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J&K Assembly Session Kicks Off Today

Oppn Gears Up To Corner Govt; 3 Bills To Be Introduced

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is scheduled to begin on Thursday and is expected to witness heated exchanges as the opposition gears up to corner the government on issues such as restoration of statehood, reservation policy, and regularisation of daily wage workers.

The nine-day session will begin with the House paying homage to former legislators from Jammu and Kashmir who passed away recently.

On Friday, the Assembly will elect four Rajya Sabha members from the Union Territory. The seats have remained vacant since 2021, as Assembly elections were not held until last year.

While three candidates of the ruling National Conference (NC)

are expected to sail through comfortably, the fourth seat is likely to see a tight contest between veteran BJP leader Sat Pal Sharma and NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar. Dar will require support beyond his party, including from PDP, Awami Ittehad Party, and AAP legislators.

People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone has already announced that his party will abstain from voting, a move seen as favouring the BJP.

The main fireworks, however, are expected to start on Monday when the opposition plans to raise key issues, including the demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and a review of the reservation quota policy.

With the government completing one year in office last week, opposition members are also expected to question the ruling party | **More on P6**



Golden reflections of autumn grace the tranquil waters of Verinag Spring — a timeless view beautifully captured by Amir Shah.

BUDGAM BYPOLL

17 Candidates Remain In Fray

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Seventeen candidates have been cleared to contest the upcoming Budgam Assembly by-election, setting the stage for a highly competitive electoral battle in the central Kashmir constituency.

Election officials said a total of 20 candidates had filed their nomination papers for the by-election, but the forms of three candidates were rejected during the scrutiny process



conducted on Wednesday under the supervision of election authorities.

The bypoll, scheduled for next month, has drawn significant attention as major political parties gear up for the contest. | **More on P6**

NC Will Win All Four RS Seats: CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday expressed confidence that the National Conference (NC) would secure victory in all four Rajya Sabha | **More on P6**

Ruhullah's Support His Choice: Mehmood

Observer News Service

National Conference (NC) candidate for the Budgam Assembly bypoll, Aga Syed Mehmood, on Wednesday said it was up to estranged party member Aga Ruhullah to decide whether he would campaign for him.

"It is for him (Ruhullah) to decide whether he wants to join the campaign or not. He is a party man and my relative, but it is his choice whether he wants to campaign," | **More on P6**

Op Sindoor Foundation Laid In 2016: Army Chief

Agencies

Srinagar: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said that the foundation for 'Operation Sindoor' was laid down in 2016 soon after Pakistan sponsored terrorists attacked an Army camp near Line of Control (LoC) at Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla District.

Speaking at the unveiling of "Civil Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power and Comprehensive Security" book and "Portraits of Valour: Timeless Military Art" coffee table book by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Army Chief said, "Higher command course always talks about 'why'. Three things which I picked up from him [Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd)] at



that point in time...The second thing was the foundation for Operation Sindoor. At that time (in 2016) Uri had happened and he conducted a detailed discussion and various options, how should we go about this situation which comes in future."

Referring to 'Operation Sindoor' that was launched to avenge | **More on P6**

'Waqf Board Custody, Restoration of J&K Cadres'

Speaker Admits 2 PDP Resolutions

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker has admitted two private member resolutions submitted by PDP leader Wahid-ur-Rehman Para, one seeking the restoration of the J&K Waqf Board and its custodianship under the religious conglomerate Muttahid-e-Malis-e-Ulema (MMU) headed by Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

The second resolution aims at the restoration of the J&K cadre of IAS, IPS, KAS, and KPS

officers, officials said.

"In terms of the Rule... in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, I am to intimate that the Speaker has been pleased to admit your Resolutions — to restore J&K Waqf Board and entrust it to the MMU and to restore J&K cadre of IAS, IPS, KAS, and KPS officers," the assembly secretariat said in a communication to Para.

Private member's resolutions are generally balloted before they can | **More on P6**

Govt Proposes Tighter Rules For AI-content

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday proposed changes to IT rules, mandating the clear labelling of AI-generated content and increasing the accountability of large platforms like Facebook and YouTube for verifying and flagging synthetic information to curb user harm from deepfakes and misinformation.

The IT Ministry noted that deepfake audio, videos and synthetic media going viral on social platforms have demonstrated the potential of | **More on P6**

LEH AGITATION

MHA, Ladakh Leaders Resume Dialogue

Observer News Service

Leh: In a first step toward restoring dialogue after recent unrest, Ladakh leaders met Home Ministry officials on Wednesday for sub-committee level talks. The meeting comes weeks after police firing during pro-statehood protests in Leh on September 24 left four people dead and dozens injured.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB)

and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) demanded the immediate release of all arrested leaders, including climate activist Sonam Wangchuck, and adequate compensation for the families of those killed.

Previous dialogue with the Centre had broken down following the violence, with both Ladakh organisations boycotting talks in October. Lok Sabha MP Mohamad | **More on P6**

Wealth & Wrangles

9 Crorepatis, 3 With Cases In Budgam Bypoll Race

Press Trust of India

Srinagar — Of the 17 candidates whose nominations have been accepted for the Budgam Assembly bypoll, nine are crorepatis, three have criminal cases, and eight did not study beyond school level.

A total of 20 candidates filed nominations for the November 11 bypoll, but only 17—including seven independents—were cleared.

The richest candidate is National Conference (NC) nominee Aga Syed Mehmood, a businessman and former minister, with total assets exceeding Rs



15 crore. Mehdi has declared Rs 28.02 lakh in movable property and Rs 15 crore in immovable holdings, including agricultural, commercial, and residential properties in Budgam. He also carries liabilities of Rs 97.69 lakh and reported an annual income

of over Rs 52 lakh for 2024-25.

Apni Party's Mukhtar Ahmad declared assets of Rs 9 crore with liabilities of Rs 6.59 crore. Other crorepati candidates include independents Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, Muntazir Mohiud-Din, Nazir Khan, and Aditi

Sharma; BJP's Aga Syed Mohsin; NPP (Bhim) Farooq Ahmad; and Pervez Ahmad of the Republican Party of India.

At the other end, PDP's Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi declared just Rs 2.37 lakh in bank deposits and no immovable property. Jibran Dar and Manzoor Ahmad declared assets under Rs 1 lakh.

Regarding education, five candidates hold a master's degree or higher, including Maqbool Bhat, an independent with a PhD in astrophysics. Two have engineering degrees, one has an MBA, and another holds an LLM. Three candidates studied up to Class 12, two | **More on P6**

Kashmir Riverbed Mining Resumes Despite SC Ban

Locals and activists urge authorities to halt extraction from Doodh Ganga, citing legal violations and environmental risks.

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: In the villages of Karlwari and Borwah in Chadoora, Budgam, heavy machinery has returned to the Doodh Ganga stream under the guise of short-term permits, stirring alarm among local residents and environmental activists.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, an activist and petitioner in the Doodh Ganga case at the National Green Tribunal (NGT), said the move violates both a recent NGT ruling and a



Supreme Court judgment. "Illegal riverbed mining

has resumed under the garb of short-term permits, in

open violation of a Supreme Court order," Bhat said. "The District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam is allowing this work, which is a criminal act."

Bhat has written to the chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), Vasu Yadav, seeking immediate intervention.

The JKPCC has been designated the nodal agency in the NGT case and has the authority to impose environmental penalties. In response, Yadav assured action would be taken.

The controversy centers on permits issued by the DMO Budgam and the Assistant Director of Fisheries, allowing contractors to use JCBs and L&T cranes for muck disposal from the riverbed without obtaining mandatory Environmental Clearance (EC).

The Supreme Court, in the Noble M. Paikada vs. Union of India case delivered on March 21, 2024, explicitly barred mining activities without prior EC.

Earlier this year, in March 2024, the NGT had banned mining in | **More on P6**

IndiGo Calls it 'Technical Issue'

Srinagar Bound Flight Lands In Varanasi

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: An IndiGo plane enroute to Srinagar from Kolkata made a precautionary landing at the Varanasi airport on Wednesday evening due to a technical issue.

Sources said malfunctioning of a sensor in the aircraft led to a false alarm of fuel leakage, following which the plane landed in Varanasi.

"IndiGo flight 6E 6961, operating from Kolkata to Srinagar,

made a precautionary landing at Varanasi airport due to a suspected technical issue. As a safety measure, the aircraft has been grounded for necessary checks, and an alternate aircraft has been arranged to continue the journey," the airline said in a statement.

Specific details about the technical issue and the number of passengers onboard were not disclosed.

The flight was operated with A320 neo | **More on P6**



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KASHMIR OBSERVER®
SRINAGAR | THURSDAY | 23.10.2025

02

GAZATTE NOTICE

This is to inform general public that I have changed my name from Tariq Rasheed To Tariq Ahmad Waza as per my Aadhar card and Pan Card. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact concerned authorities within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Tariq Ahmad Waza

FKO

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

The Candidates whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost her 10 th Class Qualification / DOB/ Diploma Certificate of Secondary School Examination issued by BOSE with the following particulars

Name. :- Ulfath Mohmad

Parentage.:- Gh Mohmad

Mothers Name.:- Haja Begum

Residence.:- Ganapora, Distt. KUPWARA

Roll No. 10 th Class:- 574490

Session.:- Annual PVT 2010

Reg No:- 08NKF507392

Certificate Serial No :- 10 APKAM - 6006362

D O B:- 18.10.1994

Result Qualified Class 10th Result Grade. B2

Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate Qualification/DOB /Diploma Certificate before the same is processed and issued in the candidate anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Deputy Secretary, BOSE or undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above referred Qualification / Diploma certificate bearing serial no :- 10 APKAM - 6006362 .are be treated as cancelled,

FKO



SD/= Deputy Secretary
Certificates, KD

آر سی کی گمشدگی

میری گاڈی زیرنمبر JK01AT 6547 کی (RC) کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے دے ہوئے نمبر پر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر RTO کشمیر سرنگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

جاوید احمد ٹھوکر ولد محمد شعبان ٹھوکر ساکن چودری باغ
کرمشورہ خانصاحب بڈگام۔
فون 9622722264

MBC

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے ایگر بیسٹ زیر کنز یوم نمبر 0206010014424 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی غلام قادر بٹ کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی عبدالقیوم بٹ کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایگریٹو انجینئر پی ڈی ڈی بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبدالقیوم بٹ ولد غلام قادر بٹ ساکن مامت بڈگام۔
فون 9858722956

MBC

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)



DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285



EXTENSION NOTICE 3RD

Subject: 1. Construction of Machine Drilled Hand Pump Operated Bore Well at Ajas Bandipora Near House Of Zahoor Ahmad and Tariq habib and Others in District Bandipora.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 41-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./6291-6304, dated: 02-09-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286817_18.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 20-10-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	29-10-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	30-10-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./

Dated: 20-10-2025

DIPK-7377-25

DT: 22/10/2025

Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION SOPORE

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Fax No:- 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/25 of 2025-26

Dated: 18/10/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

1.	Name of the Work	Rate Contract for Renovation/ Modernization of various Receiving Stations of STD Sopore under Capex Budget 2025-26 (Electrical Component).
2.	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non-refundable)	1010/-
3.	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	92500/-

Time Schedule:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 18/10/2025; 01:00 PM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	21/10/2025; 04:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)/ Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date	07/11/2025; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	08/11/2025; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of Technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

The bidding documents, which includes qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

No: STDS/TS/1460-62

Dated: 18/10/2025

DIPK-NB-2245-25

DT: 22/10/2025

-Sd-

Executive Engineer,

KPDCL

Sub Transmission Division Sopore



NEW BONVIVANT ENGLISH SCHOOL

Aali Masjid -Hawal Road Srinagar

List of School Managing Committee

S.No	NAME	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	QUAL	OCCUPATION	DESIGNATION	PHOTO
01	Irshad Ahamd Kuchay	Late Abdul Rehman Kuchay	Aali Masjid, Iddgha. Dr. Alijan Road, Srinagar P/S - Safa Kadal	BA	Business	Secretary	
02	Iqra Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Wani	Iqbal Colony, Aali Masjid, Eidgha Srinagar P/S - Safa Kadal	Msc. B.Ed	Principal	Member	
03	Haji Ghulam Mohi-Ud-din Najjar	Haji Mohammad Sultan Najjar	Zaldagar, Srinagar P/S - Zaina Kadal	EE BEC	Retired Teacher	Parent Member	
04	Jamsheed Mushtaq Kak	Mushtaq Ahmad Kak	Safakadal, Srinagar P/s - Safa Kadal	B. Com	Private Service	Secretary	
05	Showkat Ahmad Khan	Mohammad Yousuf Khan	Bangerteng, Narwara, Srinagar. P/S - Safa Kadal	MA	Private Service	Parent Member	
06	Mrs Humaira Hussain	Mohammad Hussain Wani	Narwara, Srinagar P/S - Safa Kadal	BSc B.Ed	Private Service	Member	
07	Mrs Afroza Kounsar	Nisar Ahmad Khan	New Road, Iddgha Khainwan, Srinagar P/S - Safa Kadal	MA. Education	Private Service	Member	

Media Line Advt

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 48/ //RnB/ SPN /e-Tendering/2025-26 Dated:- 22-10-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money De-posit (Rs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Repair and Renovation of One Stop Centre at Old DC Office Shopian.	District Capex Budget	0.857	1714/-	DEE	20 days	200/-	133-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-16-10-2025.	35/TS/RnB/ Spn/2025-26 Dated:- 22-10-2025

Position of funds:- Committed

Project Authority= District Development Commissioner Shopian

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-10-2025
2	Document downloading Start Date.	23-10-2025 From 10:00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	30-10-2025 upto 2:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	23-10-2025 From 10:00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	30-10-2025 upto 2:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31-10-2025 at 10:00 A.M

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan /Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder 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.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

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

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.

NOTE:- The Payment shall be made strictly as per the available allocation by the AAA authority.

No: NIT/

Dt: 22-10-2025

Sd/-

DIPK-7401-25

DT: 22/10/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Shopian

Sd/-

AAO

Sd/-

Technical Officer

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Youth’s Energy, Discipline Mirror Srinagar’s True Spirit: SSP Chakravarty

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. Sandeep Chakravarty, on Wednesday said that the energy, discipline, and enthusiasm of the youth represent the true identity and spirit of Srinagar. He reiterated that the city police remain committed to channeling this potential into positive avenues to help curb the growing menace of drug abuse.



Speaking at the grand finale of the Under-20 Football Tournament organized by Srinagar Police under its Civic Action Programme, Dr. Chakravarty emphasized that youth engagement in sports and educational activities is a vital step toward building a healthy and responsible society. “Our focus is to connect young people with positive and constructive platforms such as sports and education,” the SSP said. “The

energy and discipline displayed by Srinagar’s youth reflect the strength and character of our city. We will continue to organize such initiatives to promote a vibrant, drug-free culture.”

The SSP appreciated the enthusiasm of the participating teams and encouraged young people to make the most of such opportunities for personal growth and community building.

The tournament’s final match between Bemina and Nowgam teams turned out to be a thrilling contest, with Team Bemina emerging champions. Dr. Chakravarty lauded both sides for their sportsmanship and dedication, noting that their performance mirrors the brighter, progressive side of Srinagar’s youth.

He assured that Srinagar Police will continue to organize similar events across the district to foster talent, teamwork, and discipline among young people.

Kitten Undergoes Successful Eye Surgery



Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: In a remarkable case of veterinary care, a kitten suffering from a rare congenital condition was successfully treated at the Wild Animal Health Care Centre in Dachigam by Dr. Mohsin Ali Gazi and his team.

The team included Bashir Ahmed Reshi, Mehrajuddin Lalli, Shameema Akhter and Suraya Majeed.

The kitten, rescued from CCF North, Sonwar locality was diagnosed with Ankyloblepharon — a congenital disorder in which the upper and lower eyelids are completely fused, preventing the eyes from opening normally.

Dr. Mohsin Ali and his veterinary team performed a delicate surgical procedure to separate the fused eyelids and restore

the animal’s vision. “The surgery was successful, necessary treatment and medication were administered, and the kitten is now doing well with its vision fully restored,” Dr. Mohsin said.

“This marks yet another successful eye repair case at the Wild Animal Health Care Centre, Dachigam, where our team continues to provide specialized care for injured and distressed animals across Kashmir,” Dr. Mohsin said.

Dr. Gazi mentioned that the care and management of wild animals, along with day-to-day surgical procedures and successful interventions — including today’s kitten surgery — are only possible due to the constant guidance and invaluable support of the Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, and the Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir Region.

Dar-ul-Khair Expresses Solidarity With Fire-Affected Families

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Manzil Srinagar has expressed deep sorrow over the recent devastating fire incident at Narparistan, Fateh Kadal, which damaged four residential houses and caused extensive loss of property.

On behalf of its patron, Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq, the organization conveyed heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the affected families, emphasizing the need for their immediate rehabilitation.

A delegation of Dar-ul-Khair, led by Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon, handed over essential relief material to the local mosque committee for distribution among the victims. Dar-ul-Khair urged the public to exercise caution during winter while using electrical appliances, kangris, and other heating devices to prevent fire mishaps.

Reiterating its long-standing commitment to humanitarian service, the organization appealed to well-off individuals to continue extending support toward its ongoing relief and welfare initiatives.

DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Ab Aziz Rather R/o Wanigam Payeen Pattan**, on **21st October, 2025 (27, Rabi al-Thani, 1447)**. May his soul rest in peace. AAMEEN. He will be remembered for his pleasing and affable nature by one and all. **Rasm e Chaharum** of the deceased shall be observed on **24th October 2025** at **Wanigam Payeen Pattan**.



INFO

BEREAVED FAMILY



THE MUCH-AWAITED NOORJAHAN BRIDGE at Qamarwari is expected to be opened for traffic in the coming days. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Search Continues for Bandsaw Mill Worker Who Jumped into Jhelum

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The search for a man who leapt into the Jhelum River from Zainakadal bridge on Monday entered its third day on Wednesday, with authorities and volunteers intensifying efforts to locate his body.

The missing man has been identified as Rafiq Ahmed Ahangar, son of Muhammad Jamal, a resident of Mujahid Manzil, Dalal Mohalla, Srinagar. Rafiq was employed at a local bandsaw mill in the area. According to reports, he informed his employer that he would return in ten minutes, but eyewitnesses later saw him jump into the river from the bridge.

In response, the Srinagar Police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) immediately launched a coordinated rescue operation. Local volunteers also joined the search, assisting authorities in combing the river and its banks. Despite continuous efforts since Monday afternoon, Rafiq’s body had not been recovered as of Wednesday morning.



Search teams are deploying boats and divers to scan the river,”

Search teams are deploying boats and divers to scan the

river,” an official involved in the operation said.

According to KNT, the reasons behind Rafiq’s jump remain unclear. Police have registered a case and launched an inquiry to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident.

Authorities have urged residents to avoid riverbanks during the search and assured that all possible resources are being mobilized to trace the missing man.

PSAJK Expresses Gratitude to PSCWA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the Private Schools and Children Welfare Association (PSCWA) for its continued support and guidance in strengthening the private education sector across the Union Territory.

In a statement, PSAJK lauded PSCWA’s proactive and constructive role in championing the cause of private schools at the national level. The association said that PSCWA has been instrumental in voicing critical issues concerning school autonomy, student welfare, and education policy reforms, ensuring that the interests of private institutions



from Jammu and Kashmir are effectively represented at various forums across the country.

“PSCWA’s unwavering support has been a source of strength for us,” said Nazrul Islam Bata, President of PSAJK. “Their commitment to upholding educational standards and safeguarding the welfare of students across India

reflects true institutional leadership. We sincerely thank the entire PSCWA leadership for their solidarity and cooperation.”

PSAJK also extended special appreciation to Syed Shamael, National President of PSCWA, for his vision, leadership, and consistent encouragement. The association credited his efforts for fostering closer collaboration between national and state-level educational bodies.

Reaffirming its commitment to collective progress, PSAJK said it will continue to work in partnership with PSCWA and other allied organisations to advance educational policy reforms, enhance institutional capacity, and promote the overall welfare of students through coordinated initiatives and capacity-building programmes.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:91/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/5585-95

Dated:18-10-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Restoration of Road at Barsoo Junction.	10.00	600/-	2% of Adv cost	15 days	3054 Non Plan M&R(2025-26)	CEE, DEE	PWD(R&B)

Position Of AAA: Accorded vide No: Authorization No:ARD/CESK/2025-26/49 Dated: 29.08.2025

Position of funds: Committed

Position of TS: TS No: CE(R&B)/SK/TS/217 of 2025-26 Dated: 07.10.2025.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-10-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18-10-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-10-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	27-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28-10-2025 12:00 PM

1.

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department) (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2.

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

3.

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

4.


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

Sd/- Draftsman

sd/- Technical Officer

DIPK-7354-25 DT: 22/10/2025


sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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





HIJRI
CALENDAR
29 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR5:21

ZUHR12:16

ASR4:11

Magrib5:53

ISHA7:12

This Day In History

- 1086 - Battle of az-Zallaqah: Army of Yusuf ibn Tashfin defeats the forces of Castilian King Alfonso VI.
- 1157 - The Battle of Grathe Heath ends the civil war in Denmark. King Sweyn III is killed and Valdemar I restores the country.
- 1702 - Battle of Bay of Vigo: Dutch & English fleet destroy & occupy Spanish silver fleet & French squadron
- 1739 - War of Jenkins' Ear starts: British Prime Minister, Robert Walpole, reluctantly declares war on Spain
- 1812 - Failed coup against emperor Napoleon
- 1813 - The Pacific Fur Company trading post in Astoria, Oregon is turned over to the rival British North West Company (the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest was dominated for the next three decades by the United Kingdom).
- 1853 - Maastricht-Aken railway in Netherlands opens
- 1854 English newspaper "The Times" gives precise British positions in Crimea during Crimean War
- 1864 - Battle of Westport, Missouri: Union General Samuel R Curtis defeats Confederate General Stirling Price.
- 1935 - Mackenzie King is elected as Prime Minister of Canada for the third time
- 1942 - First ships of invasion fleet to Morocco leave Norfolk
- 1942 - During WW II, Britain launches major offensive at El Alamein, Egypt
- 1944 - Soviet army invades Hungary
- Jackie Robinson
- 1946 - UN General Assembly 2nd session convenes (1st NYC-Flushing Meadows)
- 1947 - NAACP petition on racism "An Appeal to the World" presented to UN
- 1947 - Husband & wife Dr Carl Cori & Dr Gerty Cori are 1st spouses to be awarded joint Nobel Prizes.
- 1953 - France grants Laos' sovereignty
- 1953 - German FR applies to NATO
- 1954 - Britain, France & USSR agree to end occupation of Germany
- 1954 - Pakistan Governor-General Gholaan Mohammed disbands parliament
- 1956 - First video recording on magnetic tape televised coast-to-coast
- 1956 - Thousands of Hungarians protest against the government and Soviet occupation. (The Hungarian Revolution is crushed on November 4).

From KO Archives

70-Yr-Old Sets Himself Ablaze

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Overcome by his daughter’s defiance, a 70-yr-old set himself and his house ablaze in Sopore village today. Muhammad Sabid Malla later succumbed to burn injuries.

Reports said that Sabir’s daughter had opposed the match he had arranged for her. Unable to bear this rebellion, Sabir drenched himself and his two story home with petrol, climbed atop the building and set himself alight. The village Sopar Naghama some 7 kilometres from Handwara watched aghast as flames engulfed the man and his dwelling. Fire tenders rushed from Dangiwacha prevented the blaze from spreading to the ground floor. Sabir who had sustained extensive burns passed away soon after.

Meanwhile there were reports of two youth and women trying to put an end to their lives in different parts of the Valley.

Tired of his life Shiraz Ahmad Lone of Sahpora Pattan attempted suicide but was rushed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a serious condition.

Saleema w/o Muhammad Shaban Bhat of Baran Pattan was rushed to hospital after she consumed some poisonous substance in a bid to put an end to her life. Doctors saved her life.

(Kashmir Observer, October 23, 2000)

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

KO VIEW

Old Kashmir
Disappears

Srinagar's old neighbourhoods are losing their familiar faces. Brick by brick, the city's memory is being replaced by concrete and steel. The old homes with carved windows and slanting roofs are vanishing, and with them, a sense of belonging.

Kashmir's heritage was never only about its mountains or lakes. It lived in the way people built their homes, prayed in shrines, and shared stories in gardens that smelled of spring water. These were places shaped by faith and craftsmanship, passed down for generations. Today, that beauty is under threat from unplanned construction, poor planning and official neglect.

Some protected heritage sites in Jammu and Kashmir have been damaged in recent years. Many others have no protection at all and survive only through the care of local families. In downtown Srinagar, new shops and buildings are coming up without thought for what they are replacing. The result is a city that looks modern but feels hollow.

This loss is not only about architecture. It shows how quickly a society can forget its roots. Tourism ads celebrate houseboats and snowfall, but the old homes of Srinagar rarely find a place in those campaigns. Traditional wooden structures are being rebuilt in marble. Builders ignore the old wisdom that made Kashmir's homes strong, warm and sustainable.

Preserving heritage does not mean stopping progress. It means making space for both memory and modern life. The old houses and shrines were built to suit the valley's weather and spirit. They can inspire new designs, greener materials and jobs for local artisans who carry the skills of their ancestors.

Cities across the world have learned to grow without losing their soul. They have restored old buildings, revived crafts and turned heritage into pride. Kashmir can do the same if it sees culture as a strength. The government's push for smart cities and tourism can include protection of old neighbourhoods and sites that define who we are.

At the end of the day, every fallen house and lost structure takes a piece of Kashmir's story with it. Protecting the valley's heritage today is the only way to keep its soul alive for tomorrow.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Real Estate for All

REITs are opening doors to property markets without the heavy costs and hassles of ownership.

Irshad Mushtaq

Real estate has long been seen as a path to financial security, but the high cost of buying property keeps many Kashmiri investors on the sidelines. The dream of owning an apartment block, a shopping center, or even a single flat often feels out of reach. Real Estate Investment Trusts, or REITs, are changing that.

REITs are companies that own and manage income-producing properties. When you buy shares in a REIT, you're essentially buying a slice of real estate without having to handle tenants, maintenance, or legal paperwork. Income generated from rent and operations is paid out as dividends, offering a steady stream of returns. Most REITs are publicly traded, making them liquid and accessible.

For investors in Kashmir, REITs bring several advantages. A small sum, sometimes as little as INR 1,000, can start your journey into property investment. Professional managers take care of operations, while your money spreads across different properties, reducing risk. Regular dividends provide income, and the rules require most of a REIT's earnings to be shared with investors. SEBI regulation adds an extra layer of confidence.

There are risks. Market fluctuations, interest rate changes, and sector-specific challenges can affect returns. Research and guidance from a financial advisor remain essential.

Still, REITs offer a rare combination: the chance to earn from real estate, grow wealth over time, and do it without large capital or daily hassles. For Kashmiri investors eager to step into property markets, they provide a path that is both practical and promising.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir's Political Drift

Once rooted in ideals and integrity, politics in Jammu & Kashmir has turned into a theatre of tactics, where emotion overshadows reason, and survival takes precedence over service.

Ahmad Ayaz

To beg for votes is to seek authority without authenticity. It is to mistake emotion for mandate and sympathy for legitimacy. Power gained through pity commands no respect. Legitimacy rooted in manipulation yields no stability.

Power is a gift in any democracy, meant to be wielded with care. In Jammu & Kashmir, the gift has been reshaped. Political survival now hinges less on principle and more on showmanship and maneuvering.

The political stage, once reserved for conviction, has turned into an arena of calculation. What was once the art of persuasion through ideas has been reduced to a competition of emotional theatrics. Leaders today are not admired for courage or clarity but for their ability to flatter and bargain.

To beg for votes is to betray the essence of democracy. It transforms governance into a marketplace where loyalty is bought, promises are borrowed, and power is sought not as a moral duty but as personal refuge. Politics, which once demanded persuasion through intellect and integrity, now trades in emotional manipulation, where sympathy replaces substance and spectacle replaces sincerity.

This erosion of dignity did not happen overnight. It has grown silently, year after year, in the cracks between ambition and principle, until what remains of leadership is more spectacle than service.

Politics in Jammu & Kashmir has always been deeply emotional, built on identity, history, and grievance. These emotions are real and rooted in pain, but over time they have been transformed from instruments of awareness into tools of manipulation.

Leaders discovered that appealing to sentiment was easier than presenting solutions. Emotional connection, once genuine, became political strategy.

When a leader stands before a crowd not to inspire but to plead for sympathy, democracy begins to decay. Governance becomes a contest of desperation, not direction, a space where survival overshadows service.

A leader who rises by invoking pity must sustain power through the same means: populist gestures, self-victimization, and shallow theatrics. He cannot govern with confidence because he was not chosen with confidence. His legitimacy, born of emotion, remains fragile.

Politics, in its noblest form, is an act of service. When it becomes an act of survival, it loses its soul. A democracy built on desperation breeds dependency on pity, propaganda, and personalities, until both leaders and citizens forget what dignity once meant.

Dignity in politics is not about the position one holds but about how it is earned and exercised. It is rooted in independence of thought and firmness of conviction. Without these, authority becomes hollow, a mask of command without the substance of leadership.

In Jammu & Kashmir, a culture of compromise has hollowed out the moral foundations of politics. Once-proud movements built around justice, self-respect, and autonomy have been reduced to instruments of convenience. Parties that once claimed to embody collective aspirations now operate as brands competing for appeasement.

The language of resistance has been replaced by the language of accommodation. Leaders who once spoke truth to power now wait in its corridors, seeking permission, recognition, or rehabilitation. The transformation is not only political. It is psychological. Dependence has replaced dignity.

This decline stems from a system that rewards loyalty over merit, compliance over courage, and submission over self-respect. It breeds a culture where moral flexibility is celebrated as political skill and compromise becomes a badge of wisdom.

When politics rewards pliancy, courage

disappears. When ambition replaces purpose, leadership becomes little more than the management of personal relevance.

Democracy thrives on a competition of ideas. When politics becomes transactional, ideas are replaced by inducements. Votes are sought not through persuasion but through patronage: jobs, subsidies, favours, or hollow gestures meant to buy loyalty rather than build trust.

Governance, under such circumstances, becomes a market of illusions, where every election is a festival of promises and every manifesto a catalogue of entitlements. Politics turns from a moral enterprise into a transactional exchange: give me your vote, I'll give you relief.

This practice corrodes the very soul of democracy because it replaces accountability with dependency. When power becomes a commodity, it loses moral legitimacy.

In Jammu & Kashmir, this culture deepened after years of instability and disempowerment. Following the abrogation of Article 370, political parties were thrust into uncertainty, forced to redefine their roles in a drastically altered landscape. Some chose confrontation, others sought compromise. But, in both cases, the hunger for space often overshadowed the pursuit of principle.

The result is politics of survival, not conviction. The struggle to remain visible has replaced the struggle to remain virtuous. What was once a battle of ideas has been reduced to a scramble for permission, a politics of pleading rather than leading.

A leader who rises on emotion cannot govern with reason. A government built on sympathy cannot command respect. The erosion of dignity inevitably leads to the erosion of credibility.

The citizens of Jammu & Kashmir are not disillusioned with democracy as an idea. They are disillusioned with how it is practiced. Campaigns abound with promises of transformation, but those promises dissolve into silence once power is secured.

Those who claimed to stand with the people often align with authority as soon as it becomes convenient. This pattern, repeated over generations, has eroded the moral bridge between the governed and the governing.

Cynicism has thus become the silent disease of democracy, the corrosion that eats from within. People still vote, but without belief. They listen, but without expectation. Democracy continues to function, but the faith that gives it meaning fades a little more each year.

Credibility, once lost, cannot be restored through slogans. It can only be rebuilt through integrity, and integrity demands sacrifice, not strategy.

We now live in an age of performance politics. Visibility has become the new virtue. Volume, the new truth. The more dramatic the outrage, the larger the audience. The more emotional the plea, the more sympathy it earns.

But performative politics comes at a cost. It replaces depth with drama, content with choreography. Theatrics have taken the place of thought.

In Jammu & Kashmir, public discourse has shrunk to soundbites and slogans. Rallies are staged as spectacles, and policies as performances. Leaders compete not on ideas but on indignation.

In this environment, outrage becomes a career and grievance a brand. But, as the drama intensifies, the dignity of governance erodes. Politics becomes less about solving problems and more about maintaining presence. The tragedy is that people, weary from years of political fatigue, often mistake noise for leadership.

It is easy to blame politicians for the decay of democracy, but the truth is that citizens share in its decline. Democracy reflects not only those who lead but those

who choose.

When citizens reward rhetoric over reason, or identity over integrity, they become complicit in the system that exploits them. Each time voters embrace emotion over evaluation, they strengthen the very cycle of manipulation that weakens their own agency.

The people of Jammu & Kashmir have endured immense hardship, and their desire for empathy is natural. But empathy must not replace discernment. The right to vote carries with it the duty to think.

A dignified politics requires a dignified electorate, one that values truth over theatrics, performance over pity, and accountability over apology. A democracy cannot rise above the moral level of its citizens.

Today, politics is crowded with politicians but starved of statesmen. The difference lies in dignity. A statesman governs not to please, but to build. He knows that leadership is not the possession of power, but the stewardship of purpose.

Jammu & Kashmir once had such figures, leaders whose restraint and sense of proportion commanded respect even among adversaries. Their words carried weight, and their silence carried meaning. They understood that politics is not performance.

That tradition has faded. The public stage is now crowded, but emptier than ever. Moral authority has been replaced by the hunger for relevance.

Restoring dignity requires reviving this lost art of statesmanship: the courage to speak truth without theatrics, to disagree without hostility, and to serve without expectation. The truest power of a leader lies not in how loudly he demands authority, but in how steadily he earns respect.

The restoration of dignity in politics must begin with introspection, by both leaders and citizens.

For leaders, it means rediscovering the moral purpose of politics: to serve, not to survive. It means resisting the temptation to seek sympathy and instead earning respect through performance.

For citizens, it means refusing to be seduced by spectacle. It means asking uncomfortable questions: Who has delivered? Who has stood firm when it was costly to do so? Who treats power as duty rather than privilege?

The answers to these questions can realign the moral compass of democracy. Without them, politics will remain a cycle of repetition: noisy, theatrical, and devoid of grace.

Democracy is ultimately a mirror. It reflects not only those who govern but those who choose to be governed. When politics becomes an act of pleading, it reveals not only weak leadership but a weary society willing to mistake pity for principle.

If Jammu & Kashmir wishes to rebuild meaningful politics after decades of disruption, it must begin by restoring dignity in thought, language, and conduct. Dignity cannot be legislated. It must be lived. It must be evident in how leaders speak, how they differ, and how they lose, for the manner of losing often reveals more character than the act of winning.

To beg for votes is to seek authority without authenticity. It is to mistake emotion for mandate and sympathy for legitimacy. Power gained through pity commands no respect. Legitimacy rooted in manipulation yields no stability.

Democracy, in Jammu & Kashmir or anywhere, cannot thrive on desperation. It must rest on dignity: the dignity of leaders who earn trust and citizens who demand accountability.

— The author is a freelancer, national TV debater, and columnist. Views expressed are personal. He can be reached at ahmadayaz08@gmail.com.

Raqif Makhdoomi
raqifmakhdoomi818@gmail.com

Letter to Editor

The Road to Representation in Kashmir Still Leads Nowhere

When elections returned to Jammu and Kashmir after five long years, the mood was one of anticipation. The people who had lived without local representatives since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019 were eager to reclaim a sense of agency. Ballot boxes were filled with more than votes. They carried a hope that democracy could heal the deep wounds left by political downgrading and disenfranchisement.

The National Conference (NC) became the vessel for this hope. Its manifesto read like a promise of redemption: restoration of statehood, return of special status, removal of the Public Safety Act, release of political prisoners, rationalization of reservation policies, and free electricity and gas for households. For many, these promises sounded like the path to reclaiming dignity and autonomy. The NC won 42 seats, forming a government with Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party's lone MLA. Omar Abdullah returned

as Chief Minister, and people believed history had come full circle.

It didn't take long for that belief to crack. The night results were declared, Omar Abdullah was asked about the roadmap to restore Article 370. His reply—"Don't ask me about that"—landed like a jolt. The promise that had animated the campaign suddenly vanished into political realism. The argument that "we can't ask the same party to return what it took away" felt like an excuse. The public had been made to believe that the removal of Article 370 was solely the fault of the PDP-BJP alliance. Few were reminded that the weakening of Kashmir's autonomy began long before, with the Indira-Sheikh Accord of 1975 under Congress.

One year on, the government stands accused of failing almost every promise it made. The vow to release political prisoners has faded from public conversation. The rationalization of reservation, a policy meant to ensure fair access to education and jobs, remains stalled. A subcommittee was formed,

reports were promised, and deadlines were missed. For thousands of young aspirants preparing for competitive exams, the silence feels like betrayal. Many now say their dreams of becoming doctors, engineers, or civil servants are slipping away because the system seems stacked against merit.

The Public Safety Act, which NC leaders once condemned, continues to haunt Kashmiri politics. Ironically, even an MLA has been detained under the same law. The government, so far, has offered no explanation.

Then there is the issue of free electricity, another campaign promise turned controversy. Omar Abdullah had once spoken against smart meters, describing them as unfair. A year later, he defended their use, saying free power could not be given until meters were installed. The contradiction struck a nerve among voters who took his earlier words as a commitment to resist such measures.

In Budgam, the disillusionment feels personal. Omar Abdullah chose to retain his Ganderbal seat despite winning more votes in Budgam, leaving residents feeling abandoned. The district, located just outside Srinagar, has long complained of neglect. This time, it seems ready to challenge the political monopoly of the National Conference. Locals speak of voting differently, not out of anger alone, but from exhaustion with promises that never materialize.

A year ago, Kashmir's first election as a Union Territory was described as the return of democracy. It was meant to renew the contract between people and power. But, as the months have passed, what was once faith has turned into fatigue. The slogans that once stirred hope now sound hollow in a region where every promise carries the weight of history.

For a generation that lined up to vote after years of silence, the question now is whether democracy in Kashmir is about representation, or merely ritual.

The Man Behind Kashmir Lifelines

He may not perform surgeries, but his decisions shape the survival of thousands across Kashmir's largest public hospitals.

Gowher Bhat

The corridors of Government Medical College Srinagar are always awake. They echo with hurried footsteps, whispered prayers, and the steady hum of machines fighting for breath. On most days, the smell of antiseptic hangs in the air, mixed with the smell of fear. In these hallways, where time bends between life and loss, one man's presence seems to hold things together.

His name is Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, and though few patients know his title, everyone feels his influence.

As the Administrator of GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals, one of Kashmir's largest and most demanding healthcare networks, Hakak's job is to keep the system running.

That means managing doctors, nurses, supply chains, sanitation, and patient flow for thousands every day. But his true skill lies in something harder to define: keeping people, and hope, steady when everything else feels uncertain.

Public healthcare in Kashmir has always been a test of endurance. The region's topography isolates rural communities. Winters cut off access to major hospitals, while emergency health situation often interrupts services. GMC Srinagar, with its web of teaching and referral hospitals, absorbs most of this pressure.

On any given day, its wards overflow with patients from Kashmir countryside. Families travel hours for treatment that can't wait.

Running such a system demands presence.

Staff say Hakak walks the corridors as if the buildings themselves rely on his rhythm. He listens before he acts, asks questions others skip, and treats every staff member, from senior surgeon to sanitation worker, as essential to the mission. "He doesn't manage from an office," says a resident doctor. "He's there when things get tough. That's when you see real leadership."



Those tough moments arrive often. When an oxygen plant faltered during a peak patient rush, Hakak personally coordinated emergency supply routes before the backup failed. When a shortage of nurses threatened ICU care during a strike, he stepped in to negotiate calmly with both sides, ensuring continuity of treatment. His approach, staff say, is methodical but humane, the kind of administration that feels like care itself.

In the pediatric intensive care unit, one mother remembers a night when her baby's condition worsened suddenly. Amid the panic, Hakak appeared at the door, listening, reassuring, and instructing staff to bring in a senior doctor. The baby survived. "He didn't make promises," the woman later said, "but his voice made us believe we were not alone."

Stories like these repeat across GMC's

campuses. A nurse recalls how, during a mass casualty incident, Hakak managed the crisis room like a seasoned field commander, assigning responsibilities with clarity, ensuring resources were distributed where most needed. "He doesn't check every patient himself," she said, "yet somehow, no one gets left out."

That ability to combine systems and sensitivity is what sets him apart.

Most administrators focus on efficiency, Hakak focuses on empathy as infrastructure. He redesigned complaint systems so families could report grievances directly. He made ambulance services more accountable through real-time coordination. He ensured that emergency wards never fall short of critical supplies.

For an institution as vast as GMC Srinagar, culture matters as much as capacity. Under



HIS REACH EXTENDS BEYOND GMC'S GATES. WHEN PATIENTS FROM FAR-FLUNG VILLAGES

arrive without knowing where to go, his team ensures they are guided through the maze of departments. When complaints surface about neglect or delay, he intervenes personally. "He sees patients as people, not files," says a junior administrator. "That changes everything."

Hakak, departments that once worked in isolation now coordinate regularly. Weekly reviews, open-door meetings, and mentoring sessions have replaced the fear-based hierarchy that plagues many public hospitals. "He has built something rare in government service: trust," says a senior nurse. "We know that if we speak, we'll be heard."

Young doctors often approach him for advice on ethics and patient communication, subjects rarely taught in medical schools. He tells them leadership in healthcare isn't about authority but responsibility. "He makes you see the human side of management," says an intern. "He teaches that listening is also a treatment."

In a place like Kashmir, where patients often arrive anxious and families carry more emotion than paperwork, this approach matters deeply. A calm administrator can

turn panic into patience, confusion into care. Hakak has made that a daily practice.

Kashmir's healthcare infrastructure has been evolving — new district hospitals, tele-medicine pilots, and better referral systems are emerging — yet the gaps remain wide. Specialists are few, equipment is limited, and rural health centers struggle for staff. In this fragile ecosystem, administrators like Hakak form the backbone that prevents collapse.

His reach extends beyond GMC's gates. When patients from far-flung villages arrive without knowing where to go, his team ensures they are guided through the maze of departments. When complaints surface about neglect or delay, he intervenes personally. "He sees patients as people, not files," says a junior administrator. "That changes everything."

The numbers tell their own story. Over the past three years, GMC Srinagar's patient response time has improved, interdepartmental conflicts have dropped, and ambulance response coordination has nearly doubled in efficiency. These may seem like technical achievements, but in Kashmir's healthcare context, they translate into real human outcomes: fewer delays, faster diagnoses, more dignity in suffering.

Leadership in medicine is often associated with doctors in white coats or surgeons in operating rooms. But in the pulse of Kashmir's hospitals, it often comes from the person ensuring those doctors can work without chaos.

At dusk, when the corridors thin out and the hum of day turns into silence, Hakak is often still there, reviewing reports, speaking softly with staff, ensuring that tomorrow begins with order.

It is a kind of devotion that runs deeper than duty, a belief that healthcare, at its core, is an act of collective compassion.

— The author is an educator and writer based out of Srinagar.

The Plastic Bloom of Kashmir

Once a paradise of rivers and orchards, Kashmir is now drowning in plastic. A personal journey through its postcard landscape reveals the urgent need for action.

Vikas Thakur

It was a mild spring morning when I found myself driving from Sopore to Kupwara. The hillsides glowed with apple trees in full bloom. Petals swirled in the breeze, sunlight caught the delicate whites and pinks, and for a fleeting moment, it felt as if Kashmir had paused in perfection.

The road curved beside the Pohru river, where only thin lines of green and brown water moved over the stones. A patch of wild bushes hugged the bank, and at first glance, they seemed covered in spring flowers: red, yellow, blue, white.

Then something green flickered in the sunlight, a colour no flower should carry. I asked the driver to stop and stepped out. Closer inspection shattered the illusion. The "flowers" were plastic bags, carried downstream during monsoon floods, trapped in thorns, and flapping in the wind like grotesque petals.

A kaleidoscope of discarded packaging had created a strange, colourful dazzle

along the riverbank. My heart sank. What I had admired as natural beauty was a warning sign: our land was drowning in plastic.

The crisis spreads across Kashmir. From Pahalgam to Gulmarg, Sonamarg to Gurez, the countryside is littered with waste. From the roads to the rivers and meadows, plastic has crept into every corner. Garbage dumps on the outskirts of towns swell with plastic refuse. Himachal Pradesh banned single-use plastic decades ago. The state still struggles, but at least it took the first step. Jammu and Kashmir never implemented a ban. Here, the problem is on another scale.

Walk into any vegetable shop and you see it in action. Each vegetable gets its own bag. Then the vendor packs all of them into a larger bag. In a single shopping trip, one family can generate a small mountain of plastic.

Travellers toss empty water bottles, snack wrappers, and candy packets from their cars as if the environment does not exist. Well-off, educated, and aware discard with careless disdain.

India, home to more than 140 crore people, is now the largest consumer of plastic. Regulation lags behind consumption. Most plastic never gets recycled. It ends up in landfills, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Kashmir's springs and streams, once lifelines, are clogged.

The degradation of plastic takes centuries. Over time, it fragments into microplastics, tiny particles that infiltrate water, air, and food. They accumulate in our bodies, affecting liver, kidney, lungs, and brain, causing hormonal disruption and cancer.

International talks under the United Nations Environment Assembly began in 2022 to address plastic pollution. Consensus remains elusive. India hesitates to endorse a ban. Plastic production supports \$12 billion of the economy and millions of jobs. Environmental urgency clashes with economic stakes.

Plastic is inescapable today. Yet, I remember a time when life was different. Milk came in glass bottles. Biscuits, toffees, and bread were wrapped in paper.



THAT MORNING BY THE POHRU RIVER, THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF DISCARDED PLASTIC STAYED with me. Beauty has been hijacked by human carelessness, and the warning is unmistakable. Kashmir will only remain paradise if we act decisively. If the colours of the hills and rivers are replaced permanently by plastic, the lesson will arrive too late.

Cloth bags carried vegetables home, sugar and lentils were measured and wrapped in paper. Steel buckets were common, wooden furniture prevalent. Plastic was rare. Communities generated minimal waste, and rivers ran clear.

Now, we rely on reduce, reuse, and recycle. Individual choices matter, but systemic action is urgent. We need strict regulations, binding policies, and immediate plans.

Kashmir cannot withstand endless plastic growth. Every bag discarded along a river, every wrapper tossed from a car, erodes both landscape and health.

That morning by the Pohru river, the kaleidoscope of discarded plastic stayed with me. Beauty has been hijacked by human carelessness, and the warning is unmistakable.

Kashmir will only remain paradise if we act decisively. If the colours of the hills and rivers are replaced permanently by plastic, the lesson will arrive too late.

— The author recently penned his memoir titled Pax Kashmir.



Row Erupts Over Yogi Adityanath's 'Halal Certification' Remarks

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow: A political row erupted on Wednesday after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urged people to check for "halal certification" on products before purchasing them, reiterating his government's stand against such certifications in the state.

Adityanath on Tuesday said that his government had banned halal-certified items in Uttar Pradesh as the profits from such sales were being used for conversion, love jihad and terrorism. The CM urged people to buy indigenous products instead.

"You will be surprised that even soaps, clothes, and matchsticks have halal certification," the chief minister said, while speaking at the 'Vichar-Parivar Kutumb Sneh Milan' and 'Deepotsav Se Rashtrotsav' programmes organised in Gorakhpur.

Adityanath's remarks, UP Congress president Ajay Rai accused the BJP government of diverting public attention from key economic and employment issues.

"This government is quite brilliant in diverting attention from real issues. Why is the CM so focused on such matters?" Rai told PTI.

"We demand that the government release data on the investments that have come to UP since 2017 and the kind of employment generated. Instead of addressing these, the CM prefers to talk about halal certification," he added.

Meanwhile, All India Muslim Jamaat president Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilly backed CM Adityanath's remarks, saying the practice of issuing halal certificates "is completely wrong in the light of Sharia".

"Religion is being used as a cover to make money," he said.

However, Razvi added that he did not agree with the suggestion that the funds collected through halal certification were being used to finance terrorism.

Halal certification means that the said item has been manufactured by adhering to the Islamic laws.

The CM's recent remarks have reignited debate over the state's previous decision to prohibit halal-certified food products.

On November 18, 2023, the Office of the Commissioner, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Uttar Pradesh, issued a notification "prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale, and distribution of food products with halal certification within the state of Uttar Pradesh", while allowing an exception for export products.

The notification, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, led to several petitions being filed in the Supreme Court challenging the order.

SC Seeks Centre's Assistance On PIL Seeking Nationwide Ban On Online Gambling

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has sought the Centre's assistance on a plea seeking directions to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan asked the counsel appearing for the petitioner to serve a copy of the PIL to the counsel for the central government.

"We request VC Bharathi to look into the petition and assist us on the next date of hearing. List after two weeks," the bench said in an order passed on Friday.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by think tank Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) seeking directions to the Centre to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games.

The plea has also sought directions to the RBI, NPCI, and UPI platforms to disallow any monetary transactions

involving unregistered gaming applications.

It has sought tax recovery and investigation through Interpol, CBI, and ED against offshore gaming companies, which are estimated to owe over Rs 2 lakh crore in unpaid taxes.

The plea has sought a direction to Union ministries of Electronics and Information Technology, Information and Broadcasting, Finance and Youth Affairs and Sports to do a harmonious interpretation of provisions of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, and laws made by state legislatures to prohibit online gambling and betting games operating in the guise of social and e-sports games.

The Act lays down a comprehensive framework to promote safe digital recreation while prohibiting harmful practices linked to online money games.

The petition names six respondents, including four Union ministries and the two leading app store operators, Apple Inc. and Google India Pvt. Ltd.

The CASC has urged the top court to direct the government

to clamp down on the proliferation of betting and gambling applications, which they claim are inflicting widespread social and economic harm across the country.

"Betting and gambling are regarded as unlawful activities in the majority of the states in India. Several cases are contested in high courts wherein affidavits were filed by the government and gaming platforms. Upon analysing the same, it is reported that more than 65 crore persons are playing such games, creating an annual business of more than Rs 1.8 lakh crores for these platforms in India," the PIL claimed.

"Around half of the Indian population is involved in playing online games, which are adversely impacting society, economy and national security. The devastating impact of online betting and gambling are endorsed in the objectives of the newly passed Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025. As per the IT Minister's speech in Parliament, the Bill was introduced to ensure the welfare of society and to prevent the

serious evil that is creeping into society," the PIL said.

The plea said this unchecked expansion of online gaming has created what they describe as a national crisis, affecting half of India's population and leading to financial ruin, mental health issues and even suicides. The plea has sought a nationwide prohibition on online gambling and betting platforms operating as esports or social games.

In one of the prayers, it has sought blocking orders under Section 69A of the IT Act against all unlawful betting sites and apps.

The PIL has also sought directions for the protection of the data of minors already collected by online gaming companies.

Top cricketers and film stars are endorsing such unlawful games leading to cyber frauds, addiction, mental health disorders and suicides, the PIL alleged.

The fraud and cheating algorithms are such that it's impossible to tell who is playing, the PIL said, alleging that money laundering activities may be taking place in the garb of online gaming.

Minha Wani Named Best Female Player At AICF Open FIDE Chess Tournament

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Demonstrating her consistency on the chessboard, Minha Ayaz Wani once again brought recognition to Kashmir by winning the Best Female Player award at the 5th AICF Chess for Everyone Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2025. This event took place at the Indoor Sports Complex, Polo Ground here.

The national-level tournament, organised by the All India Chess Federation and supported by J&K Sports Council, featured about 200 players from across the country, including seniors, juniors, men, and women. This



made the competition both tough and exciting.

Minha showed remarkable composure and skill throughout the tournament, earning 5.5 points out of 9 rounds. She won three games, drew five—two of

which were against rated opponents—and lost only one. Her strong overall performance earned her a cash prize and a trophy.

The 18-year-old's success reflects the increasing presence of

Kashmiri talent in the national chess scene. Minha's achievements have not only raised her profile but also inspired many young players, especially girls, to pursue chess with passion and confidence.

Previously, Minha had established herself as one of Kashmir's most successful young chess players. She won two gold medals at the national level, earned three gold medals in state championships, and consistently secured gold medals across inter-district, district, and zonal tournaments, a record that highlights her dedication and skill in the sport from a young age. (KNO)

IHPL Commencing From Oct 25: Div Com Reviews Arrangements

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The first edition of T20 Indian Heaven Premier League 2025 shall commence from October 25 at Bakshi Stadium featuring international, national and local players.

The high octane league will see the participation of eight teams for a fortnight while the stadium is expected to remain brimmed with the crowd coming from all across the J&K.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the mega sports event, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers from various departments to take first hand appraisal

of the preparations to set the stage ready for IHPL.

While reviewing the arrangements for the itinerary of the players, Div Com directed organisers to keep security agencies informed about the arrival, accommodation and movement of all players.

The meeting was informed that around 25 thousand to 30 thousand spectators are expected to watch the matches directly in the stadium.

On the occasion, Div Com directed organisers to confine booking of maximum tickets through online mechanism only to facilitate smooth crowd management.

He also directed police and

security officers to deploy adequate personnel to assist crowd control in an organized manner.

Div Com also instructed organisers to strictly adhere to the timelines for entry of spectators and conclusion of daily matches while DC Srinagar was directed to deploy magistrates to facilitate coordination among stakeholders.

Regarding drone coverage, Div Com instructed concerned agencies to approach the district administration for proper permission. Meanwhile, Div Com directed concerned officers of Jal Shakti and PDD for ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water & electricity at the venue.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly

over what they call "unmet promises" made in its election manifesto during last year's polls.

Officials said legislators have submitted around 450 questions for this session, besides 13 private members' bills and over 50 resolutions for discussion.

The House is also expected to decide on nearly three dozen bills that were introduced during the Budget session but are still pending consideration.

The autumn session is expected to be stormy, with opposition parties gearing up to corner the ruling NC-led government over a gamut of issues. The session is likely to witness fireworks from the opposition over governance issues, promises made by the National Conference in its election manifesto, statehood, and reservation.

Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma said the BJP will demand accountability from the National Conference-led government for what he described as a "betrayal of electoral promises." "The government has failed to deliver on its commitments made during the elections—whether it is the promise of 200 free units of electricity, 12 LPG cylinders per household, or other assurances given to the people," Sharma said.

He further added that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will question the government on its inability to create employment avenues for the youth. "In the election, the government promised to create one lakh jobs for the youth, but they have done nothing. We will ask them what they have done for the youth in the past year," he said.

On the other hand, Kashmir-based smaller opposition parties like the PDP, PC, and AIP are likely to agitate over statehood, reservation rationalisation, and other issues confronting the region.

As already reported, the Assembly Secretariat has disallowed a resolution submitted by the Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone seeking the restoration of statehood, stating that the matter is sub judice.

The centre of discussion in this session will be three government bills to be introduced by the government. The cabinet has already given its nod for amendments to the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, and the Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017, as well as for the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Business Establishment Bill, 2025.

As many as 450 questions, 13 private members' bills, and 55 private members' resolutions have been received by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat for the session. Thirty-three private members' bills, which were submitted in the last Assembly session, are pending in the House and will be given preference in business on October 28—the day fixed for private members' resolutions.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of the Assembly is meeting in the

Speaker's office today at 3:00 PM to discuss allocation of time for business in the House.

The Committee's role is to suggest how much time should be given to discuss different stages of Government Bills and other matters, as directed by the Speaker in consultation with the Leader of the House.

17 Candidates

Candidates from the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Apni Party, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Awami Itehad Party (AIP), along with several independents, are in the fray.

Officials said the by-election is expected to witness intense campaigning and is being closely watched for its potential impact on political equations in the region.

Ruhullah's Support

Mehmood told reporters while campaigning. Polling for the Budgam seat is scheduled for November 11, with counting of votes on November 14.

Ruhullah, the NC Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, has been at odds with the party leadership over the reservation policy. Last year, he sided with students demanding a review of the quota system, which currently reserves only 30 per cent of seats for the general category, despite them forming nearly 70 per cent of the population.

Mehmood clarified his earlier remarks about Ruhullah, blaming media distortion. "I did not say it does not matter whether he campaigns or not. Ruhullah belongs to a dynasty and has strong backing," he said.

He also highlighted Ruhullah's political journey, asserting that he became an MLA three times and an MP only because of the National Conference. "He could not have won on his own. Aga Syed Mehmood is contesting because of the party," he added.

Earlier, after Mehmood filed his nomination papers, he had claimed that Ruhullah would campaign for him. However, Ruhullah quickly refuted the claim, posting on X:

"My loyalty is to my conscience and principles. While I hold respect for my elders in my family, I request them not to belittle my fight. If they can't be part of it, at least don't drag me and my struggle to this level."

NC Will Win

seats in the elections scheduled for October 24. He also took a dig at the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, urging him to refrain from issuing "baseless statements."

Speaking on the sidelines of a joint strategy meeting, Omar said that ahead of every Assembly session, a Legislature Party Meeting is held. "This session is different from others as elections for the Rajya Sabha are being held, and a strategy was being prepared to secure victory in all the seats," he said, describing the

meeting as significant.

The Chief Minister thanked CPI(M) MLA Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami and other independents for attending the meeting. "With the enthusiasm visible among NC MLAs and independents, I am hopeful that NC will secure all four Rajya Sabha seats," he said.

Responding to queries about Congress's absence from the meeting, Omar said the party had its own meeting. "Congress has always maintained that they will not allow the BJP to emerge victorious. They have to wait for the high command's decision, whereas we take decisions here. The Congress high command cannot be in favour of the BJP," he added.

On PDP's support, Omar said, "Our leader, Shami Oberoi, met PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti today on behalf of the party to request support for NC candidates. Earlier, Dr. Farooq Abdullah also spoke with her. While no decision has been made public, they have promised to take a decision after internal discussions."

Omar also addressed recent statements by the LoP, clarifying, "We have not made any offer to form a government with the BJP. We don't hide anything. The LoP must stop issuing these baseless statements."

Op Sindoor Foundation

April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead, the Army Chief said that when the situation was discussed with him it was nothing new as when the Uri attack had happened all the options were discussed to deal with the situations that could arise in future. "So, I must concede very frankly, when this situation came to me, it was a very normal thing for me because I had already seen this earlier."

Pertinently, earlier this month the Army Chief had issued a fierce warning to Pakistan. "If the neighbouring country continues to support terrorism it will lose its geographical presence. If Pakistan wants to retain its place on the map, it must stop state-sponsored terrorism," the Army Chief had said speaking at an Army post in Rajasthan's Anupgarh.

He had maintained that the Indian forces won't show any restraint this time, hinting that a second version of 'Operation Sindoor' wouldn't be far away if Islamabad refuses to med its ways.

"This time we will not maintain the restraint that we had in Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will do something that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to retain its place in geography or not," General Dwivedi had said.

He had also asked the soldiers to stay prepared. "If God wills, you'll get an opportunity soon. All the best."

It may be recalled that 'Operation Sindoor' the mega military operation was undertaken by India to give a fitting reply in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. Nine terror camps were hit in Pakistan and PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) by Indian forces using long-range precision weapons on May 7, 2025.

The attack on terror camps led to skirmishes between the two countries for four days. A ceasefire followed on May 10 after the Pakistani commanders pleaded with their Indian counterparts to stop the offensive.(KNO)

Speaker Admits

be scheduled for discussion in the House.

The MMU, a conglomerate of religious bodies, has raised concerns that the 2025 Waqf Amendment Act undermines Muslim control over religious trusts and is discriminatory. In September 2025, the Supreme Court stayed certain provisions of the Waqf Act but did not address all concerns raised by the MMU.

The resolution seeking restoration of IAS, IPS, and other former state cadres follows the merger of Jammu and Kashmir civil services officers into the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. This merger effectively ended the separate J&K cadre for IAS and IPS officers. The act also led to the dismantling of the Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) and Kashmir Police Service (KPS), replacing them with new structures under central government control.

The nine-day autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is scheduled to begin on Thursday, setting the stage for discussions on these key resolutions. (inputs from PTI)

Govt Proposes

generative AI to create "convincing falsehoods", where such content can be "weaponised" to spread misinformation, damage reputations, manipulate or influence elections, or commit financial fraud.

The proposed amendments to IT rules provide a clear legal basis for labelling, traceability, and accountability related to synthetically-generated information.

Apart from clearly defining synthetically generated information, the draft amendment, on which comments from stakeholders have been sought by November 6, 2025, mandates labelling, visibility, and metadata embedding for synthetically generated or modified information to distinguish such content from authentic media.

The stricter rules would increase the accountability of significant social media intermediaries (those with 50 lakh or more registered users) in verifying and flagging synthetic information through reasonable and appropriate technical measures.

The draft rules mandate platforms to label AI-generated content with prominent markers and identifiers, covering a minimum of 10 per cent of the visual display or the initial 10 per cent of the duration of an audio clip.

MHA, Ladakh

Haneefa, part of Wednesday's discussions, said the leaders participated "with an open mind" but cautioned that immediate results

should not be expected.

Wangchuck is currently lodged in Jodhpur jail under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), which allows detention for up to 12 months.

The Home Ministry had earlier announced a judicial inquiry headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice B S Chauhan to probe the September 24 clashes. The inquiry aims to examine the law-and-order situation, police action, and the deaths of four civilians.

The talks focused on the core demands of LAB and KDA, including full statehood with a legislative assembly, Sixth Schedule protections, greater political autonomy, job reservations for locals, two Lok Sabha seats, and the formation of a dedicated recruitment body to address unemployment.

The dialogue represents the Centre's attempt to restore communication with local groups and address long-standing demands for constitutional safeguards and self-governance in the Union Territory.

9 Crorepatis, 3 With

till Class 10, and two till Class 8.

Most candidates have no criminal record, though three have pending cases: Apni Party's Ahmad faces a cheating case, BJP's Mohsin is accused of assault and obstructing a public servant, and independent Jibran Dar faces a case under Section 132 of the Representation of the People Act.

The bypoll was necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had won two seats in the last election, vacated Budgam to represent Ganderbal. Scrutiny of nomination papers concluded on Wednesday, and Friday is the last date for withdrawal of nominations.

Kashmir Riverbed

Doodh Ganga under Bhat's petition (IA No. 519) and imposed an interim penalty of Rs. 15.79 lakh on the contractors for illegal extraction.

Bhat said the full penalty has yet to be recovered. "I requested the chairman to recover the penalty. Despite clear orders from the Assistant Director of Fisheries to stop using heavy machinery, L&T cranes continue operating. The DMO is misleading higher authorities by ignoring the Supreme Court judgment," he added.

Residents of Karlwari and Borwah expressed fear that continued riverbed mining could worsen local flooding and damage fragile ecosystems, while eroding trust in administrative accountability.

The latest developments, Bhat said, underscore the challenges of enforcing environmental law in Kashmir's rapidly changing landscape.

Srinagar Bound

aircraft, as per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

IHPL 2025

Global Stars Gayle, Guptill, Marsh, Shakib Set To Light Up Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley is all set for a blockbuster cricket season as a wave of international and domestic cricket stars prepare to descend on Srinagar for the Indian Heaven Premier League 2025, kicking off on October 25 at Bakshi Stadium here. Several big names from around the cricketing world have been confirmed for the inaugural edition of the IHPL. The details reveal that among the marquee signings are West Indies legend Chris Gayle, New Zealand's explosive opener Martin Guptill, Australian star Shaun Marsh, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and West Indian spinner Garey Mathurin. Adding to the excitement, former West Indies opener Devon Smith and J&K's very own Parvez Rasool, along with Ishan Malhotra, are also set to feature in the tournament, bringing a blend of international flair and local pride to the Valley.



As excitement builds ahead of the tournament, a series of video messages from international players have gone viral on social media. Global cricket stars have expressed their enthusiasm for the Indian Heaven Premier League, sharing messages of anticipation and support for Kashmir's upcoming cricket spectacle. Meanwhile, the upcoming tour-

namment follows the tremendous success of the Legends League Cricket 2024 matches held last year, where thousands of spectators filled Bakshi Stadium to witness international legends in action for the first time in four decades. Notably, for fans, this marks yet another chance to see their heroes play at Kashmir soil, with turning the Valley into a true "Valley of Cricket." (KNO)

Chris Gayle Excited To Return To Kashmir For IHPL 2025

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Cricket superstar Christopher Henry Gayle or Chris Gayle, fondly known as the 'Universe Boss', has shared his return to Kashmir for the upcoming Indian Heaven Premier League 2025, beginning October 25 at Bakshi Stadium. In a video message that went viral on social media, Gayle said: "Srinagar, what's up! It's Chris Gayle, the Universe Boss himself, and I'm here with some exciting news. I will be a part of the Indian Heaven Premier League that kicks off on October 25 until November 8. You're going to see lots of superstars and more big names added to the tournament



as well." Encouraging fans to join the excitement, he added, "It's gonna be at Bakshi Stadium — yes, grab your tickets now! There will be lots of fun and excitement." Gayle's return to Kashmir follows his first visit in 2024, during the Legends League Cricket, where thousands of fans packed Bakshi Stadium to witness him in action.

The "Gayle fever" had gripped the valley, with chants of "Gaya-loo, Gayloo" echoing through the stands as he took the field for the first time in Srinagar. During that time, nearly 30,000 fans turned out for the matches, making it one of the biggest sporting spectacles in recent years. The overwhelming response highlighted Kashmir's growing enthusiasm for professional cricket. Meanwhile, with the IHPL set to bring more international names and star players to the valley, Gayle's video has reignited the excitement among local fans who still remember the electrifying atmosphere from his last appearance. (KNO)

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