, Papa, Badi Mama, Masi Mama, Bada Baba, Badi Masi, Jiji Masi, Mosaji, Deedu, Behna, Choti Behna, Behjat, Yusra, Yahya, Zaigham, Suzain Didi, Falak Didi, Asma Didi & Jawad Bhai

With love & best wishes from family & friends

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Aadhaar Card of my Son bearing Registration No:7339 7488 3893, his name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Kashif Nazir, while as his Actual and correct name is Kashif Nazir Nadaf. Now I want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Nazir Ahmad Nadaf,
F/O Kashif Nazir Nadaf,
R/O Old Hospital Road, Ward No:05, Bandipora,
District Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, India, Pin code:193502.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Irshad Hussain Bhat to New Name Irshad Hussain In future I will be known as (New Name) Irshad Hussain. If anybody is having any objection he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

brmg

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR BUDGAM NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the following applicant and his family members, resident Thokerpora of Tehsil Budgam, District Budgam, have applied for issuance of OBC J&K Certificate in terms of Government of Jammu and Kashmir rules. Whereas, Shri /Smt. Pakiza Altaf D/o Mohd Altaf Teli R/o Thokerpora Tehsil Budgam District Budgam has applied before this office for issuance of OBC, J&K under Teli Caste Certificate. Any person having objection (s) with regard to the issuance of the said OBC certificate may submit the same in writing to the office of the undersigned within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the stipulated time, no objection shall be entertained and the certificate will be issued in due course.

Details of Applicant and Family Members:

S. NO	Name of Family Member	Relationship with Applicant	Occupation	Annual Income
01	MOHD ALTAZ TELI	FATHER	MASON	120,000/=
02	NAFEEZA BANO	MOTHER	HOUSE-WIFE	
03	ANEES TELI	BROTHER	PVT JOB	120,000/=
04	PAKIZA ALTAZ	APPLICANT	STUDENT	
TOTAL INCOME =				240,000/=

NAIB TEHSILDAR BUDGAM

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04D 3793 issued in favour of SAJAD AHMAD BAKSHI Parentage FAROOQ AHMAD BAKSHI Whereas an application has been received by one SAJAD AHMAD BAKSHI Parentage FAROOQ AHMAD BAKSHI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Registration Certificate as SAJAD AHMAD Parentage FAROOQ AHMAD Which needs to be changed as SAJAD AHMAD BAKSHI Parentage FAROOQ AHMAD BAKSHI Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer 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

**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.: B24249 Session: Annual Year 2000 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/parent against my name & Mother name as Tariq Ahmad & M/N Shameema Bano instead of Tariq Ahmad Mir & M/N Shamima Begum 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: Tariq Ahmad Mir
Father's name: Mohd Maqbool Mir
Mother's Name: Shamima Begum
DOB: 25-10-84
Residence: Mamoosa Pattan Baramulla
Mobile no: 7780948588

brmg

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Health & Medical Education Department**

Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

Subject: Compassionate appointment case under Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022. Regarding (Ms. Sabha Kousar Sister/o Lt. Sajad Ali).

Reference:

- Minutes of the meeting of evaluation committee of H&ME Department held on 13.12.2024.
- Form No. 126491 dated 19.06.2025 received from Criminal Investigation Department, J&K.

**Government Order No: 638- JK(HME) of 2025
Dated: 19.09.2025**

In exercise of the powers conferred under Clause-3 of Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 notified vide S.O. 429 dated 6th September, 2022 read with S.O. 397 dated 16th of August 2024, sanction is, hereby, accorded to the appointment of Ms. Sabha Kousar, Sister of Late Sajad Ali R/O Kaller Surankote, District Poonch, as MTS (Nursing Orderly), in Government Medical College Jammu in the Pay Level SL-1 (14800-47100).

The appointee shall report to the Principal Government Medical College Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which she shall forego her right to appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:

- Academic Qualification Certificates.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate.
- All other relevant documents as are required under the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

The appointment of the appointee shall further be subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant shall give an undertaking in writing as per format prescribed in the scheme that she shall maintain properly the other family members who were dependent on the deceased and in case, it is proved subsequently, at any time that the family members are being neglected or are not being maintained properly by her, appointment shall be terminated forthwith.
- Any claim for transfer of appointment to any other family member shall invariably be rejected.
- The appointee shall be adjusted against appropriate category to which she belongs. In case the appointee fails to produce any valid category certificate, she shall be adjusted against General category.
- That she shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if on verification, her Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificates, if any, from the concerned issuing authority are found to be fake/forged, the claim of the appointee for appointment as Class-IV/Multitasking Staff (MTS) shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against her.
- That she shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, to the effect that the applicant is unemployed as on date and none of the family members other than the applicant has taken benefit of compassionate appointment under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022. In case, it turns out that the applicant is already appointed or the benefit of compassionate appointment under the scheme has already been extended to the family of the deceased, then the instant appointment shall be deemed to have been withdrawn ab-initio without any further notice.
- That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from District Industries Centre (DIC)/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the DIC and District Employment & Counselling Centre of the domicile District. She shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. She shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from her salary. The DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and personally monitor its recovery.
- The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to her unless a satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificate, if any, is received from the concerned authorities.
- The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.
- The appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the 'New Pension Scheme' as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.
- The appointment of the appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before competent Court of Law.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

DIPK-6490/25
Dated: 24-09-2025

Sd/-
(Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah), IAS
Secretary to the Government.
Dated: 19.09.2025

No. ME-NG/630/2023-02(7313011)

**भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
खेल विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(सुवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त निकाय)

एफ.सं. 01-04001(01)/2/2025-एचओ - कार्मिक प्रभाग
F.No. 01-04001(01)/2/2025-HO - Personnel Division

दिनांक: 19-09-2025
Date: 19-09-2025

**अधिसूचना
NOTIFICATION**
Recruitment to the post of Assistant Director -
An opportunity to be part of India's quest for Sporting Excellence.

In continuations to the Notification of even number dated 30.05.2025 regarding the filling up the 20 posts (08-UR,02-EWS,05-OBC,3-SC,02-ST) of Assistant Director, from PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF SCORES, CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION, 2023* dated 08-11-2024 are invited to fill the online application for the post of Assistant Director on regular basis in the Pay Matrix Level 10 (7th CPC) in Sports Authority of India. The detailed notification is published on SAI's website.

2. Final Selection methodology: - The selection will be made on the following criteria:
60% weightage - UPSC CSE - 2023 marks (out of 2025)
20% weightage - Verified sports achievements in priority disciplines
20% weightage - Interview performance.

3. Candidates shall apply for the post of Assistant Director by using the email ID provided in the Public Disclosure List against their name, as mentioned in the Sports Authority of India (SAI) notification dated 11-08-2025. It is clarified that the mere invitation to submit the application form shall not be construed as final acceptance of the candidature by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Shortlisting for the interview will be in the ratio of 1:5 with reference to the number of vacancies, strictly in order of merit, based on marks obtained in UPSC CSE-2023.

4. The online submission of the application form will commence on 18-09-2025 (10:00 AM), and the last date for submitting the duly completed application form is 01-10-2025 (05:00 PM). Candidates are advised to fill the form well in time to avoid any last-minute hassles. For any recruitment-related query, e-mail: recruitment.cell.sai@gov.in. In case of any dispute, English version of the notification will be treated as valid.

CBC:47103/12/0010/2526

**Office of the Executive Engineer,
Electric Division-1st, Srinagar.**

Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 033/EDI, dt: 22.09.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated cost in lacs
1	Providing of LED street lighting on Existing LT network at Shivpora, Indra Nagar & Batwara	Rs. 3.83 lacs

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	22.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	13.10.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date and time of bidding queries/clarifications	22.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs to 24.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	22.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs to 13.10.2025; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	14.10.2025 at 13:00 Hrs
vi)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
viii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt Only]
ix)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.7700/= (Rupees Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Only)

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

DIPK-NB-2024/25 dated: 24-09-2025

Police Issue Advisory Over Use Of Firecrackers In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar police on Wednesday issued an advisory to the public over the use of firecrackers containing harmful chemicals, stating that they are banned and any violation will attract legal action.

According to the advisory, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, police said that On September 21, a suspicious object was found outside the Passport Office, Srinagar. "The Police team promptly cordoned off the area and called in the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS). After thorough examination, the object was safely defused," reads the advisory.

It reads that subsequent investigation revealed that the object was firecrackers reportedly used during a nearby marriage function. "The Public is reminded that as per Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions, firecrackers containing harmful chemicals are strictly banned. Any violation will attract legal action under relevant provisions of law," it reads.

Police also cautioned citizens not to spread rumours or misinformation regarding such incidents. "Any such attempt will invite strict legal consequences. Srinagar Police reiterates its commitment to public safety, peace, and order," it added.

CBC Organises Swachhata Outreach Programme At GHSS Gulab Bagh



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Field Office Srinagar, today organised a day-long Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme on Swachhata Mission LIFE and New Criminal Laws at Government Higher Secondary School, Gulab Bagh, Srinagar.

The programme aimed to raise awareness among students and the community about environmental protection, adoption of sustainable lifestyle practices, and the provisions of New Criminal Laws.

Resource persons from the Education Department, Srinagar Municipal

Corporation (SMC), J&K Pollution Control Committee, Police, and other departments participated in the programme and spoke on the themes of the programme.

Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohiuddin Bhat, underscored the importance of cleanliness, calling it a basic prerequisite for a healthy life. He urged participants to adopt sustainable lifestyle practices for overall well-being.

Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC, Mudasir Hussain Bhanday, highlighted the critical role of local bodies in waste disposal and segregation. He appealed to the audience to use resources judiciously and contribute actively towards environmental protection.



Under Mission YUVA, J&K Bank Continues Youth Empowerment

DC Srinagar Distributes Fresh Sanction Letters; Srinagar Leads The Programme With 780 Sanctions Till Date

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Carrying forward the J&K Government's flagship initiative "Mission YUVA" aimed at empowering youth through entrepreneurship and self-employment, J&K Bank on Wednesday organised 'Roz-e-YUVA' login day event in Srinagar to connect aspiring entrepreneurs with credit opportunities and hand over fresh sanction letters to beneficiaries at the local level.

The event was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo(IAS), Bank's Chief General Manager Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat, ADC Srinagar Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Layek Ahmad Jan, and other senior officers of the Bank and district administration, where 30 sanction letters were formally handed over to beneficiaries to start different self-employment units.

Speaking at the event Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo Lauded the Bank's pro-active role in speedy disposal of cases by extending timely credit support and emphasised the importance of Mission YUVA initiative for addressing unemployment issues and creating an enterprise ecosystem.

Akshay Labroo said the highest number of cases have been

The district administration and J&K Bank remain fully dedicated to supporting aspiring entrepreneurs in Srinagar as they take bold steps towards shaping their future and contributing to regional growth."

sanctioned in District Srinagar with total sanctions crossing the mark of 780 and urged all the stakeholders to expedite the disposal of all pending loan cases under Mission YUVA so that maximum benefits reach the youth swiftly.

He further said that the district administration and J&K Bank remain fully dedicated to supporting aspiring entrepreneurs in Srinagar as they take bold steps towards shaping their future and contributing to regional growth.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief General Manager (Operation), J&K Bank Intiyaz Ahmad

Bhat said we are privileged to support and empower youth with the timely financial support which will help them to transform their ideas into viable and growth-oriented enterprises. Bank's commitment to MISSION YUVA reflects its broader mission of fostering inclusive economic growth and social responsibility.

Intiyaz Ahmad further assured that the Bank is committed that every eligible entrepreneur receives the assistance hassle-free and impressed upon proper utilization of the funds in the entrepreneurial activities undertaken by the beneficiaries under the scheme. He urged the youth to actively participate in the Mission Yuva programme and instead of job-seekers become job-providers.

Launched by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on June'28, 2025 as a bold step to empower youth and build a self-reliant economy by creating 1.37 lakh enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs in next 5 years, Mission Yuva is empowered by J&K Bank's Yuva Udaan Campaign that ensures speedy disposal of such cases and handing over sanction letters by organizing public events to spread awareness about Mission Yuva and create an entrepreneurial ecosystem in J&K.

- 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: +9194841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 57
ZUHR	12:23
ASR	4: 42
Magrib	6:28
ISHA	7: 48

HIJRI CALENDAR
01 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

This Day In History

- 1066 - Battle of Stamford Bridge; English army under King Harold Godwinson defeat invading Norwegians led by King Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig, who were both killed
- 1340 - England & France sign disarmament treaty
- 1396 - Battle of Nicopolis: Sultan Bajezid I defeats Crusades armies
- 1493 - Columbus sails with 17 ships on 2nd voyage to the Americas
- 1513 - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses the Panama Isthmus becoming first European to see the Pacific Ocean
- 1597 - Amiens surrenders to French King Henri IV
- 1639 - First printing press in America
- 1639 - Suzuki Shosan, Samurais monk of Zen Buddhism, found awakening
- 1654 - England & Denmark sign trade agreement
- 1663 - Austrian Fort Neuhausl surrenders to invading Turkish army
- 1690 - Public Occurrences, first newspaper in the American colonies (Boston), publishes first & last edition
- 1777 - British general William Howe conquers Philadelphia
- 1780 - Benedict Arnold joins the British
- 1804 - 12th amendment to US constitution, regulating judicial power
- 1820 - French Physicist Francois Arago announces electromagnetism in his discovery that a copper wire between the poles of a voltaic cell could laterally attract iron filings to itself

PS Shalteng Organises 'Run For Unity'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police Station Shalteng on Tuesday organised a "Run for Unity" from Narbal Dumail to Hokarsar Umerabad Shalteng to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The run was flagged off by Dr. Mohammad Jaffer, Principal, Government Higher Secondary School Gund Hassi Bhat, and SDPO West Bemina Srinagar from Narbal Dumail. Students from Gov-

ernment Higher Secondary School Gund Hassi Bhat, Government Higher Secondary School Mujgund Srinagar, members of civil society, and local youth actively participated in the event. SDPO West himself also took part as a participant.

At the conclusion of the run, the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Gund Hassi Bhat, who was the Chief Guest, delivered a speech highlighting the life and contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



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انتہائی نازک اور فوری طور پر طبی امداد کے مستحق افراد کو خدمت فراہم کی جائے گی امداد کے لیے موصول ہونے والی فون کالز کو ماہرین کے ذریعے جانچنے کے بعد بھرپور رہنمائی فراہم کی جائے گی ہماری ماہرین کی ٹیم جانے وقوعہ پر پہنچ کر مناسب طبی امداد کی سہولت فراہم کرے گی مریض کو طبی نگہداشت کے لیے قریبی اسپتال منتقل کیا جائے گا

کس بھی ایمرجنسی کے لیے فوری رابطہ کری

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Kashmiri-American Society for Healthcare, Medical education & Research in collaboration with Help Poor Voluntary Trust

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,
NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)**
Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for Short Term e-NIT No. 24 OF 2025-26, Dated: 15-09-2025 for below mentioned works: -

Part-1:
Installation of 10 cusec and 7 cusec pumping units allied mechanical works at intake channel of LIS Lethpora Stage-1st.

Part-2:
Mechanical repairs and replacements to 20 cusec VT Pump Unit-1 at LIS Noorbagh.

Part-3:
Repairs/ Replacement works to be carried out at Lift Irrigation Scheme Zaloosa Chariesharief.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: -

2025_IFC_288193_1, 2025_IFC_288193_2, 2025_IFC_288193_3

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to **poor response** to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	29/09/2025 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	30/09/2025 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

No. MIDS/Ts/2920-28
Dated: -22-09-2025

**DIPK-6505/25
DATED: 24-09-2025**

From KO Archives

Food Insecurity, Drying Rivers Stare Kashmir In The Face

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Kashmir is teetering dangerously on food insecurity as precious paddy land shrinks by conversion to rain-fed orchards and climate change wreaks havoc with rivers, reducing their level by two-thirds over the past forty years, a recently conducted study says.

Kashmir's current 40 per cent food grain deficit is likely to touch over 60 per cent in the next 10 years, a report on climate change released here Monday said. The ActionAid International, an NGO working in over 40 countries, in a 28-page report on climate change and its impact in Kashmir, "On the brink" said that more and more paddy land is being changed into rain-fed orchards resulting in the food grain deficit.

The report also reveals that the deficit in food production in Kashmir valley region has reached 40 per cent putting food security to a greater risk. "The food deficit was just 23 per cent in 1980-81.

Kashmir runs in deficit in food grain production while its horticulture sector earns a revenue of Rs 20 billion.

The report warns that the large scale transition from paddy cultivation to rain-fed crops poses risk to food security in Kashmir.

"In the post-World Trade Organisation scenario, as foreign fruits mainly apples have started flooding Indian markets, demand for Kashmir fruits is likely to reduce and the low demand could cripple the capacity of poor and small farmers to buy food grains from the market," says Arjmand Hussian Talib, the author of the report.

Action Aid International had carried a sample survey which revealed that 1489 acres of paddy land have been converted into rain-fed dry land in north Kashmir districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandippra, south Kashmir districts of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian and central Kashmir district of Budgam.

Warming Shrinks Kashmir's Rivers, Streams: Water levels in Kashmir's rivers and streams have decreased by two-thirds as a result of global warming which is melting most of the Himalayan region's glaciers, a report said on Monday

(Kashmir Observer, September 25, 2000)

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Future-Proofing Apples

Celebrated as the "Apple Bowl of India," the Valley produces nearly three-quarters of the country's total apple output, over 20 lakh metric tonnes every year. More than a quarter of the region's population, nearly 35 lakh people, are directly or indirectly dependent on this industry. Yet, year after year, the trade is held hostage to weather, road closures, and inadequate infrastructure. The recent losses, with truckloads of fruit stranded on the Srinagar-Jammu highway and prices crashing in outside mandis, are a reminder of how fragile this backbone of rural livelihood remains.

Despite efforts by the administration, such as deploying RTC trucks to check exploitative freight rates, or starting parcel train services to Delhi, growers say the real crisis is not just logistics but demand. Even as 1.37 lakh metric tonnes of fruit moved out of the Valley in ten days, nearly two-thirds of the crop still lies unsold in orchards and godowns. In mandis, oversupply and weak demand are driving prices further down, threatening to push many orchardists deeper into debt. This is not a passing worry but a structural crisis.

Economists point out, losses are often exaggerated or underestimated because the government lacks scientific systems to measure them. As a result, in the absence of credible assessments, policy responses remain ad hoc. The new cargo rail service, for instance, should have been operational well before the harvest season, not as an emergency patchwork when trucks had already piled up.

The government must treat the apple trade with the seriousness it deserves. Cold storage expansion is critical, especially for high-density apples with shorter shelf life. Storage is expected to fetch growers two to three times the price, cushioning them from market shocks. Equally urgent is crop insurance; farmers cannot be left at the mercy of bad weather or highway blockades. The trade also needs investment in marketing, packaging, and logistics.

Finally, government policy must also shield local produce from unfair competition. With Iranian and Washington apples flooding mainland markets at lower tariffs, Kashmiri growers face a double squeeze: high costs at home, lower returns outside. Unless tariff protections are calibrated to safeguard domestic growers, India risks undermining its own largest apple-producing region.

Tourism may dominate headlines, but in truth, it is apples that sustain Kashmir's villages. If the government wants to protect livelihoods and ensure rural stability, it must go beyond announcements and put in place enduring systems that guarantee Kashmir's apples reach markets on time, at fair prices.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Schools That Build Wealth

Early lessons in money and planning can help young Kashmiris turn education into lasting security and opportunity.

Irshad Mushtaq

Education in Kashmir carries the weight of both ambition and survival. Families invest years of sacrifice so their children can become doctors, engineers, civil servants, or entrepreneurs.

School is where this journey begins, offering more than textbooks and exams. It builds the skills to think critically, solve problems, and adapt to a world that demands both knowledge and resilience.

Yet the real lesson that determines a secure future often hides behind the curriculum: understanding money. A recent Reserve Bank of India survey found that less than 30 percent of Indian adults are financially literate. In Jammu and Kashmir, where unemployment rate is twice the national average, learning how to earn, save, and invest is as vital as mastering science or math.

Financial planning is a survival skill. Starting early allows savings to grow through the power of compounding. Mutual funds, gold, stocks, and real estate each offer different risks and rewards, but understanding them requires guidance. Regulators like SEBI and the RBI protect markets, yet the first line of protection is knowledge.

Kashmir's schools can bridge this gap by introducing practical lessons on budgeting, investment, and the difference between insurance and wealth creation.

Education should teach young people how to build a future where their hard-earned money works for them, ensuring stability in a region where uncertainty often overshadows opportunity.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Governance at the Doorstep

Certificates, dispute resolution, and awareness campaigns are transforming Panchayat Ghars into hubs of service in South Kashmir.

Mohammad Amin Mir

On a September morning, Nussu Badragund, a village in Tehsil Qazigund, was unusually lively. Men and women gathered outside the Panchayat Ghar, holding bundles of documents or folded applications.

Inside, Revenue Department officials moved steadily, distributing certificates, recording grievances, and resolving land disputes on the spot.

For villagers, this was more than administrative work.

Certificates that normally took weeks arrived within hours. Land disputes, lodged in files and courts for years, found resolution in a single sitting.

Governance was no longer distant. Officials were present, attentive, and directly engaged with the community.

The programme, running from September 17 to October 2, coincides with Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. Gandhi believed India lives in its villages and that justice, services, and rights should be accessible to every villager.

By transforming Panchayat Ghars into hubs of administration, the Revenue Department in Anantnag is bridging this vision with the realities of Kashmir's villages.

Tehsildar Sajad Hussain, managing both Anantnag and Qazigund, leads the initiative. His approach emphasizes presence over paperwork.

The goal is simple: deliver services to citizens rather than making them chase offices.

The results are immediate. Farmers applying for subsidies, students seeking scholarships, and widows needing welfare received documents without delay.

Land disputes that might have taken years in courts were mediated and resolved before officials and community members.

The human response was telling. Elderly men watched as officials left desks to sit among them. Women, often deterred by distance or bureaucracy, participated confidently.

Young graduates saw opportunities in the swift issuance of certificates that could open doors to jobs or higher education.

The programme also focused on awareness. Villagers learned about land laws, inheritance procedures, and the importance of proper documentation.

These sessions empower citizens to protect their rights in rural Kashmir, where procedural complexity can allow exploitation.

Residents shared immediate outcomes. A student received his income certificate within



Similar approaches have succeeded elsewhere. Kerala conducts village-level adalats to resolve disputes and deliver services. Gujarat's "Seva Setu" programmes bring officials to rural areas for direct service delivery. Rwanda's Gacaca courts provided community-level justice efficiently. Anantnag's effort aligns with these examples, showing that local, citizen-focused governance is both feasible and effective.

hours after repeated failed attempts at the tehsil office. A neighbour resolved a long-standing land dispute that had strained community ties.

These moments signal that government can be responsive and accessible.

The initiative has wider implications. Resolving minor disputes locally can reduce the burden on courts.

When people see results in their own villages, trust in institutions grows. Panchayat Ghars gain functional significance, strengthening grassroots democracy. Easier access encourages more women to engage with governance.

Sustaining this model will require planning. Officials must balance village outreach with office responsibilities.

Scaling across Anantnag and beyond will

need manpower, coordination, and technology, including digital land records and mobile grievance systems.

There is also the risk of politicization if the programme is not institutionalized.

Similar approaches have succeeded elsewhere. Kerala conducts village-level adalats to resolve disputes and deliver services. Gujarat's "Seva Setu" programmes bring officials to rural areas for direct service delivery. Rwanda's Gacaca courts provided community-level justice efficiently.

Anantnag's effort aligns with these examples, showing that local, citizen-focused governance is both feasible and effective.

The author is a land policy analyst based in South Kashmir.

The Supreme Court's recent ruling making the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) mandatory for all government school teachers has sparked debate in the valley.

But beyond brouhaha, this is an opportunity to lift education standards, secure careers, and restore public trust in schools.

For decades, J&K's hiring policies operated outside national norms. Programs like Rehbar-e-Taleem brought thousands of local youth into classrooms without requiring TET or advanced qualifications.

These jobs supported families and offered steady work, but they also created uneven teaching standards.

The numbers reflect the impact: the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) repeatedly finds children in J&K trailing the national average in reading and arithmetic. Rural districts bear the brunt, where teacher shortages and inconsistent training make the gaps sharper.

The Supreme Court's order addresses these issues while acknowledging local realities.

Teachers currently in service have two years to clear TET. Those within five years of retirement are exempt. Even if someone fails the exam, compulsory retirement comes with full benefits.

A Test Worth Taking

A long-overdue standard could change the way Kashmir teaches, while protecting educators and improving student outcomes

Ibn E Toota

This framework balances accountability with protection, making it clear that children in Kupwara or Pulwama deserve the same quality of instruction as children in Delhi or Mumbai.

The ruling also transforms careers. For thousands of teachers seeking regularisation or promotions, TET is now a gateway. Advancing from ReT to General Line, earning higher pay, or moving up administrative ranks depends on passing the exam.

This is empowering in a place where government jobs remain scarce and fiercely contested.

The Court has given teachers a roadmap, one that turns a legal mandate into a professional opportunity.

This decision also reflects a broader shift. Since the abrogation of Article



The Supreme Court has set the stage. Now, the teachers of Jammu and Kashmir have a choice: approach TET as a hurdle or see it as a chance to secure their futures and raise the standard of education in the valley.

The author can be reached at ibnetoota010@gmail.com

Letter to Editor

When Marriage Becomes a Marketplace in Kashmir

The debate over marriage in Kashmir has taken a sharp turn in recent years. Ongoing discussions, especially in platforms like Kashmir Observer, reveal a troubling trend: weddings are no longer about faith or companionship but about social display and financial bargaining. What was meant to be a sacred covenant is becoming a messy affair shaped by delusional ideas of compatibility and class.

Islam places marriage at the heart of human life, calling it half of one's faith. To keep harmony, Islamic jurists once introduced the idea of kufu, a form of compatibility covering reli-

gion, profession, and financial ability.

In theory, this was meant to avoid conflict between families. In practice, it has morphed into a tool for ranking people by wealth and lineage.

Sayyid families still weigh ancestry, and many households insist on financial "equality" before approving a match. A man of modest means, even if devout, is often rejected, while a rich suitor can cross barriers with ease.

The Quran repeatedly reminds believers that faith and piety outweigh worldly status. Surah Al-Baqarah calls a believing slave better than a free disbeliever. Surah Al-Hujurat

declares that the most honoured in God's sight are the most righteous.

Prophet Muhammad advised marrying for religion and character over wealth or beauty. These teachings leave little room for the vanity now parading as tradition.

Yet Kashmir's marriage market tells another story. Rising dowry demands, extravagant weddings, and class-conscious alliances inflate costs and delay unions. Census data shows Kashmir's average marriage age climbing steadily, with unemployment adding to the pressure. Families chase prestige while young couples struggle to start their lives.

The essence of Islamic marriage is simple: faith first, convenience second. Wealth and lineage may ease daily life, but they cannot measure virtue.

If Kashmiri society continues to prize status over sincerity, marriages will remain battlegrounds of ego rather than homes of peace.

Choosing piety is the only way to rescue marriage from the trap of social ambition.

Sincerely,

Rayees Yaseen
rayeeshah157@gmail.com

Kashmir in Malaysia

In the bustling corridors of Kuala Lumpur, I discovered that speaking Koshur was survival, memory, and the heart of Kashmir itself.

Subail Manzoor

Years before I ever read him on the iconic Bund by the Jhelum, just across from his home, I learned that the heart could be a weapon.

I was just a boy then, walking among the chinar leaves with the damp smell of earth all around, when someone recited Agha Shahid Ali's lines.

I felt it in my chest, a strange feeling that had nothing to do with understanding the words and everything to do with recognizing something inside me.

Years later, the lesson came back to me when I read about the be-



Speaking Koshur is speaking to the heart of Kashmir. To lose it is to lose the heart itself. I fear not for myself, but for the children who may come after me. The ones who may never hear the words that once carried the weight of snow, love, and longing.

loved bard's airport encounter.

"Are you carrying anything dangerous for the passengers?" the officer asked him, eyes flicking over the passport, the boarding pass, perhaps even the shadow of a poet.

"My heart," Agha Shahid Ali replied, hand pressed over his chest, and eyes glinting like broken fragments of memory.

It was a simple answer, but it car-



ried a fierce honesty. It stayed with me. His heart had never left Kashmir.

Years later, in February of 2022, I landed at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The air smelled unfamiliar, and the world seemed to have opened its arms wider than I had imagined. I had dreamed of life beyond the mountains, but stepping onto foreign soil tugged something inside me backward, a gentle but insistent pull.

The farther I travelled, the closer I came to a self I had almost forgotten.

I carried no dangerous heart with me. What I carried, like Agha Shahid Ali, in a metaphor only he could have meant, was my mind, restless, curious, weighted with stories that the world rarely asks for and seldom hears.

At the airport, the questions began. "Where are you from?" they asked.

"Kashmir," I said. Her brows knit. "Kashmir... you mean India?"

"Kashmir," I said again, steady now.

"What language do you speak?"

I said it slowly, deliberately, as if the words themselves were talismans: "Koshur."

Her eyes widened, flickering with curiosity. She had heard of the snow-capped mountains, the lakes that mirrored the sky. I smiled, though there was a tug of melancholy in the gesture. "Yes, it's beautiful. You should visit."

She could not grasp what it meant to be Koshur.

Seven times that morning, seven strangers asked the same or similar questions. Seven times I returned to the same answer. Seven times I felt the strange irony of home: people around me, people who shared my blood, forgetting their tongue in pursuit of progress, modernity, and survival.

We had code-switched since childhood, hiding our voices, translating ourselves into English or Urdu, thinking we were evolving. Now, far away, the void of those choices pressed against me.

The airport questions faded, and I thought of why I was really here in Malaysia: my Bachelor's degree. But slowly, I began to see that this trip had a different purpose, one that mattered even more.

At university, I found myself in classrooms crowded with students from Sudan, Nepal, Indonesia, Nigeria, and beyond. They knew Kashmir through Bollywood, flick-

ering news clips, and fragments of stories passed down in incomplete narratives.

A Sudanese friend said, "We've seen Kashmir in movies! It has snow, right?"

Another called out, "Theek ho bhai?" in Hindi, expecting recognition, camaraderie.

I smiled. "That's not my native language," I said.

Eyes turned toward me, curiosity sparked, and soon, I was at the center of a small circle, students leaning in, listening to my explanations of a land they had imagined but barely known. I taught them Koshur, the sounds of my valley, the syllables that held centuries of love, grief, and grit.

"Wande," I said, "for winter."

"Yemberzal," I said, pointing to the narcissus that bloomed in my memory.

"Moaj," I said, tenderly, for mother.

For six months, I wore Koshur like a medal. Each time students tried to pronounce it, "Kashoor," with a stumble and an eagerness, I felt a small victory, a reclamation of a world that had almost slipped through our fingers.

And yet, pride carried its shadow. I remembered kindergarten in

Kashmir, being scolded for speaking my language, being told to adopt Urdu and English. Our tongue had been a danger, our songs subversive, and our very identity a defiance. We had survived, and yet we had compromised.

A language is a vessel. Koshur holds our poetry, lamentation, and love. Habba Khatoon, the peasant girl who became queen and mystic poet, sang her sorrows in Koshur, weaving the landscape of our valley into her verses.

Rasul Mir, the romantic rhymester of Kashmir, breathed Persian elegance into Koshur, lifting every heart that heard him. Without Koshur, their words are translations. Beautiful, but hollowed of the music and ache that only the original voice contains.

I thought of Rasul Mir's lines: "After showing a glimpse, why hide your face from me? / My heart is about to burst—where shall I see you again?"

Our language is memory, evidence, and resilience. It cannot be stolen.

In Malaysia, I saw a world where languages survived as shields, as banners of identity. Students clung to theirs with pride, correcting mispronunciations, teaching the unin-



That day at Kuala Lumpur, as I taught my classmates how to say moaj and wande, I realized that I carried my heart just like Agha Shahid Ali had at an airport far away.

tiated, passing their worlds into new hands.

I became the voice of a valley, the messenger of a tongue under threat, showing that a language can survive if it is spoken, sung, and cherished.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head," Nelson Mandela once said. "If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."

Speaking Koshur is speaking to the heart of Kashmir. To lose it is to lose the heart itself. I fear not for myself, but for the children who may come after me. The ones who may never hear the words that once carried the weight of snow, love, and longing.

We have endured violence and silence. We have risen from ruins countless times. But the slow erosion of our language is a loss without return. Words hold worlds. Koshur holds ours.

That day at Kuala Lumpur, as I taught my classmates how to say moaj and wande, I realized that I carried my heart just like Agha Shahid Ali had at an airport far away.

Dangerous, but in its own way, armed with memory, and the ache of an unforgotten homeland.

— Subail Manzoor, BA, from *Srinagar, Kashmir, is an MBA student and national-level football and MMA athlete.*

The Star Who Left Her Mark on Kashmir

A mountain pass, weary soldiers, and a Bollywood star: how Sadhana became part of Kashmir's geography.

Vikas Thakur

There is a peculiar honour in having a place named after you. Kings and generals have long claimed it. Surveyors and engineers, too. Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak, bears the name of Sir George Everest, India's first Surveyor General.

But the places I find most fascinating are those named for women whose fame rested in charisma, beauty, and the power of being remembered.

In the remote reaches of Kupwara, Kashmir, lies a pass known as Nastachun, which translates to "nose-cut" pass. The name alone hints at danger.

At three thousand meters above sea level, it has guarded the gateway to Karnah Valley since memory, claiming lives and limbs in harsh winters.

Since 1947, this valley has witnessed repeated battles between Indian and Pakistani forces, the mountains absorbing echoes of artillery and the hush of snow-laden winters.

In the wake of the 1965 war, Sadhana, one of Bollywood's most luminous stars, travelled to the pass. She came to meet soldiers, to lift their spirits in a place scarred by conflict.

The gesture mattered. It was enough to etch her name into the geography.

Today, Sadhana Top offers sweeping views of the Shamsabari ranges and the Karnah

Valley, wild and beautiful in ways words cannot fully capture.

In the army lounge, travellers sip steaming masala tea beneath posters of Sadhana from her cinematic heyday, as if the mountains themselves nod in agreement with the homage.

Further east, in Arunachal Pradesh, Sangetsar Lake waits in its secluded high-altitude basin. The lake is younger than the pass in Kashmir, formed by a landslide that blocked a hill stream after an earthquake in 1973.

Deodar trees stand half-submerged, their brown limbs rising from glassy water like the skeletal remains of some mythical creature. Clouds drift across the sky and are mirrored in crystalline waters, lending the lake an almost celestial quality.

The surrounding valleys, Khinzimane and Bumla, carry the scars of the 1962 Indo-China war, battles that left history imprinted on the terrain.

In the 1990s, a song from the Bollywood film *Koyla*, starring Madhuri Dixit and Shahrukh Khan, was filmed on the lake's shores. The song's popularity reshaped the lake's identity. It began to be called Madhuri Lake.

The renaming brought visitors, curiosity, and livelihoods. Tourists arrived to walk along the still waters and photograph the submerged deodars, blending a cinematic fantasy



A name can carry a moment, a memory, or the enduring touch of a life that stays far longer than fame. In the end, they remind us that beauty can shape the land itself.

with the real, rugged beauty of Arunachal.

In this case, celebrity enhanced the landscape, bridging imagination and geography.

Contrast these with Naldehra, near Shimla. A meadow at 2,200 meters, Naldehra hosts Asia's oldest nine-hole golf course, designed in 1903 by Lord Curzon.

The viceroy preferred a humble cottage there to the grandeur of the viceregal palace. The mountains and forests seemed to claim him, and when his youngest daughter was born during his time in Naldehra, he named her Alexandra Naldehra Curzon.

She would grow into a figure known for philanthropy and international recognition, supporting the Save the Children Fund.

In this instance, a father's attachment to a place, its serenity and outdoors, became a personal tribute that lived on in both the landscape and a life of impact.

Across India, beauty has left its mark on geography. Some, like Sadhana Top, are daring and steeped in history. Others, like Madhuri Lake, turn memory and cinema into wonder. Naldehra carries a personal legacy, where love and family shaped a place's name.

These landscapes tell stories of history, memory, and human connection.

A name can carry a moment, a memory, or the enduring touch



Across India, beauty has left its mark on geography. Some, like Sadhana Top, are daring and steeped in history. Others, like Madhuri Lake, turn memory and cinema into wonder. Naldehra carries a personal legacy, where love and family shaped a place's name.

of a life that stays far longer than fame.

In the end, they remind us that beauty can shape the land itself.

— The author recently explored the complexities and contours of the valley in his book, *Pax Kashmir*.

CBSE Board Exams To Begin On February 17 Next Year

45 Lakh Students To Appear
KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the tentative date sheets for the Class 10 and 12 board examinations to be held in 2026. The examinations are scheduled to be conducted between February 17 and July 15, 2026.

The exams to be held during this period include:

Main Examinations for Classes 10 and 12

Examinations for Sports Students (Class 12)
Second Board Examinations (Class 10)
Supplementary Examinations (Class 12)

According to CBSE, around 45 lakh students are expected to appear in 204 subjects across India and 26 countries abroad. Along with the written examinations, activities such as practicals, evaluation, and post-result processes will also be carried out to ensure timely declaration of results.



LG Manoj Sinha Interacts with Armed Forces and Civil Service Leaders at National Defence College.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

After 4 Yrs,

Fayaz, Shamsher Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Nazir Ahmed Laway. Their terms ended in February 2021, and elections could not be held at the time due to the non-availability of the required electorate.

The biennial elections will be conducted by the elected MLAs of the J&K Legislative Assembly, as nominated MLAs are not eligible to vote. The four seats will be filled through three separate elections—two individual elections for single seats and one combined election for two seats that fell vacant simultaneously.

The ECI noted that the tenure of the newly elected members will be subject to the outcome of a pending Supreme Court case (SLP (C) No. 17123/2015 – ECI vs. Devesh Chandra Thakur & Others).

These elections come nearly a year after the J&K assembly polls, restoring the union territory's voice in the Upper House of Parliament after a four-year absence.

Separately, Rajya Sabha bypoll to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of AAP member from Punjab Sanjeev Arora will also be held on October 24.

He had resigned following his election to the Punjab assembly. His Rajya Sabha term was to otherwise end on April 9, 2028.

'Better Late Than

vacant since 2021, will be held on October 24, the Election Commission (EC) announced earlier in the day.

Senior National Conference leader and provincial secretary Sheikh Bashir said, "Better late than never. The elections to the Rajya Sabha were due much earlier in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a welcome step now."

The Congress pointed out that the Rajya Sabha election has been delayed though the electoral college was in place nearly a year ago following the assembly polls in the Union Territory.

"Today, the Election Commission of India has announced elections to four Rajya Sabha seats that have remained vacant till now. It is the right decision, though a delayed one. We welcome it," Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma told PTI.

He pointed out that assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held a year ago and the electoral college was in place, yet the UT remained unrepresented in the Rajya Sabha for over a year. "Dair aaya, durust aaya (better late than never)," he said.

Sharma said the party leadership will soon meet to deliberate on the matter. "We will take the right decision in consultation with our central leadership," he added.

Reacting to the announcement of the poll schedule, BJP spokesperson Zorawar Singh Jamwal said, "The Election Commission announced elections for four vacant Rajya Sabha seats today. It is a welcome step."

"These new MPs, once elected, will raise issues related to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the development of the region in Parliament," he said.

The Union Territory has been unrepresented in the Upper House of Parliament since February 15, 2021, the day when Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway finished their term.

Two other members, Fayaz Ahmed Mir and Shamsher Singh Manhas, had completed their term on February 10 in the same year.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, four members of the Rajya Sabha were to represent the UT, but the seats remained vacant after the expiry of the previous members' terms due to the absence of the required electorate at that time.

With the constitution of the J-K Legislative Assembly, the electorate is now in place to conduct the biennial elections, the EC said.

The counting of votes will take place on October 24, an hour after polling concludes.

Political Numbers

& Kashmir, political arithmetic in the newly constituted Legislative Assembly indicates a clear edge for the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance. The alliance is expected to secure three of the four seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is positioned to win one.

According to the ECI notification, the four seats will be filled through three separate elections—one each for the first two seats and a combined election for the remaining two. The J&K Assembly currently has an effective strength of 88 MLAs, accounting for two vacant seats and the detention of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, who remains eligible to vote under the Public Safety Act.

The NC-led alliance, comprising 41 NC MLAs, six Congress members, five supporting independents, and one CPI(M) legislator, commands 53 votes, giving it a decisive edge over the BJP's 28 MLAs. The remaining six-seven MLAs from smaller parties and independents maintain a neutral stance.

Based on the numbers, the first two seats are likely to go to the NC alliance, possibly

uncontested. The third seat is also expected to favor the alliance, with 29 first-preference votes projected. The fourth seat, decided through a combined election, is tipped in favor of the BJP, which holds 28 votes.

Frontrunners for party tickets can include Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Sajad Kichloo for the NC. Congress is expected to field a candidate for one of the three alliance seats, potentially from mainland Jammu or South Kashmir, while the NC may consider a young face for the fourth seat to maintain regional balance. The BJP has not revealed its nominees, though strategist Sunil Kumar Sharma is reportedly spearheading the party's campaign strategy.

The polling and counting for the Rajya Sabha elections are scheduled for October 24, with the Election Commission issuing the official notification on October 6. The last date for filing nominations is October 13, scrutiny will take place on October 14, and the withdrawal of candidatures ends on October 16.

The elections come nearly four years after the previous members' terms ended, restoring the Union Territory's representation in the Upper House of Parliament. (inputs from KNO)

Leh Protests Turn

the protesters indulged in widespread violence, officials said.

The administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNS to ban the assembly of five or more people.

"No one shall use a vehicle-mounted or other loudspeaker without prior approval from the competent authority. No one shall make any statements which have the potential to disturb public tranquility and which may lead to law and order problems in the district," Leh District Magistrate Romil Singh Donk said, adding assembly of five or more persons shall remain prohibited within the jurisdiction of the entire district.

Besides, Congress leader and councillor Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag was booked for allegedly making a provocative speech at the hunger strike venue on Tuesday.

The violence played out in the backdrop of the upcoming talks between the Leh Apex Body and the government. The Centre has called for a meeting with the representatives on October 6 to resume talks on the demands of people of Ladakh.

For the last two weeks, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has been observing a hunger strike in Ladakh for statehood and the inclusion of the region under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Over the past three years, Ladakh has seen growing unrest against the direct Central rule, with the residents repeatedly calling for statehood and constitutional safeguards to protect their land, culture, and resources.

Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory in August 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir. At the time, many in Leh, including Wangchuk, had welcomed the move. But within a year, concerns began to mount over what residents described as a political vacuum under the administration of the Lieutenant Governor.

This discontent gave rise to large-scale protests and hunger strikes. For the first time, political and religious groups from Buddhist-majority Leh and Muslim-majority Kargil joined hands under a joint platform: the Apex Body of Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance.

In response, the Centre set up a high-level committee to examine Ladakh's demands. However, successive rounds of talks yielded no breakthrough. This March, Ladakhi representatives met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. But the talks collapsed soon, with the local leaders claiming the Home Minister rejected their core demands.

Frustration Among Youth Was Trigger: Wangchuk

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Wednesday expressed sadness over the incidents of violence in Leh and blamed the frustration building among the "Gen Z" for the violence in which four youths were killed.

Addressing an online press conference, Wangchuk said the fact that Tsering Angchuk (72) and Tashi Dolma (60) were taken to a hospital was most likely the immediate trigger for the violent protest.

Wangchuk said frustration had been building among the youths as the peaceful protests were not yielding any results. He also said there are reports that three to five youths were killed.

Giving the sequence of events, he said a large number of "Gen Z" youths came to the protest site on Wednesday, where prayers were being held. He said 2,000-5,000 youth then took to the streets.

With the situation worsening rapidly, he stepped in with an appeal and an announcement that he was cutting short the fast.

"I request the youth of Ladakh to stop the violence forthwith as it only causes harm to our cause and further deteriorates the situation. We do not want instability in Ladakh and

the country," he told his supporters.

Teargas shells were heard in the backdrop. "This is the saddest day for Ladakh and for myself personally because the path we are treading for the last five years was peaceful... We held hunger strikes on five occasions and walked from Leh to Delhi but today we are seeing our message of peace failing because of the incidents of violence and arson," Wangchuk said.

He also appealed to the administration to stop firing teargas shells and urged the government to be more sensitive.

"We are ending our fast immediately... the aim of the hunger strike is not fulfilled if our youth lose their lives.

"It is time to carry forward the dialogue with a cool mind. We will keep our agitation non-violent and I also want to ask the government to listen to our message of peace... when the message of peace is ignored, such a situation arises," he said.

Ladakh Festival Cancelled

Authorities announced the cancellation of the final day of Ladakh festival, including the planned closing ceremony.

The Lieutenant Governor, Kavinder Gupta, was scheduled to attend the festival's closing event. In an official statement, the Department of Information and Public Relations said, "The administration regrets the inconvenience caused to local artists, cultural troupes, tourists, and residents due to the cancellation. We thank everyone for their support and participation in the festival so far."

Ladakh LG Warns

that day's events heart-wrenching. Taking serious note of stone-pelting and arson that created a law-and-order crisis and damaged public infrastructure, Gupta directed the administration and law enforcement agencies to take strict measures to restore normalcy and ensure public safety. "Violence in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," he said, adding that those responsible will be brought to justice and dealt with sternly as per law.

The LG appealed to the people of Ladakh to maintain peace, harmony, and brotherhood, urging them not to be misled by elements attempting to disrupt the social fabric. "Our strength lies in unity and dialogue, not in violence. I urge everyone to extend full cooperation to the administration in maintaining peace and stability in the region," he said.

Reiterating the government's commitment to the welfare of Ladakh's citizens, Gupta assured that all genuine demands would be addressed in a just and timely manner, reaffirming that the administration remains dedicated to preserving the interests of the Union Territory while ensuring development, progress, and security for all.

He said what happened today was not spontaneous and was the result of a conspiracy. "We will not spare those people who have spoiled the atmosphere here."

"For the past few days, a hunger strike has been going on in Ladakh. And we know that the hunger strike is a part of a democratic system. But, for the past couple of days, the way people were being incited by comparing the situation with that of Nepal and Bangladesh (uprising). Some people said they will set everything on fire and kill people... this is against democratic system," he said referring to the protest led by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk.

Gupta said the central government had already invited the Ladakh representatives for talks on October 6, and the members of these very groups were involved in the clashes.

"A group of protesters after attending the discussions went around and indulged in arson and stone-pelting which is not the tradition of Ladakh. I have complete faith that the people who are behind this will be identified. They have come to spoil the peaceful atmosphere in Ladakh and they are directly responsible for all that has happened," he said.

Gupta said a deployment of the CRPF and policemen was made in the morning to maintain law and order.

"All our policemen were given sticks in their hands. But an attempt was made to burn the CRPF personnel sitting inside their vehicle. What kind of justice is this? Will we let our soldiers die like this?" he said, adding, some people also threw stones at the vehicle of the Director General Police.

"Are there no conspirators behind this? I want to say this to the peaceful people of Ladakh. Please understand this. Some people are trying to spoil the security system of Ladakh for their petty interests," he said.

Asserting that he stood with the people of Ladakh, especially the youth, the LG said he had never refused anyone coming to meet him.

"The way we are thinking about their future, whether through tourism, education, or health or notifying new jobs is before everyone. Some people are trying to spoil the future of youth by ensuring registration of cases against them. We need to understand this," he said.

The LG appealed to the people of Ladakh,

and its political and religious bodies, to cooperate with the administration and identify the culprits of Wednesday's violence.

"Let us all come together and establish a peaceful Ladakh," he said.

Wangchuk's 'Provocative'

The Centre also accused Sonam Wangchuk of breaking his fast, leaving for his village "without making effort" to calm the situation down.

"It is clear that the mob was incited by Shri Sonam Wangchuk through his provocative statements. Incidentally, amidst these violent developments, he broke his fast and left for his village in an ambulance without making serious efforts to control the situation," the MHA said.

MHA said that the Government of India has been actively engaging with the Apex Body Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance through the High-Powered Committee (HPC), a sub-committee, and multiple informal channels.

"However, certain politically motivated individuals were not happy with the progress made under HPC has been trying to sabotage the dialogue process... The demands on which Wangchuk was on hunger strike are integral part of the discussion in HPC. In spite of many leaders urging to call off the hunger strike he continued with the hunger strike and misleading the people through provocative mention of Arab Spring-style protest and references to Gen Z protests in Nepal."

The statement reads that these efforts have already yielded phenomenal results, including raising Scheduled Tribe reservations in Ladakh from 45% to 84%, granting one-third women's reservation in councils, declaring Bhoti and Purgi as official languages, and initiating the recruitment process for 1,800 posts.

It added that the situation escalated today at around 11:30 am when a mob allegedly influenced by Wangchuk's speeches left the protest venue and attacked a political party office and the office of the Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) in Leh, setting both on fire.

"The mob also torched a police vehicle, injured over 30 police and CRPF personnel, and damaged public property. In response, security forces resorted to firing in self-defence, leading to casualties. The situation was brought under control by 4:00 pm," it reads.

The statement further reads that it is clear that the mob was guided by Sonam Wangchuk through his provocative statements. "Incidentally, amidst these developments, he called off his hunger strike," the MHA said.

It added that the Government of India remains committed to addressing the aspirations of Ladakh's people by providing adequate constitutional safeguards.

The ministry also appealed to the public not to circulate old or provocative videos on media or social media that may disrupt peace

Police Arrest

tourists, were killed.

The other two were identified as Jibran and Hamza Afghani. Jibran involved in the Sonamarg Tunnel attack in October 2024.

Terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam on April 22 in a horrid attack, the deadliest in nearly two decades.

The attack triggered a severe diplomatic crisis with Pakistan. The Indian government - which has repeatedly accused the Pak deep state of supporting cross-border terror attacks - retaliated first by suspending the critical Indus Waters Treaty that provides irrigation to over half of Pakistani farms.

Will Strike Decisively

one of India's boldest military responses in recent history. "If there is a terrorist attack on India in the future, it will be seen as an act of war and a fitting reply will be given. India has also made it clear that it will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail and will strike precisely and decisively at terrorist hideouts," he asserted.

Speaking on border development, the LG said that the Prime Minister's vision is to treat villages in forward areas as the "first village" rather than the "last village," emphasizing their strategic and socio-economic importance. "We adopted a strategic approach to balance economic growth, security, and socio-cultural integration while developing border areas in Jammu and Kashmir. Robust connectivity, electricity, and internet access have been extended to many areas that were previously deprived since 1947, improving the quality of life," he added.

LG Sinha also invoked India's ancient philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), stressing its relevance for fostering universal brotherhood and global unity.

Leh Violence A

the epicentre of unrest, but from the heart of Ladakh, where angry protesters have set police vehicles and a BJP office on fire," she wrote on X.

Mufti noted that Leh, historically known for peaceful and measured protests, is now witnessing a disturbing shift toward violent

demonstrations.

"People seem to have lost patience, feel betrayed, insecure, and let down by unfulfilled promises. The Government must urgently and transparently address the root causes of this discontent," she added.

Police Carries Out

rupees were misappropriated through fake bank accounts by employees of M/s Unitaq Power Transmission Limited, allegedly in collusion with land brokers and certain bank officials.

Those named in the case include Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Bilal Ahmad Mir, Ranjit Singh, and Samaliya Kumar, all employees of the company, along with others. The offences are reportedly punishable under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

"The EOW today carried out multiple searches in Bandipora and Budgam districts in connection with fraudulent land compensation claims related to the 400 KV DC Samba-Amargarh Transmission Line project," a police spokesperson said.

Bar Council Elections

Justice Kant said, while lauding the drive. The bench said in a democratic institution comprising a large number of lawyers and senior lawyers, elections should not have been delayed and held on time.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas seeking to quash the Rule 32 of the Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015, which empowers BCI to extend the term of State Bar Council members beyond the statutory limits prescribed under the Advocates Act 1961.

Senior advocate Madhavi Divan, appearing for the petitioners, said only 14 out of 23 state bar councils have entered appearance and a few have filed replies.

Divan said in most state bar councils, elections have not been held for over two years and urged the bench to list the matter for hearing on Rule 32 and order elections in the meantime.

Senior advocate Guru Krishnakumar, appearing for Bar Council of India, claimed to have written to all state bar councils in July to prepare for elections but received responses only from six or seven of them.

He said so far as verification of the LLB certificates was concerned, around 50 per cent work has been done and urged the bench to extend the time till March 31, 2026 to all the state bar councils to hold the elections.

Justice Kant told Krishnakumar that the verification should have been done at the earliest.

"If by January 31, 2026 elections are not held, then we may appoint a court commissioner, who may be a retired high court judge to conduct the elections. Complete it by January 31, 2026 and if 70 per cent of state bar councils have done it by January 31, 2026 we may consider granting some time or they may face serious consequences," the judge said.

Justice Kant underlined the court's softer language at the moment and cautioned state bar councils if there was any laxity in adhering to the timeline to conduct elections.

The bench also informed the BCI that it should have come forward with an application for appointment of a Commissioner for conducting the free and fair elections.

"We would have constituted a committee of former judges, some senior advocates and requested them to conduct or monitor the elections of all the states in a fair, transparent manner," Justice Kant said and posted the matter in October.

HC's New Action

union territory.

"Justice delayed is justice denied. This Action Plan reflects our commitment to ensuring timely and accessible justice for all citizens," the Chief Justice said while launching the new phases.

Phase IV aims to identify and prioritize cases over 10 years old and those involving senior citizens, women, and vulnerable groups. It also plans to expand Evening and Weekend Courts, strengthen case management through digital dashboards, and improve coordination with the Bar and Prosecution Departments for early disposal.

Phase V will consolidate gains from previous phases, roll out paperless courts in select districts on a pilot basis, enhance Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms such as mediation and Lok Adalats, and provide targeted training for judicial officers and court staff.

The High Court's Arrears Committee will closely monitor implementation, with monthly reporting from all district and sessions judges. Progress will be measured using quantifiable metrics, including disposal rates, reduction in pendency, and adherence to timelines.

The launch of this plan follows the successful completion of Phases I to III, reflecting the High Court's ongoing effort to restore public trust in the judicial system and ensure justice reaches every citizen efficiently.

Despite 'Shortage', SED Sits On Promotions

Agencies

Srinagar: The senior administrative-staff crunch in the School Education Department of J&K is yet to ebb as nearly 150 junior assistants despite clearing departmental exams in April this year, await formal orders from the government.

This comes after Minister of Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo confirmed the elevation of 458 teaching and non-teaching staff to the next higher level on August 30. "Orders to follow shortly. Best wishes to all of them," Itoo had posted on X.

But three weeks since then, no formal orders have been issued for their promotion.

The delay is wearing thin on the patience of employees, who in a year-long haul appeared in the promotion-driven Secretariat Assistant Training Course (SATC) examinations in August, 2024 and saw the declaration of results on 25th April, 2025.

Currently, sources say, at least 215 Senior-Assistant posts are lying vacant in the School Education Department among which, 27 posts are occupied by Incharge senior-assistants.

To address the shortage, the Departmental Promotion Committee(DPC) meeting was held on June-14-2025 to finalize the adjustment of 158 qualified candidates against the 188 remaining vacancies. But despite this and later the Minister's tweet, the formal orders for their

promotion are nowhere in sight.

"It is important to highlight that the Department is facing an acute shortage of clerical staff which has been repeatedly highlighted and duly acknowledged by the Tribunal in Diary No. 3022/2025. This shortage continues to adversely affect the efficient functioning of the department," SATC pass-out Junior Assistants said in an application to the Director School Education, Kashmir on Saturday.

In view of the above, it adds, it is therefore humbly requested that the formal promotion orders of 158 Junior Assistants be issued at the earliest. "Issuing these orders will play a crucial role in alleviating the ongoing shortage of clerical staff thereby enhancing the smooth functioning and efficiency of the department. If the orders are delayed any further, we will have no choice but to approach the Hon'ble Tribunal to protect our rights," the letter according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads.

The junior employees have appealed to the Minister, Sakina Itoo to direct the issuance of formal orders, claiming that their counterparts in the Health and Public Works Department already stand promoted to higher levels.

"We've got all the clearances/verifications done but still, for reasons best known to higher ups, there's a wait that is only getting longer," said a junior assistant posted in Baramulla—(KNO)

CS Duloo Reviews School Infrastructure Development



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of infrastructure development works being executed in schools across J&K.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, PWD; Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Law; MD, Samagra Shiksha; Director, School Education, Kashmir; Jammu; Secretary, JK BOSE; Chief Engineers of R&B besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the executing agencies should ensure time-bound completion of all ongoing projects and strictly adhere to strict monitoring mechanisms. He directed the officers to give priority to projects nearing completion so that the benefits of improved infrastructure are extended to the student community without delay.

Underscoring the

importance of transparency, the Chief Secretary also called for effective utilization of resources, ensuring that each work taken up under the UT Capex contributes to strengthening the learning environment in government schools.

During the meeting, the Secretary, School Education Department (SED), Ram Niwas Sharma made a detailed presentation on the financial and physical achievements registered so far.

It was informed that during the financial year 2024-25, an allocation of Rs 185.67 Cr was approved, out of which Rs 146.77 Cr were made available. Against this, an expenditure of Rs 122.14 Cr was incurred, thereby achieving 83.21 per cent expenditure.

For the current financial year 2025-26, an allocation of Rs 180.50 Cr has been made, with an availability of Rs 90.25 Cr till date. Out of this, an expenditure of Rs 25.06 Cr has already been registered up to August 2025.

On the physical side, the Secretary apprised that 2,716 works were taken up in 2024-25, out of which 1,048 works were completed. Similarly, for 2025-26, around 2,356 works have been taken up, with 1,779 works targeted for completion.

The Chief Secretary was further informed about the district-wise abstract of Capex works for 2025-26, under which 1,089 works (540 in Jammu Division and 549 in Kashmir Division) have been approved. The overall allocation for these works stands at Rs 3905.79 lakh, out of which Rs 1261.32 lakh has been released so far. The allocations include Rs 2644.98 lakh for Jammu Division and Rs 1260.81 lakh for Kashmir Division.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the projects such as hostels of girl students, PM SHRI projects and those being taken up for completion under Samagra Shiksha and other centrally sponsored schemes.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY EMPHASIZED that the executing agencies should ensure time-bound completion of all ongoing projects and strictly adhere to strict monitoring mechanisms."

Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals Marks A Decade Of Service In Kashmir



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals, a leading name in eye care in North and Eastern India, announced the hospital's newest technology in advanced eye care treatments, but more importantly, to celebrate 10 years of service to the people of Kashmir.

During the session, Dr. Samir Sud, Co-founder & Director, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals highlighted the hospital's commitment to making innovative eye technologies accessible in the valley. He talked about many recent progresses, including:

EDOF (Extended Depth of Focus) lenses represent an advanced design of intraocular lens for patients undergoing cataract surgery. EDOF lenses provide uninterrupted high-quality vision for near, intermediate, and distance vision while

achieving a high reliance on glasses for a variety of activities. EDOF lenses are distinct from traditional monofocal lenses as they still effectively support classical household activities, including reading, computer work, and driving.

Myopia Control Glasses for children: With the rise of digital screen time, Myopia (short-sightedness) is rising among children due to increased screen time, and the WHO predicts 50% of people will be myopic by 2050. We now offer special myopia control glasses that can slow progression by up to 75%, helping protect children from high myopia and future eye diseases.

Advance Retina Care Service - Utilizes innovative methods of diagnostic and therapeutic measures for diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachment, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Gbl Youth's Death Turns Out To Be 'Pre-Planned Murder', Police Arrest Friends

Agencies

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday confirmed that the death of a youth in Ganderbal's Power Canal, initially believed to be a case of drowning, was a pre-planned murder carried out by his friends.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad Poswal said the deceased, 22-year-old Ajaz Ahmed Rather, son of Ghulam Muhammad Rather of Sultan Colony, Kangan, was strangled with a wire before his body was dumped into the canal.

He said a massive rescue operation was launched by Ganderbal Police, SDRF, NDRF, and local volunteers. Teams from Ganderbal and Gund worked nearly 12 hours before retrieving the body. Strangulation marks were found on Ajaz's neck, confirming foul play.

"CCTV footage shows the accused purchasing a wire used in the crime. He was called to the spot on Tuesday evening and strangled. The wire has



been recovered, and both accused are in custody," the SSP told reporters, adding that a murder case has been registered, and further investigation is underway using scientific and forensic methods.

According to police, Ajaz had been playing cricket with two acquaintances, identified as Neyaz Ahmad and Muteen, when tensions escalated. The duo allegedly strangled him with the wire and threw his body into the Power Canal. While the final cause of death will be established through post-mortem, prima facie evidence points to strangulation. The incident sparked

protests in Kangan, with local women taking to the streets demanding justice. Police assured residents that strict action will be taken against those involved. Additional security forces have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

In a statement issued, Ganderbal Police described the arrests as a "major breakthrough", stating: "After strenuous efforts, the body of the deceased was recovered from a murder case on the canal, and accordingly, case FIR No. 64/2025 U/S 103 (1) BNS stands registered at Police Station Kangan. After medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for the last rites."

"During preliminary investigation, a wire used in the commission of the crime was recovered. Significantly, one of the close friends of the deceased has emerged as the prime eyewitness, whose statement has proven vital in cracking the case," the statement said—(KNO)

AAP MLA Challenges PSA In HC, Seeks ₹5 Cr Judge Seeks Govt Reply by Oct 14

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) president and MLA Mehraj Malik on Wednesday filed a habeas corpus petition in the high court here, challenging his detention under Public Safety Act (PSA) early this month, and has claimed Rs five crore compensation.

Admitting the petition, Justice Chatterji Koul issued notices to the Principal Secretary, Home Department of J-K government, Doda's district magistrate and senior superintendent of police and the superintendent of Kathua district jail to file their response by October 14, the next date of hearing.

The notices were accepted in the open court by Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, representing the government, after the judge heard Malik's legal team led by senior advocate Rahul Pant.

Malik was detained under PSA on September 8 from his Doda constituency for allegedly disturbing public order in Doda district and was subsequently lodged in Kathua jail.

It was the first time that a sitting MLA had been taken into custody under the PSA, an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases. His



arrest had sparked protests in Doda and had drawn criticism from various parties in Jammu and Kashmir.

When this matter came up for hearing, Pant, appearing for detenu Malik, submitted that the shortest possible time be granted to the respondents to file their reply, looking into the urgency involved in the matter as the detenu is an elected representative who is presently detained and is required by the public for carrying out various activities attached to his office.

Malik, in the petition, cited several grounds to challenge the preventive detention order issued by the district magistrate of Doda, including the alleged personal bias of the official, Malik's legal team, which also comprised advocates S S Ahmed, Appu Singh Slathia, M Zulkarnain Chowdhary and Joginder Singh Thakur, said in a statement.

It said the detenu has also claimed Rs five crore compensation from the respondents for curtailing his personal liberty.

PIB Srinagar Organises 'Vartalap' Media Workshop At Pulwama



Observer News Service

Pulwama: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India, Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama, on Wednesday organised Vartalap - Media Workshop for journalists at Pulwama. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Basharat Qayoom (IAS), Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering of media persons, Dr. Basharat Qayoom (IAS), Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, underscored the value of media as a partner in development. He said, "Workshops like Vartalap not only enhance awareness about flagship government schemes but also provide a forum for meaningful dialogue between officials

and the media fraternity. I appreciate PIB Srinagar for bringing this initiative to Pulwama and assure full support from the district administration, Dr. Qayoom added.

In his welcome address, Qazi Salman (IIS), Director, PIB Srinagar, highlighted the importance of media workshops in strengthening information flow between government and the press. He said, "Vartalap is a unique platform that aims to bridge the gap between government departments and the media. Such interactions help in disseminating accurate information about government schemes and initiatives to the grassroots level. PIB Srinagar will continue to organise more such workshops in different districts in the future."

Cold Storage Units Witness Unprecedented Rush

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid low demand for Kashmiri apples in outside markets and the recent National Highway crisis that disrupted smooth transportation, the cold storage units across the Valley are witnessing an unprecedented rush this year.

Officials and industry insiders said that nearly 50 per cent of cold storage facilities were filled in just 10 days, a process that usually takes almost a month. The remaining space had already been booked months in advance.

Traditionally, apple growers start shifting their produce to cold storage units after September 25, but this year, due to declining demand and uncertainty in transportation, half of the storage capacity was already filled before that date. This unusual trend has led to long queues of trucks and load carriers, with some growers waiting for more than 24 hours to unload their produce.

"This year the rush is unimaginable. Normally, it takes weeks before cold stores reach

capacity, but this time, within a few days, they are almost full. Vehicles are stranded outside storage facilities and are being asked to wait for their turn," said Bashir Ahmad, an apple grower from Shopian.

Some growers also complained of being charged higher rates for storing their produce. "We are already facing huge losses due to falling demand and low prices in the outside markets. On top of that, we are being asked to pay extra to get space in cold storage. This is sheer exploitation," alleged Abdul Rashid, a grower from Pulwama.

However, owners of cold storage units dismissed these allegations, maintaining that the booking process had been completed well in advance and that rates were fixed through signed agreements. "How can we change the rates now? Bookings were made months earlier with proper terms and conditions. We have not revised the charges," said Mohammad Yousuf, owner of a cold storage facility in Lassipora Industrial Estate, Pulwama.

Gujjar Youth Killing Police Constable Arrested

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A Jammu and Kashmir Police constable was formally arrested in connection with the killing of a Gujjar youth in a firing incident near here in July, officials said on Wednesday.

People's Democratic Party president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the development as a "crucial step towards justice" and said "it is a reminder that no one, not even those in uniform, is above the law."

Mohammad Parvez, a 21-year-old from Niki Tawi, was shot dead by police, allegedly in a shootout near Sure Chak village on the outskirts of Jammu city on July 24.

The incident sparked vociferous protests by the Gujjar community, who rejected the police version that the youth was a drug peddler and claimed that he was killed in a "fake encounter".

Taking serious note of the allegations, police constituted a special investigation team (SIT) while a magisterial probe

was also ordered into the incident, which was strongly condemned by the political leaders, including chief minister Omar Abdullah and the PDP president, who visited the bereaved family and called for a transparent probe and time-bound investigation.

Based on the probe by the SIT, selection grade constable Pawan Singh was formally arrested and booked under section 105 of the BNS (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), officials said, without sharing any further details.

Singh, along with head constable Baljinder Singh, was placed under suspension immediately after the killing, pending a probe into the incident.

"The arrest of Pawan Singh in connection with the tragic death of Parvez is a crucial step toward justice. It is a reminder that no one, not even those in uniform, is above the law. This sends a strong message that accountability within the police force is not optional," the PDP president said in a post on X.

CBK Busts Multi-Crore Land Compensation Scam

Searches At Multiple Places In Bandipora, Budgam Underway

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir Wednesday said to have busted a multi-crore land compensation scam and conducted raids in Bandipora & Budgam districts.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the spokesman said, the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) carried out multiple searches in districts Bandipora and Budgam in connection with a case of fraudulent land compensation claims related to the 400 KV DC Samba-Amargrah Transmission Line.

"The case was registered following a complaint alleging that compensation for land falling under the transmission line in Villages Watrad, Dalabar, Kachwari Tehsil Khanshab, Budgam, had been fraudulently released in favour of non-existent persons, while

genuine landowners were deprived," the statement reads.

It added that the investigation has revealed that compensation running into crores of rupees was fraudulently withdrawn in the names of bogus persons through fake bank accounts by employees of M/s Unitac Power Transmission Limited, in connivance with land brokers and certain bank officials.

"The involvement of Mushtaq Ahmad Lone S/o Mohammad Akbar Lone R/o Watrad Dalabar Tehsil Khanshab, Budgam; Bilal Ahmad Mir S/o Gh. Ahmad Mir R/o Patushai Watpora, Bandipora; Ranjit Singh and Samaliya Kumar (employees of M/s Unitac Power Transmission Limited); along with others has surfaced, disclosing offences punishable under Sections 409, 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B RPC," the statement said, adding that further house searches at multiple locations are underway.

Police Arrest 2 Drug Peddlers



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, J&K Police on Wednesday said to have arrested two drug peddlers in Shopian & Awantipora and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

"In Shopian, a police party of Police Station Heerpora at a checkpoint established at Chotipora Sedow, intercepted a suspicious person identified as Irshad Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat resident of Hanjipora Kulgam. During search, 652 grams of charas like substance was recovered from his possession and he was subsequently arrested," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

Kashmiri Climbers Make Rare Twin Ascent Of Umbrella Peak & Cefn Carnedd

Observer News Service

SONMARG: A team of seven Kashmiri mountaineers scaled Umbrella Peak (4,695m) and Cefn Carnedd (4,700m) in the Thajiwas range, marking only the third recorded ascent of Cefn Carnedd.

The team consisted of Mohammad Zahid, Yasir Khan, Faik Aijaz Pattoo, Muzakir Khan, Saqib, Umer Khan and Arun. Five members hailed from Srinagar, Umer Khan from Sopore, and Arun from Kathua.

The expedition began on September 19 from Sonmarg, with the climbers making their way through the Amphitheatre Gully despite hailstorms and steep rocky slabs. By evening, they established their base camp at 4,190m between Glacier 3 and the gully, with views stretching across Thajiwas Peak, Kazim



Palaham Bal, Valehead, Mosquito Peak and the distant Ladakh ranges.

On September 20, the team set out at 7:20 a.m. for their summit push. They scrambled up the Amphitheatre Wall, traversed

towards the Kazim Bal side, and made a direct ascent of Umbrella Peak, reaching the summit by 10 a.m. There, they found a cairn and a tin box believed to have been left by John Jackson's pioneering 1945 expedition.

Without pause, the climbers moved on to Cefn Carnedd. After roping up to traverse the steep glacier col, they climbed loose boulders to reach the summit within an hour. The clear weather rewarded them with sweeping

views of Thajiwas Peak, Lidder Valley, Royul Sar Lake, Nun Kun and the dramatic drop towards Glacier 2.

Though they had initially planned to attempt The Blade, the team chose to descend due to time constraints, returning safely to their base camp by 6:30 p.m. The following day, they trekked back to Sonmarg, completing their expedition.

The achievement adds a new chapter to Kashmir's mountaineering history, as Cefn Carnedd has only been summited twice before – first by John Buzzard and his team in 1945.

One of the climbers remarked: "Standing on these peaks felt like retracing history. These mountains are rarely climbed, and they remind us how much potential Kashmir holds for mountaineering and alpine exploration."

Abhishek, Chakravarthy, Pandya Retain Top T20 Ranks

The Indian trio of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and aggressive opener Abhishek Sharma retained their respective top positions in the ICC T20 rankings, released on Wednesday.

Chakravarthy, who became the top-ranked bowler last week, has consolidated his place with a 14 rating points gain taking him to 747 points.

Following an 11-place jump last week, Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed has made another massive leap, this time by 12 spots.

Pandya who continues to lead the all-rounder's list has also made bowling gains, moving up six places up to 60.

Among the batters, opener Abhishek made rating points gains while retaining his place as the No.1 ranked T20I batter. (PTI)

Inter District Level Rugby Competitions Organised In Budgam

Younis Paray

District Youth Services and Sports Budgam organised Inter-District Level Rugby Competitions at Sports Stadium Budgam, in which players from several zones of the district actively participated. These competitions were inaugurated by ZPEO Budgam and Incharge Sports Activity in the presence of Senior Masters of the department.

The department engaged the services of several employees of the district to organise the events in a smooth manner so that the youth can participate in the sports competitions in a better manner.

Encouraging the boys category children, they were advised to actively participate in whatever activities the department has to offer.

The District Youth Services and Sports, Budgam, was also entrusted with this responsibility and was entrusted with hosting major UT and Inter Division Level events in the coming days.

YSS Anantnag's District Level Cricket Tourney Enters Final Stage

The District Level Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament enters the final stage with mass participation of students representing various zone across the district. Zone Bijbehara and Zone Anantnag qualified for Grand Finale in U-14 age category.

While in U-17 age category Zone Mattan and Zone Shangus will play in the final on Thursday at at BMHSS ground Bijbehara, in which Zone Bijbehara and Anantnag will lock horns in U-14 age category. In the U-17 age category, Zone Mattan and Zone Shangus will lock horns for the title.

The tournament is organised by District Youth Services and Sports Department Anantnag with the aim to boost the cricket talent and to identify best players for District Level team to compete in the upcoming Provincial Level Inter District Cricket Tournament.

Earlier in the tournament, cricket teams from all 12 zones of the district competed against each other and showcased their crickering skills and sportsmanship. (Observer News Service)

J&K Police Organises Volleyball Tournament At Parihaspora



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The IRP 20th Battalion of J&K Police organised a volleyball tournament at the open ground of Government Middle School, Yakmanpora, Parihaspora. The event was conducted under the department's Civic Action Programme, designed to engage youth and promote sportsmanship, discipline and camaraderie among participants.

The tournament witnessed participation from multiple local teams, who displayed high levels of skill, enthusiasm, and teamwork throughout the matches. The event concluded with commenda-

tions and rewards to the winners, while all players received participation certificates as a gesture of encouragement.

Officials emphasized that such sporting activities not only help in fostering healthy competition, but also act as positive platforms for channelizing the energy of young people, thereby promoting a spirit of unity and discipline within the community.

The volleyball tournament at Parihaspora stands as a step forward in the J&K Police's ongoing efforts to actively engage with the community, build trust, and nurture constructive youth activities.

District Roll Ball C'ship 2025 Ends At Gindun Sports Complex

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Roll Ball Championship 2025 was conducted on September 22 and 23 at Gindun Sports Complex. About 160 skaters/players participated in this Championship. The championship was conducted by the Roll Ball Association of J&K under the aegis of J&K Sports Council.

About 300 spectators, including parents, enjoyed the thrilling Game played on Roller Skates. Ambreen Qaderi Academy Head of Doon School Srinagar was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Saahil Sofi Bureau Chief of Srinagar Times

was the Guest of Honour.

In the mini group final of boys category, Valley Skaters, headed by M. Zeem Kak, won the match

6:1 goals against DSS, headed by Ali Raza. In girls final, Sehra Tanveer defeated DSS in final 4:0.

In U-10 category, headed by Wani Mehran, won the match 14:1 against Team B, headed by Hamza Waris Shah.

In U-10 girls, Laaibah headed Team A, won the Gold and Aisha Wani of Team B won the Silver Medal. In U-14 category, Qurat ul Ain won the Gold while Zunaira Shah of Team B, won Silver.



Seva Parv Sports Activities Mark Day 6 Across Budgam Zones



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam continued its vibrant Seva Parv Activity Calendar on Day 6, with a diverse set of programs taking place across the district on Wednesday. The calendar, being observed from September 17 to October 2, has been drawing large participation and community support every passing day.

On the sixth day, sports events and traditional games such as volleyball, kabaddi, cricket and other indigenous competitions were conducted in all zones of Budgam. Students actively participated, showcasing their sporting excellence and team spirit.

In addition to the student-centered activities, Zones Beerwah, Chadoora and Hardehpanzoo organized Walkathons and Light Games for senior citizens, an initiative aimed at promoting Active Aging and encouraging the elderly to stay engaged, healthy and socially connected. This special inclusion was widely appreciated by the local community.

All events are being held under the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, who stressed that Seva Parv is not only a celebration of youth energy but also a platform to strengthen intergenerational bonds and community participation.

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