

EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMY
FOR IAS/JKAS/NT/J2H/NET/JEE

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Hello, Kashmir

DON'T MAKE IAS/JKAS A 5 YEAR PLAN...

RATHER START EARLY AFTER CLASS 12TH

Join EXCEPTIONAL'S 03 Year Foundation Course



New Batch's commencing on

20 October 2025



Register Now

ASSEMBLY SESSION

J&K Cabinet Gives Nod To Introduce 3 Bills

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet on Wednesday gave its nod for the introduction of three key bills in the upcoming session of the Legislative Assembly.

Sources said that the bills include amendments to the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017, and the introduction of the J&K Shops and Business Establishment Bill, 2025.

The proposed amendment to the Panchayati Raj Act seeks to raise the upper age limit for the State Election Commissioner from 65 to 70 years. The new Shops and Business Establishment Bill, mooted by the Labour & Employment Department, aims to regulate working conditions, employment practices, and operational standards for shops and business establishments in the Union Territory.

The Cabinet also approved amendments to the GST Act, removal of the educational qualification requirement under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme, and updates to the J&K

BILLS CLEARED FOR INTRODUCTION:

- » Amendments to J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989
- » Amendments to GST Act, 2017
- » J&K Shops and Business Establishment Bill, 2025

OTHER APPROVALS:

- » Remove educational requirement for SMAS
- » Update Engineering Services Rules for senior posts

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

- » E-auction of limestone blocks
- » Gulmarg sewerage project (Rs 45.8 crore)

Engineering (Gazetted) Services Recruitment Rules 1978, enabling recruitment of Chief Engineers and other senior posts in engineering departments.

In addition to legislative measures, the

All Barriers Removed, Justice For Terror Victims Assured: LG

Says Over 250 Terror Victims Given Jobs; Remaining Cases In Progress

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said his administration is committed to ensuring justice, respect, and dignity for families of civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists, asserting that "a new era of justice has begun" in the Union Territory.

During his visit to Dardpora in Kupwara, Sinha met the families of civilian martyrs and assured them of proper rehabilitation and strictest punishment to the perpetrators. He also addressed a gathering of terror victim families at Government Degree College Kupwara.

"I have assured the family members that their decades-long trauma, torment, and suffering is over. We will



ensure all the support so that they can reclaim their lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sinha noted that families of civilian martyrs have faced

deep trauma, unemployment, and loss of hope over the past three decades. "Families of civilians who were killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists

also suffered systemic barriers which stifled their progress. They were denied their rights and access to resources. All obstacles are now removed, and we are ensuring justice and dignity for terror victim families," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the administration has so far provided government jobs to around 250 terror victim families and the process will continue until justice is done to every affected family. "This is the beginning of a new era of justice in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Sinha also highlighted a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) and the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir

Curbs Lifted From Leh After 22 Days

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Authorities on Wednesday lifted the restrictions in the Leh district of Ladakh, 22 days after they were imposed following violence during the statehood protests that left four people dead and over 80 others injured.

The district administration had on September 24 promulgated prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in Leh, banning the assembly of five or more persons.

No incident of violence had been reported since then, officials said.

"I do hereby withdraw the restrictions imposed vide this office order dated September 24 with immediate effect," District Magistrate Leh, Romil Singh Donk, said in an order on Wednesday.

He said certain restrictions were imposed under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to prevent any breach of peace and disturbance to public tranquillity.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, in a report submitted on Wednesday, said that there is no imminent apprehension of breach of peace and public order and recommended withdrawal of the restrictions under Section 163 BNSS, the DM said.

Police arrested climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on September 26, two days after clashes between security forces and protesters

SC Adjourns Hearing On Wangchuk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned to October 29 the hearing on a plea filed by Sonam Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J Angmo challenging the climate activist's detention after noting that she wants to amend her petition. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria noted that an affidavit filed by the jailor of Jodhpur

Speaker Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly session starting October 23, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather reviewed all arrangements to ensure smooth proceedings. During the meeting at the Assembly Secretariat, the Speaker impressed upon the officers from various departments to put in place all required

J&K RS Polls

Detained AAP MLA May Vote Via Postal Ballot

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Detained J&K AAP MLA Mehraj Malik is likely to be granted a postal ballot facility for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections scheduled on October 24, sources said.

Malik, who has been lodged under the Public Safety Act (PSA) since September 8 for allegedly disturbing public order, has also approached the J&K High Court seeking permission to attend the upcoming Assembly session starting October 23 and to cast his vote in the Rajya Sabha elections.

Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, individuals under preventive detention retain their right to vote, unlike under trials or convicts serving sentences. "The law permits



detainees to exercise their voting rights, and since Malik is under preventive detention, he is likely to be allowed to vote through a postal ballot from jail," sources said.

According to sub-section (5) of Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, individuals confined in prison—whether serving a sentence of imprisonment, undergoing transportation,

HC Promotes 10 Judicial Officers

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday ordered promotion of ten judicial officers to senior division on adhoc basis.

According to order by M K Sharma, Registrar General (Officiating), the promotion of 10 junior division judicial officers has been made after considering comparative seniority, vigilance report and performance of all judicial officers falling in the consideration zone, evaluated in terms of Rule 7 of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Judicial Service Rules, 2025.

Those promoted include Maleeka Sharma; Ananta Raina; Shabir Ahmad



A woman harvesting vibrant Cockscomb, locally known as Mawal on the outskirts of Srinagar.
KO Photo By Abid Bhat

NC Marks One Year Amid Growing Pressure To Deliver

Agencies

Srinagar: The pressure to deliver on the promises has been mounting for the ruling regime in Jammu and Kashmir as the National Conference (NC) government completed one year in office on Wednesday, while all the promises from one lakh jobs to free units of electricity and 12 gas cylinders remain unfulfilled.

On October 16, 2024, the first government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Omar

Abdullah, assumed office here after the NC-Congress alliance secured an absolute majority in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, winning 48 seats. NC carried the alliance to victory by winning 42 seats, while Congress could win only six seats.

The mood across Jammu and Kashmir is a mix of cautious hope and growing impatience.

Riding a wave of optimism, the NC swept to power last year, pledging 12 flagship promises made on the party's manifesto ahead of the 2024

Assembly elections.

Yet, as the government marks its first anniversary, many of those promises remain in the realm of rhetoric.

The ruling regime after taking over has kept its promise so far only on passing the resolution on statehood restoration in the first Assembly Session while the other pledges like free 200 units of electricity, 12 gas cylinders to economically weaker sections, Rs 5,000 per month to women belonging to EWS, establishing a medical trust to fight

J&K By-polls: BJP Announces Candidates

Aga Mohsin for Budgam, Devyani Rana for Nagrota

KO Web Desk

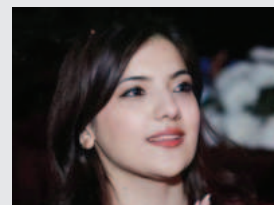
Srinagar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday announced its candidates for the upcoming Assembly by-elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a list issued by the BJP, the party's Central Election Committee has approved the names of Aga Syed Mohsin for the Budgam constituency (No. 27) and Devyani Rana for the Nagrota constituency (No. 77).

The announcement marks the BJP's formal entry into the electoral fray for the J&K bypolls, with both constituencies expected to witness high-stakes contests.

The announcement comes just weeks before the November 11 polling date, with the constituency – a traditional BJP stronghold – having fallen vacant following the untimely death of Devyani's father and senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana, on October 31, 2024.

Devyani Rana, 32, the



DEVYANI RANA



AGA SYED MOHSIN

daughter of the late MLA and niece of Union Minister Jitendra Singh, expressed unbridled confidence in carrying forward her father's "winning streak" during a media interaction at her residence in Jammu.

Surrounded by jubilant BJP workers and supporters who celebrated the news with traditional dhol beats, she stated, "I would like to continue with my father's winning streak. I have received a lot of love and blessings from the people, especially the youth, and the party. We are confident of winning."

Illegal Mining Needs Internal Collusion: CM Calls for End to Collusion and Push for Transparency

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that illegal mining in Jammu and Kashmir can only continue with internal collusion and emphasized the need for stronger transparency and accountability across the sector.

He made these remarks while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the Mining Department at the Civil Secretariat to assess modernization initiatives, regulatory reforms, and ongoing efforts to strengthen mineral



management and surveillance across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister

Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dullao, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister

AP To Contest Budgam Seat, Announces Candidates

Expels Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiudin

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apni Party on Wednesday announced its candidates for the upcoming by-elections for the Budgam and Nagrota assembly segments.

According to a press release issued here, "Apni Party's Parliamentary Affairs Committee (PAC) held a crucial meeting here to decide the candidates for the upcoming by-elections in the Budgam and Nagrota assembly segments. The meeting was presided over



by PAC Chairman Mohammed Dilawar Mir. After a thorough discussion, the committee unanimously named candidates for both seats."

Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, son of Gh. Rasool Dar



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Thursday | 16-10-2025

2

Death Rates Among Youth Not Declining, Despite Overall Drop Globally: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

Despite overall death rates declining by 67 per cent across the world, mortality rates among young adults have not witnessed a similar pattern due to factors such as suicide, drug overdose and high alcohol consumption, according to a global study published in The Lancet journal.

The findings are part of the 'Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2023', which has analysed data from about 3,10,000 sources and over 14,000 researchers and experts worldwide.

China reported the highest number of deaths in 2023 at 10.7 million, followed by India (9.85 million) and the US (over three million).

However, upon adjusting for population sizes, India ranked 73rd in terms of death rate, while China and the US were placed at 166th and 160th, respectively.

India also led the list of five countries with the highest number of COVID-19 related deaths, with over three million fatalities, followed by 1.21 million in the US and over one million in Russia, the study found.

The researchers added that nearly



“The evidence presented in the Global Burden of Disease study is a wake-up call, urging government and health care leaders to respond swiftly and strategically to the disturbing trends that are reshaping public health needs

half the deaths and disabilities across the world could be prevented by addressing 88 risk factors, including high blood pressure, air pollution, smoking and obesity. They also found that life expectancy has increased by more than 20 years since 1950. Pre-pandemic, women had an average life expectancy of 76 years life, while men

lived over 71 years on average.

"The rapid growth in the world's aging population and evolving risk factors have ushered in a new era of global health challenges," said Dr Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, US, which coordinates the GBD study.

"The evidence presented in the Global Burden of Disease study is a wake-up call, urging government and health care leaders to respond swiftly and strategically to the disturbing trends that are reshaping public health needs," he added.

Though observing a significant progress in combating infectious diseases globally, the researchers said that diabetes, mental disorders, and obesity remain growing challenges.

They highlighted that causes of death could possibly be shifting from infectious to non-communicable diseases, creating new global health challenges, particularly for low-income countries, the team said.

They also pointed out that about half of the top 10 leading causes of early death and disability worldwide are non-communicable diseases, of which diabetes, anxiety and depressive disorders are among the fastest growing ones.

COVID-19 -- the leading cause of death in 2021 -- fell to the 20th place in 2023, with heart disease and stroke becoming top ranked causes, followed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lower respiratory infections, and neonatal disorders.

Study Links Patterns In RNA Sequences With Genes Contributing To Psychiatric Disorders

Press Trust Of India

A new study has found a connection between special patterns in RNA sequences within the ribosome -- the cell's protein production machinery -- and genes known to contribute towards psychiatric disorders, including autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. The findings, published in the journal "Nature Communications", also help explain why these mental conditions often co-exist in individuals, the researchers said.

A genetic sequence -- DNA or RNA -- are made from building blocks called 'nucleotides'. "If you consider each rRNA (ribosome RNA) sequence to be a 'sentence' then nucleotides are the letters comprising that sentence," author Isidore Rigoutsos, a researcher at the Thomas Jefferson University in the US, said. "If you can find a 'motif', i.e. a combination of nucleotides that repeats frequently, it's reasonable to assume that you have found a word, but you do not yet know the word's meaning and its purpose in a sentence," Rigoutsos said.

Instructions in certain RNAs are read for making proteins and because RNA sequences can determine how a cell functions, studies look for patterns in the sequences that may offer clues for multiple purposes, including disease.

In this case, identifying the patterns is likened to determining words of an unknown language, according to Rigoutsos.

The researchers analysed the full human genome, which was published in March 2022, and discovered rRNA motifs that frequently appeared in genes related to the nervous system.

These genes are more likely to be associated with mental health conditions like autism, ADHD, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder than "one would expect by chance". Moreover, the copies of these motifs overlapped with gene variants previously linked to brain disorders in genome-wide association studies.

While it is not yet fully known in how these motifs of rRNA sequences influence the mental disorder, the findings suggest "the importance of casting a wider net", Rigoutsos said.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Principal Government ANMT School Baramulla
Tel: 01952351001 Email id anmtschoolbla@gmail.com

Advertisement Notice Session 2025-26

The Application are invited on the prescribed format undergoing FMPHW course at ANMT School Baramulla for session 2025-26 as Notified by President J&K Nursing Council, Government Medical college Jamm/Srinagar vide No. JKNC-25/157/3006-3014 dated: 08-10-2025. The eligible candidates should submit their application forms complete in all respects by or before **28th October 2025 till 4PM** to the office of undersigned along with the attested copies of the certificates.

Terms and Conditions

1. Eligibility for Admission.

Candidates applying for Admission to 10th based Paramedical Diploma Course must fulfill the following eligibility candidates namely.

A candidate must:

be a Domicile of UT of J&K

have passed 10th class or equivalent examination from a recognized Board.

have not crossed upper age as 35 years upto 01-01-2025 have a valid certificate if applicable.

2. The candidates applying for these trainings must attach Photostat copies of the following certificates.

a. Domicile Certificate.

b. Date of Birth 10th.

c. Marks certificate 10th.

d. Valid reserve Category Certificate if any.

3. Selection will be purely made on merit basis i.e marks obtained in 10th class.

4. If upon verification any certificate is found ineligible her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio.

The details of the course/Duration/Intake/eligibility for admission are given below as under:

S.No	Name of Course	Duration of the training course	Leftover Seats	Qualification
01.	F.M.P.H.W	18 Months	61	10 th Pass

Note:

- The application form can be obtained from office of the undersigned.
- Incomplete application forms will not be accepted in any case.

DIPK-7235/25
dated: 15-10-2025

No.ANMT/BLA/2025-26/834-40



Dated: 15/10/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ganai Maqbool Ahmad, father of Miss Mohsina Maqbool, resident of Hari Pari Gam, Awantipora (Tral), Pulwama, J&K, do hereby inform the general public that the name of the father of my daughter Mohsina Maqbool, a student of Class 9th at Hamdard Grammar School, Hamdardabad, Tral, has been wrongly recorded as "Ganai Maqbool" instead of the correct name "Ganai Maqbool Ahmad."

I hereby declare that both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may raise the same within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Name: Ganai Maqbool Ahmad
Father of: Mohsina Maqbool
Address: HariPari Gam, Awantipora (Tral), Pulwama
Contact No.: 9906733099

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sham Su Zamah Bhat, S/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat, resident of Deedarpora, Qaziabad Kralgund, Handwara, Kupwara, J&K - 193302, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly written as "Sham Us Zamah Bhat" in my Driving License (License No. JK09 20210004049). While my correct name is "Sham Su Zamah Bhat."

Henceforth, I shall be known as Sham Su Zamah Bhat for all official and legal purposes.

In this connection if any body having objection for the same he /she may contact to the office of the ARTO Office Kupwara within 07 days during office time after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mehmood Ali, R/o Wani Mohalla, Amda Kadal, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, do hereby declare that the mother's name of my son, Saqi Haider Wani, has been wrongly entered in the school records of The Heritage School of Knowledge, Gasiyar, Srinagar, as Rifata Zahra.

The correct name is Rifat Zahra.

The same is to be corrected accordingly. Objections, if any, may be submitted to the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-

(Mehmood Ali Wani)
F/o Saqi Haider Wani
R/o Wani Mohalla, Amda Kadal,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar

anko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mehmood Ali, R/o Wani Mohalla, Amda Kadal, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, do hereby declare that the parentage of my daughter, Ayna Zehra, has been wrongly entered in the school records of The Heritage School of Knowledge, Gasiyar, Srinagar, as Mahmood Ali Wani, and the mother's name is Rifat Zahra.

The correct parentage is Mehmood Ali Wani, and the mother's name is Rifat Zahra.

The same is to be corrected accordingly. Objections, if any, may be submitted to the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-

(Mehmood Ali Wani)
F/o Ayna Zehra
R/o Wani Mohalla, Amda Kadal,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar

anko

سرٹیفکیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری آٹھویں جماعت پاس کی Character certificate پر پانچ مہینہ 4514 سیشن 2005 گم ہوئی ہے اس کی ڈپلی کٹ کاغذی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو دو سات دنوں کے اندر پنا اعتراض پرنسپل گورنمنٹ ہائر سیکنڈری اسکول سونبگ بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معذرت کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

رؤف احمد ولد عبدالسلام بٹ

ساکر ہری پورہ ہرن ٹون۔ 6006625001

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 e-NIT No. 19 OF 2025-26, Dated:29-08-2025 for below mentioned works: -

LIS Lethpora - Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 02 pumping units, allied Civil Works including Foundation Works, Submersible Pump for Priming, 3-Ton

Travelling Crane with Chain Pulley Block, Operator's Cabin and allied electro-mechanical works.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.:- 2025_IFC_285969_1

EXTENSION NOTICE 4

Due to No response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	23/10/2025 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	24/10/2025 at 1230 hrs

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

No. MIDS/Ts/3288-93
Dated: -13-10-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

DIPK-7229/25
dated: 15-10-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MOHAMMAD AZAAN WANI while his actual name is AZAAN SHABIR WANI. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SHABIR AHMAD WANI F/o AZAAN SHABIR WANI
R/o OMPORA BUDGAM

CELL. 7889569546

mcb

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd
Technology & Development,
Fifth Floor , Air India Building
Residency Road, Srinagar 190001

Online RFP For Selection of vendor to provide
SLA-bound Data Centre Management Services to the
Bank for all its infrastructure components and services
hosted in its Primary Data Centre (DC), Near Line Site
and Disaster Recovery Site (DR)

RFP Notice along with complete documents outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. October 15, 2025, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is November 14, 2025, 17.00 Hrs. e- RFP Ref.JKB/CHQ/T&D/DC-Management/2025-1535
Dated: 13-10-2025

Registered Office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.Jkb.bank.in

DIPK-NB-2192/25
dated: 15-10-2025

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir
Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K] ,
Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops.
Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras,
Security System and Refilling of all Types
of Cartridges, Toners
Registered
Government
order Suppliers.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) Division Chadoora

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

E-NIT No. 59/ RNB/3707-16 /Chadoora of 2025-26 Dated: 14/10/2025

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of tender document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 15	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)
2.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 16	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)
3.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 17	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)
4.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 18	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)
5.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 19	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)
6.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 20	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)
7.	Snow Clearance for the year 2025-26 – Stage 21	200.00	5000.00	3054- Snow	All Registered Classes (Civil)

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

Critical Dates:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14/10/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14/10/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	14/10/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	22/10/2025 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23/10/2025 (11:00 AM) in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2 Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3 All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGS pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide Performance Security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will be required to return the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

4 Unbalance Bid: In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority) as per the Circular issued by Finance Deptt. Vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158Dated: 08.08.2025 & endorsed by Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir vide endorsement No. CE/R&B/CK/ WS/6375-96 dated 12/08/2025, which is reproduced as:-

- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.
- The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

No. 3707-16
DIPK-7215/25

DATED: 15/10/2025

Executive Engineer,
PW(R&B) Division Chadoora

Mirwaiz Lays Foundation Stone of Masjid Usman in Hawal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq, on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of Masjid Usman (RA) at Usman Colony, Hawal, Srinagar, amid a warm and heartfelt welcome by the men and women of the locality.

mosques, it is vital to establish Maktabas—Qur'an learning centres for children—so that the younger generation remains connected to the Book of Allah and grows up with moral and spiritual values.

Mirwaiz said that mosques must serve as the heart of the



Addressing the gathering, Mirwaiz said that building mosques is among the most virtuous acts in Islam, as they are not only places of worship but also centres of learning, guidance, and unity. He emphasised that along with

community, fostering compassion, brotherhood, and social responsibility. He urged people to maintain the cleanliness, sanctity, and transparency of all community initiatives and to work together for both religious and social betterment.

Police Conduct Raids on Residences of Terrorist Aides Across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a continued crackdown on terror networks and their support structures, Srinagar Police on Wednesday carried out extensive raids at multiple locations across the city as part of an ongoing effort to dismantle the terror ecosystem and curb unlawful activities.

According to police, the searches were conducted at the residences of several suspected terrorist associates and overground workers (OGWs) linked with proscribed terrorist organisations. The raids were carried out in connection with investigations registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The coordinated opera-

tions were executed in various parts of Srinagar, targeting individuals suspected of facilitating, aiding, or abetting terror-related activities.

Residences raided included those of Asrar Ahmad Bala, son of Rafi Bala, of Omer Colony Lal Bazar; Shahbaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Farooq Ahmad Bhat, of Palpora Noorbagh; Fayaz Ahmad Ganie, son of Guam Mohammad Ganie, of Suthsu Kalan; Burhan Nazir, son of Nazir Ahmad Kushoo, of Beeroni Kathidarwaza; Sajid Majeed Shah, son of Abdul Majeed Shah, of Nowpora Sekidajad; Ashiq Bashir Najar, son of Bashir Ahmad Najar, and Umer Adil Dar, son of Ghulam Hassan Dar, both residents of Soiteng; as well as several others from New Theed and Indra Nagar areas.



GCW Marks 75 Years of Excellence in Women's Education

College Celebrates Legacy of Empowering Women and Shaping J&K's Educational Landscape

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government College for Women (GCW), M.A. Road, Srinagar, celebrated its 75th year of excellence in women's education, highlighting its immense contribution to the intellectual, cultural, and social development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The celebrations, themed "75 Years: A Celebration of Excellence in Women's Education," were graced by Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantamanu; Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz; Principal GCW, Prof. Yasmeen Farooq; Nodal Principal, Prof. Seema Naz; and Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar, along with former principals, faculty members, alumni, and students.

In her address, the Minister lauded the college's legacy of nurturing generations of women lead-

“This institution has, over the decades, been a cornerstone of women's empowerment — nurturing generations of leaders who have contributed meaningfully across diverse fields,”

ers, educators, and professionals, describing GCW Srinagar as a “beacon of empowerment and enlightenment.” She emphasized the college's pivotal role in fostering academic excellence, confidence, leadership, and social responsibility among young women.

She also highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening higher education in J&K, noting efforts to improve access, quality, and innovation in women's education, alongside budgetary allocations and recruit-

ment of faculty to enhance educational outcomes.

Principal Prof. Yasmeen Farooq welcomed the guests, recalling the college's remarkable journey and achievements over the past seven and a half decades.

The Minister unveiled a Coffee Table Book documenting the college's history and released College Times, Zoological Chronicle, and books authored by faculty, alumni, and students. She also felicitated outstanding students, faculty, and alumni.

The celebrations featured a blend of cultural and intellectual presentations, including an audio-visual documentary, storytelling sessions with eminent alumni, and performances like Hindi invocation songs, Punjabi and Ladakhi dances, poetry, classical music, Baet Baazi, Ladi Shah, Qawali, and Kashmiri Rauf.

The event concluded as a grand tribute to GCW Srinagar's enduring legacy, which continues to empower and inspire women across the region.

DPS Bags Top Honours at Media Fest 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Showcasing exceptional creativity and cinematic skill, students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar clinched the first prize in the Student Short Film Competition at Media Fest 2025, hosted by Green Valley Educational Institute.

The DPS team's short film stood out among entries from leading schools across the Valley, earning accolades from the jury for its technical finesse, creative storytelling, and emotional depth.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<div></div> <div>HIJRI CALENDAR</div> <div>21 Rabi-ul-Sani 1447</div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 10
	ZUHR	12:18
	ASR	4: 23
	Magrib	6:06
	ISHA	7: 25

This Day In History

- 533 - Byzantine General Belisarius makes his formal entry into Carthage, having conquered it from the Vandals
- 1522 - Emperor Karel I names Hernán Cortés governor of Mexico
- 1552 - Khanate of Kazan is conquered by troops of Ivan Grozny.
- 1756 - Saxon army surrenders to Prussia
- 1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte arrives on island of St Helena to begin his exile
- 1842 - Karl Marx becomes editor-in-chief of Rheinische Zeitung
- 1888 - German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche decides to write his autobiography "Ecce Homo" on his 44th birthday
- 1904 - The Russians are driven back by the Japanese in the Battle of Shaho; both sides suffer high casualties: Japanese (16,000) and Russians
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw, begins (ends Oct 21)
- 1924 - US President Calvin Coolidge declares Statue of Liberty a national monument
- 1932 - Tata Airlines (later to become Air India) makes its first flight.
- 1940 - Heavy German air raid on London, 400 killed
- 1941 - Hideki Tojo appointed Prime Minister of Imperial Japan
- 1946 St Louis Cards beat Boston Red Sox, 4 games to 3 in 43rd World Series

From KO Archives

Matric Exams Postponed; Teachers Threaten To Sabotage Govt Move

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education BOSE, this evening announced its decision to postpone the examinations of 10th class soon after the day long negotiations failed to resolve the crisis raised by the teachers boycott of the examinations duty.

The Board authorities while announcing the decision to postpone the examinations said that the fresh date sheet would be sued next week.

Earlier representatives of the Teachers Forum and Lecturers Association held negotiations with the Government to resolve the crisis. The Government was represented by the Commissioner Secretary Education and the Director Education besides Minister of State of Education, Muhammad Sharief Tariq.

Sources said that teachers remained adamant as they demanded that Government should accept all their demands in black and white before they would call off their strike. The Government today showed willingness to resolve the crisis by assuring teachers that their genuine demands will be fulfilled at the earliest. But sources said, the teachers remained adamant saying that their past experience has been bitter. The promises made with them in the past had been hollow as Government backtracked from its decision, the teachers representative reportedly told the Government during the meeting.

The representatives of the Government told the teachers that the decision involving financial implications has to be taken by the Cabinet as nobody from the Government has authority to pass such orders. The Minister of Education, Muhammad Sharief Tariq, earlier in the day appealed the teachers to defer their strike upto October 26 so that the teacher's demands would be decided in the cabinet.

The Government later passed an order asking the Chairman of the State Board of School Education to conduct the examination immediately. The Chairman of the BOSE, Prof Ali Muhammad Charu told Observer News Service that the examinations would commence from October 20 as they have to recruit employees from other departments.

The Chairman said that the Board needs 4405 employees to conduct the exams. The staffers to be taken from the department of Revenue, Agriculture, Engineering, said the Chairman. As the conduct of the examinations is a technical job the recruits have to be imparted the necessary training, he said. The new staff will be given training in the district head-quarters on October 17, 18 and 19 and the examination would start from October 20, Chairman hoped.


Meanwhile a statement issued by the Joint Co-ordination Committee of Teachers Forum has advised the state government to shun the rigid attitude and issue orders for the implementation of demands put forth by teachers forum so that precious time of the students is not wasted. The statement said that the government is pursuing a policy of delaying tactics and is trying to nullify some demands of the Forum. But this time teachers community will not compromise on any of its demand, the statement added.

Statement condemned the rigid attitude of government and made it clear that Teachers Forum will boycott the house examinations of 8th and 11th class as well. If the Government goes ahead with the examination process all the schools in the valley will be locked, adds the statement justified the boycott of teachers and appealed the people and students misunderstand the strike issue.

Statement appealed all trade unions to support the Teachers demands. (Kashmir Observer, October 15, 1998)

Sad Demise

اللهم اغفر له



With profound grief we inform the Sad Demise of Mohammad Yousuf Bakshi R/o Lane 10 Ari Bagh Colony Nowgam Kanipora Previously Resident of Pamposh Colony Natipora. The congregational Fateha Khawani will be held at their graveyard, behind Jamia Masjid Lalnagar Chanapora on 17 October, Friday 2025 at 2:30 PM.

BEREAVED FAMILY
9469430498, 9797530262

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of fruit or eatable with them.

رسم چہارم

یہ خبر دکھ اور رنج کے ساتھ سی جارہی ہے کہ اہلیہ مفتی علاؤ الدین (فاروقی) ساکنہ عالمی کدل حال الحمزہ کالونی یو پورہ مورخہ 14 اکتوبر 2025 اس دارالفانی سے رحلت کر گئی۔ رسم چہارم بتاریخ 17 اکتوبر 2025 انکے آبائی مقبرہ (مفتی مقبرہ) واقع عالمی کدل مہاراج گنج میں دن کے ڈھائی بجے بعد از نماز جمعہ انجام دیا جائیگا

فرزندان
مفتی غلام محی الدین
مفتی جاوید احمد

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/01/NA/JAT/2025-29-25-2025-26-DRM-JAT, 30-2025-26-DRM-JAT, 35-2025-26-DRM-JAT, 36-2025-26-DRM-JAT, 38-2025-26-DRM-JAT, 40-2025-26-DRM-JAT & 41-2025-26-DRM-JAT to be opened on 06.11.2025) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 06.11.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.			
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on the IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheques, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed.			
Tender Type	Tendering Section		Bidding System
Open	Works		Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time
14.10.2025	23.10.2025		06.11.2025
SN	Tender Number Details of Tender		
1	29-2025-26-DRM-JAT	AT Welding of Rails in situ with RDSO specifications in the jurisdiction of ADEN/PTK.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	5493563.69	60 Days	12 Months
2	30-2025-26-DRM-JAT	Replacing Old Mechanical lifting Barriers on level crossings under ADEN-PTK.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	11825079.84	60 Days	12 Months
3	35-2025-26-DRM-JAT	Repair to leaky roofs of Railway Health Unit, CPWI Office, Power House and Other Staff Qtrs. & Replacement of Worm-Out doors & Windows AT PTK in the section of SSE/W/PTK	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	6499260.59	60 Days	09 Months
4	36-2025-26-DRM-JAT	Special Repair and Maintenance of service Building & Station Building in the section of SSE/W/MEX.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	7461864.79	60 Days	09 Months
5	38-2025-26-DRM-JAT	New Toilet Block at Platform No-1 at KTHU Railway Station in the section of SSE/W/KTHU.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	5388670.47	60 Days	06 Months
6	40-2025-26-DRM-JAT	Special Repair and Maintenance of service Building & Station Building (Excl JAT) in the section of SSE/W/JAT.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	7988211.08	60 Days	12 Months
7	41-2025-26-DRM-JAT	Replacing Old Mechanical lifting Barriers on level crossings under ADEN-JAT.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	5999977.79	60 Days	09 Months
NOTE: Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			3181/25

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

A System in
Need of Care

Societal trends shaped by political priorities in Jammu and Kashmir have stripped the teaching profession of its status and sanctity, reducing it to little more than a routine vocation, indistinguishable from hawking garments on the street. Once an adventurous and inspiring endeavour — kindling, illuminating, and shaping young minds — teaching has become uninspiring, drained of the spirit it so desperately needs. Successive leaderships, preoccupied with other concerns, have neglected the cornerstone of society: education. The result is visible in the faltering condition of schools and their declining performance.

Ironically, teaching has long been seen as a last resort for the capable, a fallback for those unable to fit elsewhere. Screening for entry into this vital profession, which underpins the social edifice, has often become perfunctory, with minimal regard for talent, skill, or temperament.

Successive ruling classes have largely abandoned responsibility for public education, favouring expensive private schools and enabling a mushrooming of profit-driven copycats. It is now a scandal that parents often avoid government schools, no matter how affordable, preferring overcrowded and commercial private options.

The academic outcomes are stark. A 2024 report found over 52% of Class VIII students in government schools in J&K unable to read Class II texts, with low numeracy and basic division skills. Recently some urban schools have shown improved pass rates; overall performance remains uneven. Systemic neglect, under-enrolment, and a lack of accountability continue to erode learning outcomes.

Under-enrolment is particularly alarming: out of 18,724 government schools, 119 have zero students, and 848 report no new enrollments. Thousands more are being merged or closed due to low attendance. Many schools in rural Kashmir operate with skeleton staff, sometimes with one teacher managing multiple classes and hundreds of students. Meanwhile, urban schools are overcrowded with surplus staff, reflecting a stark imbalance that leaves rural students disadvantaged.

The government's hope that private schools would gradually replace the state system has allowed the situation to drift for far too long. Some measures were taken in the recent past to reverse the trend, but their effectiveness remains uncertain. For low-income, rural, and agrarian communities — for whom government schools have historically been the mainstay of hope — these reforms may determine whether education remains a ladder to opportunity or a hollow promise.

Kashmir's education system, once a beacon of possibility, now teeters precariously. Restoring its dignity and functionality will require political will, accountability, and a renewed respect for the teaching profession — before an entire generation is left behind.

Trapped Between
Merit & Reservation

Examinations that were once a test of knowledge now feel like a lottery where birth and category matter more than ability writes Muhammad Arbaaz Niazii

THERE are moments in history when people face a choice: do we heal the scars of the past, or do we protect the hope that carries us into the future? For a generation raised on the belief that hard work, discipline, and perseverance open doors, Jammu and Kashmir presents a cruel paradox. The doors remain, yet many lead nowhere. The barrier is no longer conflict or poverty alone; it is the shifting landscape of opportunity itself.

The system of reservation, intended to correct historical injustices, has inadvertently left a large section of aspirants feeling trapped. Merit, once a reliable measure of effort and ability, is increasingly overshadowed by the circumstances of birth and geography. Philosophers from Aristotle to John Rawls remind us that fairness must account for inequality, yet merit must remain a possibility — an open door for talent and perseverance to pass through.

The Shrinking Path of Opportunity

Open merit, which once accounted for half of government jobs, university seats, and professional streams, has now been reduced to around 40 percent. Horizontal reservations further shrink the “real share” for general category students to roughly 30 percent. Examinations that were once a test of knowledge now feel like a lottery, where birth and category often outweigh ability.

In 2023, for example, of the 71 candidates who passed the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service examination, only 29 belonged to the general category; the rest came from reserved quotas. For general category aspirants, statistics like these feel less like data and more like destiny mocking effort.

For students in Kashmir, effort alone is no longer enough. Ambition can be constrained, sometimes negated entirely. Families invest not just money, but belief itself, nurturing dreams like fragile saplings, only to see hope tested by a system that feels indifferent.

Unequal Access and Regional Disparities

Reservation itself is uneven. Jammu districts have received the majority of reserved category certificates, while Kashmir often remains on the periphery. This dual disadvantage — fewer open merit seats and limited access to reserved opportunities — leaves many students feeling sidelined twice over.

The psychological toll is profound. Students report exhaustion, loss of motivation, and creeping despair. In villages and cities alike, parents watch as their children withdraw, their youthful energy tempered by a system that seems to value circumstance over skill. Education, once a ladder to opportunity, can feel like a treadmill with no end.

The Human Cost of a Well-Intentioned Policy

Reservation is not inherently wrong. It has provided opportunity to those historically deprived of education and employment. Success stories exist: a young Pahari woman in Rajouri earning the first government job in her family, or a Bakarwal boy pursuing higher studies

thanks to reserved quotas. These victories matter.

But the human cost is in the thousands of general category students left behind. Merit, in its rawest form, is no longer a dependable pathway. Talent and effort often feel like fragile currency insufficient to secure the life imagined. The consequence is societal tension, simmering resentment, and the slow erosion of trust in institutions.

The Numbers Speak

The Supreme Court's 1992 Indra Sawhney verdict capped reservations at 50 percent to protect the principle of equal opportunity. In Jammu and Kashmir, amendments to the Reorganisation Act — 10 percent for Paharis and 8 percent for OBCs — have pushed reserved seats

to 70 percent for just 30 percent of the population. Open merit has shrunk further, compounding already high youth unemployment, which stood at an alarming 23.1 percent in 2022 (CMIE).

With few private-sector jobs and limited public-sector opportunities, every reduction in open merit amplifies frustration. Students invest in coaching, borrow money, and sacrifice years of their youth, yet the probability of success continues to shrink. The perseverance of these young aspirants is remarkable, but it comes at a cost: mental strain, delayed dreams, and quiet disillusionment.

Seeking Solutions

The path forward requires structural change. Expanding opportunities beyond government jobs, promoting entrepreneurship, and encouraging private-sector growth would reduce the zero-sum nature of competition. Refining the reservation system — through sub-categorisation or socio-economic surveys — could ensure that benefits reach the truly disadvantaged rather than the relatively better-off within reserved categories.

Restoring open merit to at least 50 percent would signal that effort, diligence, and skill still matter. Not as charity, but as fairness. Without it, the system risks alienating the most ambitious youth, stunting the talent it claims to nurture.

The Quiet Defiance of Youth

Despite structural obstacles, students continue to study, often in dimly lit rooms, revising past papers and memorizing formulas. Their commitment is sometimes hope, sometimes stubbornness, sometimes survival. Every page turned, every note taken, is a testament to resilience — a quiet defiance in the face of a system that has invested little in them.

The philosophical question is simple yet profound: what is justice if it excludes the majority? What is merit if effort no longer counts? Education, meant to be a bridge to stability and dignity, can no longer promise the lift it once did.

Hope Endures

Jammu and Kashmir's youth have grown up amid curfews, strikes, and political uncertainty. Education was their refuge. Now, with opportunity shrinking, the refuge itself feels precarious. Yet, hope persists. Students continue to learn, to dream, to persist.

The 14th-century Kashmiri sage Sheikh-ul-Alam once said, “Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi” — food will last as long as forests last. Today, we might say: hope will last as long as merit lasts. Once merit is starved, the forest of aspiration dies. Yet in these young students, an invincible summer endures — a hope that refuses to die, even when opportunity seems reserved for all but them.

Views expressed in this article are the author's own and don't necessarily reflect the editorial stance of the Kashmir Observer. The author can be reached at: <arbazniyaz011@gmail.com>



“
Jammu and Kashmir's
youth have grown
up amid curfews,
strikes, and political
uncertainty. Education
was their refuge. Now,
with opportunity
shrinking, the refuge
itself feels precarious.
Yet, hope persists.
Students continue
to learn, to dream, to
persist”

Women's Harassment
in Public Transport
A Growing Pain in Kashmir

Khushboo Amin Bhat



tures, or acts intended to insult the modesty of a woman. However, laws must not just exist on

paper — they must be implemented effectively. Police and transport authorities must take strict, visible action against of-

fenders so that no woman feels unsafe inside a bus or sumo.

Safety Before Convenience

While the government's free bus service for women is a welcome step, I strongly urge authorities to introduce separate buses for girls, especially school and college students. Safety should come before convenience or cost.

A dedicated transport service for women will allow them to travel freely — with dignity, confidence, and peace of mind.

“A safe bus is not a luxury for girls — it's their basic right.”

Women Are Not Weak — They Are Powerful

It's time to change the narrative. Girls are not weak or helpless; they are strong, brave, and capable of defending themselves when supported and encouraged. Women have the power to raise their voices, stand against injustice, and transform society with their courage.

A Call to Conscience

Harassment is not a small issue — it's a deep social wound that destroys confidence and humanity. Every man must understand that if he disrespects another woman, he dishonours his own family's dignity too.

If we truly want our daughters and sisters to study, work, and live freely, we must build a Kashmir where even if a girl steps out at night, she feels safe and protected.

Respecting women is not just a moral duty — it is a religious, legal, and human responsibility. Let's take this matter seriously before more girls lose hope in their dreams.

Let Kashmir become a place where every woman travels with dignity, safety, and peace.

As a Kashmiri girl and a law student, I feel deeply disturbed by what I see every day.

Harassment of women in public transport has become alarmingly common — especially here in Kashmir. Every day, girls and women travelling to schools, colleges, or offices face unwanted touching, staring, or inappropriate behaviour from men around them.

What's most heartbreaking is the silence that follows. Many women choose not to speak up — not because they lack courage, but because they fear damaging their family's name or losing their own respect in society.

“Women stay silent not out of weakness, but out of fear that speaking up will cost them their dignity.”

Once, we only heard about such incidents; now, we witness them daily. For school and college girls, travelling in local buses or sumos has turned into a fearful experience. Some even start questioning whether education or independence is worth it when their self-respect feels constantly at risk.

A Daily Struggle with a Bigger Impact

This situation is deeply alarming. Not every family in Kashmir can afford a car for their daughters — public transport is a basic necessity. If such harassment continues unchecked, it will directly harm girls' education, freedom, and confidence. And when women's progress is hindered, the entire society suffers.

A Reminder from Faith

Islam has always emphasised respect, dignity, and protection for women. Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an:

“And do not approach women with evil intentions; indeed, it is an immorality and

an evil way.”

(Surah Al-Isra 17:32)

“The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong.”

(Surah At-Tawbah 9:71)

“And do not insult the women of others, so that you are not insulted in return.”

(Surah Al-Hujurat 49:11)

These verses remind us that women deserve respect, safety, and dignity — not fear and shame.

Law and Enforcement Must Work Together

As a law student, I strongly believe that legal protection must go hand in hand with moral awareness. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which replaced the Indian Penal Code, clearly provides strict punishment for such acts:

- Section 73 – Punishes assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.
- Section 74 – Deals with sexual harassment, including unwelcome physical contact, advances, or remarks.
- Section 79 – Punishes words, ges-

Cancer Surge in Kashmir

A Call for Active Living and Dietary Reform

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Wani

The serene valleys of Kashmir, once synonymous with vitality and vigour, are now facing a silent crisis — a dramatic rise in cancer cases. Data from the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) paints a sobering picture: 28,457 new diagnoses between 2019 and 2024, including over 5,200 cases in just the first half of 2025. This marks a steep climb from the 44,112 cases reported between 2013 and 2023.

As a physical activity expert, I see this alarming surge as a clarion call to revive Kashmir's active traditions and rethink our dietary habits to confront this growing threat.

A Growing Epidemic: The Numbers Speak

The State Cancer Institute at SKIMS reports a 52% spike in gastric cancers in districts like Budgam, with cases rising from 50 in 2014 to 76 in 2023. Lung cancer, driven by widespread tobacco use, accounts for over 5,200 cases since 2014 — making it the region's fastest-growing malignancy.

Nationally, India's cancer burden is projected to reach 1.56 million new cases in 2024, and Kashmir mirrors this grim trajectory. As one senior oncologist at SKIMS notes, "We're seeing over 12,000 annual diagnoses in Jammu and Kashmir. This isn't just about ageing—it's about how we live."

Sedentary Lifestyles and Modern Diets: The Culprits

Having spent years advocating for physical activity, I'm deeply troubled by Kashmir's shift from its physically demanding past — tilling fields, trekking hills, or playing traditional sports like kho-kho — to increasing-



BRISK WALKS ALONG DAL LAKE, cycling along Foreshore Road, or community cricket matches can lower breast and colon cancer risks by 20–30%.

ly sedentary urban lives. Desk jobs, long commutes, and screen-heavy routines in cities such as Srinagar and Anantnag have fuelled obesity, a known risk factor for breast, colorectal, and endometrial cancers.

Research indicates that 30–50% of cancers in Kashmir are preventable through lifestyle changes, with physical inactivity being a major contributor.

Our dietary transition is equally concerning. The traditional wazwan, once rich in yoghurt, saffron,

and greens like haak, is steadily being replaced by processed and fast foods that line Srinagar's streets. High-calorie, low-fibre diets — greasy street snacks and sugary drinks — are driving a rise in gastrointestinal cancers. Tobacco use, from hookahs to smuggled cigarettes, remains rampant, while pesticide residues in fruits such as apples add another layer of risk.

A 2024 health audit of Jammu and Kashmir confirms that lifestyle shifts — not genetics — are the primary cul-

prits behind this growing crisis.

Prevention Through Movement and Nutrition

The path to reversing this trend lies in rediscovering our active roots and nourishing our bodies wisely. As a sports advocate, I believe physical activity remains our most powerful weapon. The World Cancer Research Fund suggests that 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week—brisk walks along Dal Lake, cycling along Foreshore Road,

or community cricket matches—can lower breast and colon cancer risks by 20–30%.

In a region where trekking to Amarnath or tending orchards was once a way of life, reviving such habits is both cultural and curative. Schools should reintegrate sports like volleyball and football into their schedules, and communities must organise local fitness drives in every mohalla.

Equally vital is dietary reform. Let's return to Kashmir's nutrient-rich traditions: walnuts, apples, and kangchi (fermented greens) brim with cancer-fighting antioxidants. Swapping red meat, linked to colorectal cancer, for haak and rajma can reduce risk by up to 40%. Processed namkeens should give way to home-cooked gushtabas, where yoghurt's probiotics offer protection. Alcohol, though rare in the Valley, should be avoided entirely. As nutritionists often say, "A plant-forward plate isn't a sacrifice — it's our heritage."

Lifestyle tweaks round out the picture: maintain a healthy weight through mindful eating, quit tobacco with help from SKIMS' community programmes, and embrace stress-relieving practices like yoga amid our orchards. Annual cancer screenings for those over 40 are crucial, as early detection saves lives.

A Collective Call to Action

Kashmir's resilience has weathered countless storms, and this cancer crisis will be no exception. The "Kashmir Cancer-Free" campaign, launched through schools and mosques, is a welcome step — but true change begins with us: families, educators, and sports enthusiasts.

As I often tell my students, every step counts — a morning jog, a home-cooked meal, a tobacco-free

KASHMIR'S RESILIENCE HAS WEATHERED COUNTLESS STORMS, and this cancer crisis will be no exception. The "Kashmir Cancer-Free" campaign, launched through schools and mosques, is a welcome step — but true change begins with us: families, educators, and sports enthusiasts.

promise. Let's move our bodies, honour our culinary roots, and live fully to keep cancer at bay.

For guidance, reach out to SKIMS' helpline or join local fitness initiatives. Together, we can make Kashmir's valleys vibrant, active, and healthy once again.

The author is Assistant Professor, Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, University of Kashmir

Sawalkote Hydropower Project

A New Dawn for Ramban

As the Chenab carves its path through deep gorges and lush valleys, it carries with it the story of Sawalkote — a story of delays, determination, and dreams.

Er Navaid Runyal

For generations, the people of Ramban district have watched the mighty Chenab River flow through their rugged mountains — powerful, unending, and full of promise. It has been a river of hope and hardship alike, carving its way through rock and time, carrying with it a dream that refused to fade — the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project.

After four long decades of waiting, that dream is finally being realized. The Government of India has cleared the ₹31,380-crore Sawalkote Hydropower Project, a monumental decision that marks the revival of one of India's largest and most ambitious hydropower ventures. For the people of Ramban, this isn't just an engineering project — it is the rebirth of a promise, a ray of hope, and a turning point in their history.

The Dream That Survived Four Decades

The Sawalkote project was first conceived in the 1980s when the idea of harnessing the Chenab's energy was just beginning to take shape. Engineers surveyed, planners dreamed, and the local population waited — believing that someday the project would bring jobs, electricity, and development to their hills.

But the years that followed were marked by silence and setbacks — endless bureaucratic delays, environmental debates, and political instability. For nearly forty years, the Sawalkote project remained trapped between paperwork and promises.

That changed in October 2025, when India's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) finally recommended environmental clearance for the project. This decision came shortly after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) — a historic 1960 agreement that limited India's use of the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab).

With this bold policy shift, the government opened a new chapter in national hydropower

development, paving the way for Sawalkote's long-awaited revival.

Engineering the Power of the Chenab

The 1,856 MW Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project, to be built by NHPC Limited, will be the largest hydropower station in Jammu & Kashmir. Designed as a run-of-the-river project with limited storage, it features a 192.5-metre-high roller-compacted concrete dam — among the tallest in the country.

When completed, it will generate around 7,534 million units of electricity annually, meeting peak power demand across northern India and contributing significantly to the nation's renewable energy capacity.

The project spans Ramban, Reasi, and Udhampur districts, covering around 1,401 hectares of land, including 847 hectares of forest area. While the sheer scale of construction is immense, NHPC's plan ensures a careful balance between infrastructure and ecology.

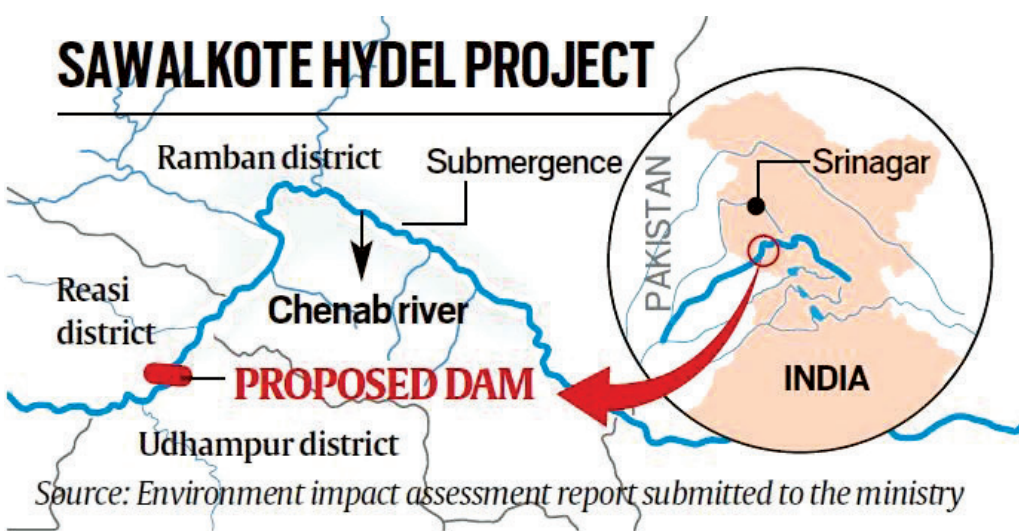
A Commitment to Green Development

Unlike older hydropower models, Sawalkote's design reflects India's modern environmental ethics. The project's updated Environmental Management Plan (EMP) allocates ₹594 crore — a substantial increase from earlier provisions — for ecological protection and restoration.

This includes:

- Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) to prevent soil erosion and siltation in the Chenab basin.
- Biodiversity conservation efforts to safeguard both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.
- Muck disposal and stabilization plans to manage debris responsibly.
- Continuous monitoring of air, water, and soil quality to prevent long-term environmental degradation.

Moreover, the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, the nearest protected area, lies around 63 km away, ensuring minimal impact on core wildlife zones.



The EAC has emphasized that every construction phase must adhere strictly to eco-friendly standards — a sign that India's energy future can coexist with nature's harmony.

The Heartbeat of the Project

Beyond turbines and transmission lines, the real story of Sawalkote lies in its people — the villagers who have waited for decades, the youth who sought work elsewhere, and the families who continued to hope that their homeland would one day be transformed.

Around 13 villages and nearly 1,500 families will be directly affected by the project. Yet, this time, there is a sense of optimism. NHPC has committed to a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Key provisions include:

- New homes with essential amenities for displaced families.
- Livelihood training and employment opportunities for local youth.
- Education and healthcare facilities in newly developed townships.
- Fair and transparent compensation for land and assets lost.

During construction, the project will provide around 1,500 local jobs, and once operational, around 200 technical and maintenance posts will remain permanent — a lifeline for many

who previously migrated in search of employment.

For Ramban, this is more than economic growth; it is a social rebirth — a chance for its people to live with dignity and opportunity in their own homeland.

Development Ripple

Mega projects like Sawalkote often bring unseen benefits beyond electricity. The construction phase will drive massive improvements in infrastructure and connectivity across the Chenab Valley.

New access roads, bridges, and tunnels will link remote villages to main highways. Better transportation will attract small businesses, hospitality ventures, and service industries. Schools and health centers planned under the project will improve quality of life, especially in interior hilly areas where public facilities remain limited.

For Ramban — often associated with highway closures and landslides — the Sawalkote project brings not only light but stability and progress.

Strategic Importance — India's Hydropower Revival

The significance of Sawalkote extends far beyond Ramban's boundaries. It symbolizes India's strategic assertion over its river resources, especially following the Indus Waters Treaty suspension.

Under the 1960 Treaty, India was allocated full rights over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) but limited use over the western ones (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab). For years, diplomatic caution and technical delays prevented India from maximizing these rights.

Now, projects like Sawalkote represent a new national strategy — to fully harness India's entitlement for non-consumptive use, including hydropower generation.

In this context, the revival of Sawalkote is both a developmental necessity and a strategic move, reinforcing India's energy security, water management capacity, and regional influence.

Together with other Chenab basin projects — Pakal Dul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624

MW), and Ratle (850 MW) — Sawalkote completes India's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a renewable energy hub for northern India.

Voices from the Valley

In 2016, when public hearings were conducted, the response was emotional yet divided. While many welcomed the idea of development, others worried about losing land, forests, and traditional livelihoods.

Today, as environmental and social clearances align, the mood has changed. Many villagers now see Sawalkote as the long-awaited promise of equality — an assurance that Ramban too can stand shoulder to shoulder with developed districts.

A young graduate from the project area puts it simply:

"We've seen engineers and officials come and go, but this time it feels real. Maybe now our generation will finally see the Chenab bring us not just water, but power and pride."

Such words echo across villages along the river, reflecting a blend of patience, pain, and renewed hope.

Beyond Power — A Symbol of Faith and Resilience

Ramban has endured much over the years — road blockades, natural disasters, landslides, and migration. Yet, its people have never given up hope. The Sawalkote project, in many ways, is their reward for decades of endurance.

It stands as a monument of resilience, showing that even in regions forgotten by time and policy, faith can move mountains — or in this case, harness rivers.

When completed, the project will not just illuminate homes; it will illuminate identities, redefining Ramban's image from a remote mountain district to a center of power and progress.

An Emotional Ending — Hope Flows Again

As the Chenab carves its path through deep gorges and lush valleys, it carries with it the story of Sawalkote — a story of delays, determination, and dreams.

For the government, this project is a milestone in energy

security. For engineers, it is a technical triumph. But for the people of Ramban, it is far more — it is homecoming, hope, and history reborn.

The Sawalkote Hydropower Project reminds us that development is not just about electricity or economics — it is about empowering people, protecting nature, and healing forgotten lands.

When the turbines of Sawalkote begin to spin and the first currents of power surge through the grids, the light that reaches Indian homes will carry something special — the spirit of Ramban, the strength of Chenab, and the dream of a people who never stopped believing.

Forgotten Valleys, Rising Hopes

Amid the cheers and celebrations across Ramban, there lies a quieter hope — in the valleys of Pogal Paristan and Neel, where people have lived for decades feeling unseen and unheard. When the NH-44 four-lane project brought progress to other regions, these valleys remained in the shadows, their roads broken, their youth migrating, their dreams buried under dust and distance. Yet, the people never complained — they kept faith that one day the government would remember them too.

Today, with the revival of the Sawalkote Hydropower Project, that faith flickers back to life. For the people of Pogal and Neel, this project is more than just electricity — it is recognition after years of silence, justice after years of neglect. They hope that when the Chenab roars again with power, it will carry light not just to the cities but also to their forgotten hamlets. The elders pray that before their eyes close, they will see their mountains shine, and their children work proudly on their own land.

Let the light of Sawalkote reach Pogal Paristan and Neel — where the hearts have waited longest, and hope still flows deeper than the river itself.

The author is an electrical engineer from Marnal Maligam Pogal (Ramban) Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Bank Opens New Cluster Office In Udhampur To Boost Operations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In line with its strategic focus on enhanced customer convenience through operational excellence, J&K Bank has inaugurated a new Cluster Office in Udhampur to further strengthen its service delivery and business operations in the region.

The Bank's Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar inaugurated the newly established office in presence of Zonal Head (Udhampur) Lalit Prakash, Cluster Head Naresh Kumar, and other senior officers of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, CGM Sunit Kumar said, "The creation of Udhampur Cluster Office is part of the Bank's ongoing plan to align its infrastructure efficiently with operational requirements, ensuring better coordination among branches and improved customer service. The Udhampur Cluster Office will act as a focal point for



guidance, monitoring, and support, thereby enabling faster decision-making and deeper business outreach."

He further added that the initiative underscores the Bank's commitment to provide convenient, customer-centric banking

services while strengthening its internal systems for future growth.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and staff, reflecting their collective dedication to the Bank's mission of excellence and customer satisfaction.

Pak, Afghanistan Agree To 48-Hour Ceasefire

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Pakistan on Wednesday said a 48-hour ceasefire has been agreed with Afghanistan, amid border clashes between the two countries that have killed dozens of people on both sides.

"A temporary ceasefire has been decided between the Pakistani government and the Afghan Taliban regime, with the mutual consent of both parties, for the next 48 hours from 6 PM today, at the request of the Taliban," the Foreign Office said.

However, the Taliban-led Afghan government's chief spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said that "at the request and insistence of the Pakistani side, a ceasefire between the two countries will take effect today after 5:30 PM."

In a post on social media, Mujahid said the government has directed all its forces to respect the ceasefire, unless any aggression takes place.

Pakistan's Foreign Office said that during the ceasefire, both sides "will make sincere efforts to find a positive solution to this complex but solvable issue

through constructive dialogue."

The ceasefire came hours after state-run PTV News reported that Pakistan conducted "precision strikes" in Afghanistan's Kandahar province and capital Kabul, killing dozens of foreign and Afghan operatives.

"Pakistan Army's retaliatory action against Afghan Taliban aggression, key hideouts destroyed. Key hideouts of Afghan Taliban successfully targeted by Pakistan Army," it said in a statement on X, quoting security sources.

"These precision strikes were carried out in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. As a result of these strikes, Afghan Taliban Battalion Number 4 and Border Brigade Number 6 completely destroyed. Dozens of foreign and Afghan operatives killed."

It added that the Pakistan Army possessed the "full capability to give a strong and complete response to any external aggression".

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan Army said that it repulsed multiple attacks by the Afghan Taliban while killing over 40 attackers in separate incidents of border clashes.

The Afghan Taliban attacked

four locations in the Spin Boldak area of Balochistan province, which were effectively repulsed by Pakistani Forces, the army said.

"While repulsing the attack, 15-20 Afghan Taliban have been killed and many injured," the army said, adding that the situation is still developing as there are "reports of further build up in staging points of Fitna Al Khwarij and Afghan Taliban."

The Pakistan government last year notified the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as "Fitna al-Khawarij", a reference to a group in earlier Islamic history which was involved in violence.

The attack was orchestrated through divided villages in the area, with the Taliban showing no regard for the civilian population, it said.

"The Afghan Taliban also destroyed Pak-Afghan Friendship Gate on their side that clearly displays the mindset with regard to mutual trade and easement rights of the divided tribes," the army said.

The attack in Spin Boldak was not an isolated event, as on the night of October 14, the Afghan Taliban and TTP tried

to attack Pakistani border posts in the Kurram Sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"These attacks were effectively repulsed, causing heavy losses to Afghan Posts. Eight posts, including six tanks, were destroyed in the effective yet proportionate response of Pakistani troops, (and) 25-30 Afghan Taliban and Fitna Al Khwarij fighters were suspected to have been killed," it said.

The army rejected the insinuations that Pakistan initiated the attack by calling it "outrageous and blatant lies, just like the claims of capturing Pakistani posts or equipment".

It further said that the propaganda of the Taliban regime can be debunked with basic fact checks.

The army further asserted that all acts of aggression against Pakistan will be responded to with full force.

Islamabad has consistently urged the Taliban government to prevent terrorist groups from using Afghan territory for cross-border attacks.

Kabul, however, denies these allegations, insisting that Afghan soil is not being used against any neighbouring country.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Cabinet

Cabinet gave administrative approval for e-auctioning limestone mineral blocks and a sewerage project at the Gulmarg tourist resort at a cost of Rs 45.80 crore.

The bills will now be formally introduced in the Assembly during the upcoming session starting October 23. (inputs from KNO)

Speaker Reviews

facilities and ensure that all necessary preparations are made in advance to facilitate the smooth conduct of the forthcoming session.

He took an in-depth review of all the arrangements and called upon the concerned to work in a coordinated manner to ensure the session runs smoothly.

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure the smooth functioning of the assembly and all departments have to be prepared in advance in this regard," he said.

He asked the General Administration Department to ensure that the reply to the Assembly Questions shall reach the Assembly Secretariat as early as possible and necessary instructions need to be issued to all the departments in this regard.

He also called upon the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs that Government Bills be forwarded to the Assembly Secretariat well on time and necessary instructions be issued to all the concerned departments.

Speaker called upon the Information Department to ensure proper coverage of the proceedings of the House. He also asked the Information Department to provide logistical support by making available technical equipment like public address systems, mikes and other related items for the media.

Information Technology Department was asked to ensure Wifi and Internet Services with High Speed and installation of Routers wherever required before the ensuing Assembly Session.

He also called upon the security agencies for deployment of adequate staff well versed with Parliamentary traditions within the premises of J&K Legislative Assembly at Srinagar and make adequate arrangements for safety and security of Legislators.

Speaker further called upon the Estates department to expedite execution/completion of repair/renovation works within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Srinagar particularly in the Assembly Hall and VIP Chambers.

They have been also asked to install intercom telephone facilities within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly at Srinagar, besides checking of telephones already installed within the VIP Chambers.

To ensure proper regulation of traffic on roads leading to J&K Legislative Assembly Complex/Civil Secretariat Srinagar and MLA's Hostel Srinagar, Speaker called upon the concerned to put in place necessary measures for avoiding inconvenience to general public on this account.

Regarding water supply, the Speaker called upon the Jal Shakti Department to keep necessary measures for providing sufficient and regular water supply to the Legislature Complex and Legislator's Hostel, Srinagar.

He also called upon the Power Development Department to check loopholes in transmission lines, if any, in order to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the course of session, besides ensuring uninterrupted power supply in the MLA's hostel.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation was asked to keep the entire premises and lawns of the Assembly and MLA's Hostel neat and clean, before the commencement of the session.

Speaker also issued necessary directions to the concerned departments to make advance preparations and put in place foolproof arrangements to provide timely medical support, installation/restoration of telephones in VIP chambers, emergency assistance, fire safety, cafeteria, proper hospitality for members, staff, and visitors throughout the session.

The Speaker emphasised that all protocol measures should be meticulously followed to ensure smooth functioning and the safety of all stakeholders during the proceedings.

All Barriers Removed,

divisions for constructing houses for terror victims whose homes were destroyed by terrorists. "Under this initiative, families having their own land will get new homes. The administration will ensure that every such family is rehabilitated with dignity," he said.

Paying homage to civilians killed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists, Sinha said it was difficult to fully articulate the pain and psychological trauma faced by victim families, but the government will handle each case with "full sensitivity and responsibility."

He also lashed out at Pakistan and its support system in the Valley, saying that those who peddled its "false narrative" for decades to absolve the country of its terror crimes will be brought to justice. "Pakistan, the breeding ground of terrorism, is exposed now, and those involved in propagating its lies will face consequences," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, DIG North Kashmir Range Maqsood-Ul-Zaman, DC Kupwara Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, SSP Kupwara Syed Al-Tahir Gilani, and members of Save Youth Save Future Foundation were among those present on the occasion.

Curbs Lifted

demanding Ladakh's statehood and Sixth Schedule status left four people dead and 90 injured. He was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) for allegedly inciting the violence and shifted to Jodhpur jail. Wangchuk, a leading voice of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading a five-year-long agitation demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards for the residents of Leh and Kargil.

SC Adjourns

jail has filed an affidavit that Wangchuk's elder brother and lawyer met the detainee.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Angmo, said they will file an application to amend the petition and challenge the grounds of detention.

During the hearing, Sibal requested that Wangchuk be permitted to exchange some notes with his wife.

The apex court noted the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he has no problem with the detainee sharing notes with his wife.

The top court on October 6 had issues notices to the Centre and the Union Territory of Ladakh. It, however, refused to pass any order on her plea for providing her the grounds of detention and posted the matter for hearing on October 14.

Wangchuk was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) on September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence.

The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India". The maximum detention period is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier.

Wangchuk is lodged in Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan. (PTI)

Detained AAP MLA

or held in police custody-are not entitled to vote. However, the proviso to this sub-section clarifies that the restriction does not apply to individuals subjected to preventive detention under any law currently in force.

This legal provision makes it unambiguously clear that persons under preventive detention retain their right to vote in all elections.

According to sources, the Election Commission has written to the J&K administration requesting details of detained voters, including the prisons where they are lodged. The administration has submitted Malik's details to the Returning Officer, who will send the postal ballot to Kathua jail.

Malik had filed a habeas corpus petition challenging his detention and claiming Rs 5 crore in compensation. Senior advocates including Rahul Pant, S.S. Ahmed, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, and others submitted a petition for him to participate in the Assembly session and vote in the Rajya Sabha polls.

During a hearing, Justice Sanjay Dhar directed

the government to file its reply by October 18 for Malik's application and by November 7 for the main petition. Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli and advocate Sunil Sethi appeared for the government.

A spokesperson for AAP said the applications are of an emergent nature and should be considered expeditiously to allow Malik to exercise his rights as a legislator and voter.

NC Marks One

against serious diseases like cancer, reinstating free education up to the university level have remained unfulfilled.

The NC had also promised a comprehensive job package for youth, and redrawing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019 have also been oversights so far.

For many, the past 12 months have felt more like a year of waiting than one of transformation.

One of the key planks of NC was tackling unemployment, promising a comprehensive job package for the youth. However, the unemployment rate, instead of witnessing a decline, has increased further as no major recruitment has taken place in the year, and the policy is nowhere in sight.

"We have been promised employment. But a year has elapsed; it seems nothing is going to happen for the educated youth with no measures in sight over the promised job policy," Aijaz Ahmad, one of the unemployed youth, said.

Looking Ahead

As the Omar Abdullah government enters its second year, the pressure to deliver is mounting.

With the government continuing to make promises over delivering their pledges mentioned in the manifesto, the road ahead is far from easy.

The Chief Minister has repeatedly mentioned that they have been given a five-year time to deliver on the promises, insisting that systemic change cannot happen overnight.

But for the people, time is a luxury and a year without making any positive change on the ground, over-delivering on the promises has made them quite disappointed.

Opposition Reacts

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and J&K in-charge, Tarun Chugh, slammed CM Abdullah, saying that despite completing one year in office, his government has "failed" to fulfil even a single promise made to the people.

Chugh said the people of Jammu and Kashmir demand accountability from the government, as none of the commitments made during the elections have been honoured.

Accusing the NC government of "not fulfilling" its pre-poll promises, People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, a few days ago, drew parallels with the then Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, saying the latter focused on developmental works despite governing in a Union Territory.

"It has been one year since the government has been in power here, but they haven't done enough despite promising jobs, free power supply and other incentives. Kejriwal gave free electricity to people, while over here, consumers are being charged heavily. There are even talks of water charges now," Mehbooba said.

Taking a dig at the NC government, Apni Party president and former minister, Syed Altaf Bukhari, said the party has failed to deliver on its promises.

"The people have lost faith as NC has failed to fulfil its commitments. There is no visible development, no electricity waiver, no social welfare schemes, no free 200 units of power, no release of jailed youth, and rising unemployment," he said. (KNO)

J&K By-polls

The work done over the past year has been appreciated by people. I intend to take forward the vision of Rana sahib for Nagrota."

Emphasizing the enduring bond with the electorate, she added, "Nagrota will always remain with BJP. I am sure the voters will bless me with overwhelming support."

This decision overrides speculation around other contenders like Nand Kishore Sharma and Anil Sharma, banking instead on the sympathy wave generated by Devender Rana's passing.

The senior Rana had scripted history in the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections by securing a record 48,113 votes – the highest margin in the Union Territory at 30,472 votes – defeating National Conference (NC) candidate Joginder Singh.

A former NC loyalist, who defected to the BJP in 2021, Devender Rana had previously won the seat in 2014 on an NC ticket, underscoring the constituency's volatile yet BJP-leaning dynamics since 1996.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party (India) Chairman and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh on the same day issued a fervent appeal to the NC and Congress – allies in the ruling INDIA bloc – to back him as their consensus opposition candidate.

Positioning himself as a viable alternative to the BJP's "dynastic politics", Singh argued that a united front was essential to counter the ruling party's dominance in Nagrota, a seat where the NC-Congress alliance had faltered in 2024 by fielding separate candidates.

In a statement shared via social media and addressed to NC president Farooq Abdullah and Congress leaders, Harsh Dev Singh said, "I make a strong appeal to the National Conference (NC) and Congress to support me as the consensus candidate from the INDIA Alliance in the upcoming Nagrota assembly by-poll elections. The people of Nagrota deserve a united opposition voice against the BJP's machinery, not fragmented efforts that dilute our strength. Let us set aside differences for the greater good of democracy and the aspirations of the youth and marginalized sections in our constituency."

Singh, a two-time former MLA from the Ramnagar (now reserved post-delimitation), highlighted his grassroots connect with people during the tenure as Education Minister in Mufti Sayeed's government during 2002-2006.

He cautioned that without unity, the bypoll could reinforce BJP's grip, potentially at the expense of the coalition's broader agenda on statehood restoration and regional equity.

The appeal comes amid reported strains within the NC-Congress partnership, which failed to consolidate votes in Nagrota during the last polls – NC's Joginder Singh polled 17,641 votes, while Congress's Balbir Singh managed 5,979.

Neither the NC nor Congress has announced its candidate yet, leaving room for Singh's overture.

Political analysts view this as a tactical bid by the Panthers Party leader to exploit alliance fissures, especially as the bypoll serves as a litmus test for the ruling coalition's cohesion post the 2024 elections.

Nagrota, encompassing parts of Jammu district with a diverse voter base including urban professionals, farmers, and ex-servicemen, remains a prestige battleground.

The BJP's 2024 triumph here was pivotal in its Jammu sweep, contrasting with the NC's Valley dominance.

With counting slated for November 14, the bypoll – alongside Budgam – is expected to draw national attention, gauging public mood on governance, development, and the push for J&K's full statehood.

As campaigns gear up, Devyani Rana's camp is already mobilizing on themes of continuity and progress, while Harsh Dev Singh's plea underscores the opposition's high-wire act.

Illegal Mining Needs

Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Mining Department Anil Kumar, and other senior officers including Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, and heads of concerned departments.

A major highlight of the review was a live demonstration of the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) – a digital platform developed in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG). The IMSS enables real-time monitoring of mining activities through GPS tracking, e-challenging, vehicle surveillance, and integrated dashboards, aimed at enhancing transparency and curbing illegal

mining.

Officials informed that over 243 triggers have already been generated for field verification through the IMSS, helping authorities detect and act against irregularities.

Appreciating the initiative, Omar Abdullah directed developers to integrate the department's existing portal with the IMSS and expand its use across districts. He also suggested incorporating a citizen grievance feature, allowing the public to report illegal mining via mobile applications with geotagged evidence.

The Chief Minister called for the categorization of active and non-active mineral vendors, establishment of a dedicated monitoring cell at the Directorate level, and stronger data-driven oversight.

Reviewing reforms under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) 2025–26, Abdullah was informed about several new measures, including an auction-based system for mineral block allocation, introduction of mine closure and rehabilitation plans, and operationalization of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) to ensure that mining revenues directly contribute to local development.

He also emphasized that all environmental and procedural clearances should be obtained before auctioning mineral blocks to avoid delays and procedural hurdles for successful bidders.

Speaking on the issue of illegal mining, the Chief Minister asserted that such activities cannot continue without internal cooperation. "In my previous tenure, illegal mining was never a concern. With the technological tools now available, any such activity is only possible if there's collusion at the lower level. The department must use these systems effectively to eliminate that possibility," he said.

Omar Abdullah underscored the need for accountability within administrative ranks, stating that "illegal operations cannot persist without internal complicity," and directed officers to strengthen enforcement and monitoring mechanisms.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing exploration projects being undertaken by MECL and GSI for sapphire, lithium, lignite, granite, graphite, and other minerals in various districts. Abdullah stressed strict compliance with environmental norms, especially in eco-sensitive zones, to ensure sustainable development.

Commending the Mining Department for embracing digital innovation and institutional reforms, the Chief Minister urged sustained focus on transparency, efficiency, and environmental responsibility in Jammu and Kashmir's mineral sector.

AP To Contest

and resident of Humhamma, Budgam, has been nominated as the party candidate for the 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency. Similarly, Bodraj Bhagat, son of Shankar Das and resident of Domana Machine, Jammu, has been nominated as the party candidate for the 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

Meanwhile, the Apni Party on Wednesday expelled its Chief Spokesperson, Muntazir Mohiuddin, from the party's basic membership with immediate effect for issuing what it termed as "irrelevant and inappropriate" press statements contrary to the party's interests.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Committee (PAC) held at the party headquarters in Church Lane, Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Mohammad Dilawar Mir.

According to an official statement, the PAC took serious note of recent statements made by Mohiuddin, observing that his remarks were not aligned with the party's principles and had the potential to harm its image.

"After thorough deliberations, the Committee unanimously decided to expel Mr. Muntazir Mohiuddin from the basic membership of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party with immediate effect," the statement said.

The PAC reaffirmed that the Apni Party remains committed to maintaining discipline, unity, and collective responsibility among all its members and office bearers.

Party insiders said the leadership viewed the statements issued by Mohiuddin as a breach of internal protocol and an act that went against the party's organizational ethos.

Executive Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA)
Division Pulwama

