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## CWC Report: Himalayan Lakes Growing, 50 in J&amp;K at Risk

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Glacial lakes and other water bodies in the Himalayan region have grown by 9.24% over the past 14 years, highlighting the visible impact of climate change, according to a report by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

The total area of glacial lakes and water bodies increased from

5.30 lakh hectares in 2011 to 5.79 lakh hectares in 2025. The CWC's Monthly Monitoring Report, which tracks water bodies in the Himalayas, notes that shrinking glaciers and expanding lakes are among the clearest signs of global warming in the region.

Over the 14-year period, 1,435 glacial lakes and water bodies showed an increase in their



water spread, while 1,008 recorded a decrease. Using high-resolution Sentinel satellite data via Google Earth Engine, the CWC monitors 2,843 lakes across the Himalayan belt.

Within India, 428 lakes have expanded and require vigorous monitoring for disaster preparedness. Jammu & Kashmir accounts for 50 of these lakes,

while Ladakh has 133, Himachal Pradesh 13, Uttarakhand 7, Sikkim 44, and Arunachal Pradesh 181. The total water spread in Indian glacial lakes rose from 1,995 hectares in 2011 to 2,445 hectares in 2025, a 22.56% increase.

The commission warned that growing lake sizes elevate the risk of Glacial | [More on P6](#)

## Resolution On Waqf Board Dropped

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party (PDP) legislator Waheed Parra on Thursday said that his resolution seeking the restoration of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board and its custodianship by the Muttahid-e-Majlis-e-Ulema was dropped from the Assembly ballot.

In a post on X, Parra stated, "Our resolution to restore the J&K Waqf Board and hand over its custodianship to the Muttahid-e-Majlis-e-Ulema was dropped in the Assembly ballot." He added | [More on P6](#)

## Assembly Session Begins With Obituary Tributes



Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly commenced on Thursday with members paying homage to leaders who passed away recently.

Before proceedings began, MLAs from the ruling National Conference (NC) and Congress staged a silent protest on the Assembly premises, demanding the release of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, who was arrested in September under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly disturbing public order in Doda district.

As the House assembled, NC MLA from Sonawari, Hilal

Lone, raised the issue of Malik's arrest. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather asked him to take his seat, assuring that he would be allowed to speak on the matter later. Urging members to make the most of the nine-day session, Rather said, "We have limited time, and we should try to make optimum use of it."

The session opened with obituary references to honour former J-K governor Satya Pal Malik, who passed away on August 5. Tributes were also paid to former minister Gulchain Singh Charak, former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat, ex-MLCs Ghulam Nabi Shaheen, Ramesh Arora, Sardar Mohammad | [More on P6](#)

## NC, BJP Clash Over References To Satya Pal Malik

The opening day of the autumn session of J-K Assembly witnessed heated exchanges during obituary references, as the National Conference and the opposition BJP traded barbs over the role of former governor late Satya Pal Malik in the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The name of Malik – the 10th and last governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

## CM Moots Parliament-Style Condolence

Paying tributes to former MLAs during obituary references on the first day of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly's autumn session, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday suggested adopting a concise condolence procedure similar to that followed in Parliament. He also urged the Speaker to seek an explanation for the omission of late legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpuri's name from the references. | [More on P6](#)

## J&amp;K RS Polls Today: NC Poised To Bag 3 Seats, BJP Eyes 4th

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The first Rajya Sabha elections since Jammu and Kashmir's downgrade to a Union Territory are set to take place on Friday, with the outcome of the fourth seat emerging as the key contest between the National Conference (NC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Voting will be held from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at three polling booths set up in the



Legislative Assembly complex, followed by counting at 5:00 PM.

While the NC appears poised to win three of the four seats, | [More on P6](#)

## NC Issues Whip To MLAs

The ruling National Conference (NC) on Thursday issued a whip to its MLAs, directing them to be present in the assembly and vote in favour

of party candidates in the election for four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir. The polling will be held on Friday. NC chief whip Mubarak Gul | [More on P6](#)

## PDP, Cong To Back NC Candidates

The Congress and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday announced their support for the National Conference (NC) in Friday's Rajya Sabha elections, describing the move as a strategic effort to prevent the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from gaining a seat. Addressing a press briefing, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Hameed Karra said the decision was taken after detailed consultations with the party's central leadership and | [More on P6](#)

## AAP MLA's Detention

## NC, Congress Stage Silent Protest

Observe News Service

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) and Congress legislators on Thursday held a silent protest outside the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, demanding the release of Doda MLA Mehraj Malik, who is currently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The lawmakers and supporters gathered outside the Assembly complex holding placards reading "Free Mehraj Malik" and "Restore Doda's Representation." They observed a few minutes | [More on P6](#)

## DM: Pak Will Think Twice After Op Sindoor Strike



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Operation Sindoor gave Pakistan a "good dose" of caution, and it will now think twice before attempting any "misadventure" against India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

In an interaction with soldiers in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, the defence minister, at the same time, asked the armed forces to stay vigilant, as India's "adversaries are never inactive".

Sending a stern warning to Pakistan, Singh said the Indian military will deliver a harsher response if it resorts to any misadventure.

"Pakistan will now think twice before attempting any misadventure against India, as our Armed Forces have given them a good dose of caution during Operation Sindoor," he said.

The defence minister | [More on P6](#)

## Ex-JE Jailed 7 Years for Two-Decade-Old DoB Fraud

Court Also Imposes Rs 352760 Fine On Octogenarian For 21-Month Overstay

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A Pulwama court on Thursday sentenced a former Junior Engineer of the Rural Development Department to seven years' imprisonment for manipulating his date of birth by five years in his service book.

Special Judge Anti-Corruption Pulwama, Dr. Noor Mohammad Mir, also imposed a fine of Rs 3,52,760 on the convict, Sonaulah Wani (now octogenarian), after finding him guilty of multiple offences, more than two decades after the trial began.

According to prosecution, the case had

been registered in 2000 by erstwhile Vigilance Organization of Kashmir (VoK), now Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), following a complainant.

During the investigation, the VoK had sent Wani's matriculation certificate to J&K Board of School Education for verification and it had confirmed his actual Date of Birth to be 8 June 1940 instead of 8 June 1945.

Wani's Service Book was also sent to Jammu and Kashmir Forensic Science Laboratory Srinagar and it confirmed that its first

page had been torn off and fresh one tagged. Besides, all the entries including Date of Birth entry were found to be fictitious, which have been made by Wani under his own hand, the prosecution said.

The investigation revealed that Wani caused wrongful loss to the state exchequer to the tune of Rs.2,62,760 by his overstay in the department fraudulently for 21 months beyond his actual date of retirement i.e 30 June 1998. Wani's pay had been stopped in April 2000.

In 2003, the VoK had filed chargesheet against Wani for the offences punishable under sections 5 (2) Prevention of Corruption Act 2006 and erstwhile RPC's 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of valuable documents) and 471 (using forged documents as genuine).

After hearing both the sides and weighing evidence, the court held Wani guilty for the commission of offences punishable under section 420, 467, 471 RPC and 5 (2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006.

The court said that convicted person as a public servant, | [More on P6](#)

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#### از نیابت بوئی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فرحت فیاض دختر فیاض احمد انگریز ساکنہ سیلو برادعطاگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق خودسائل

#### اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمرہ انگریزیشن کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی خمارذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل عیدی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

جاوید احمد خمار ولد محمد سلطان خمار	پرائیوٹ ملازم	44	16400
افشان بیگم زوجہ جاوید احمد	گھریلو کام	46	
عروہ جاوید دختر	زیر تعلیم	16	
محمد امیر پسر جاوید احمد	--	14	

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی 16400 روپے تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سراسر ان کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میں عدا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار FKO

#### از نیابت بوئی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فرحت فیاض دختر فیاض احمد انگریز ساکنہ سیلو برادعطاگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق خودسائل

#### اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمرہ انگریزیشن کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی انگریز ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکنہ سیلو میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

فیاض احمد انگریز ولد غلام رسول	مزدوری	48 سال	
فرورسہ بیگم زوجہ فیاض احمد	گھریلو کام	45	
فرحت فیاض دختر فیاض احمد	زیر تعلیم	26 سال	
میک فیاض دختر	-	22 سال	
صنوبری فیاض دختر	--	20 سال	
ساح فیاض پسر فیاض احمد	--	14 سال	

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی 10000 روپے تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سراسر ان کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میں عدا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار FKO

#### From Office of the Advocate Adv Mohammad Umar

In the case of  
Travel Agents Association of North Kashmir through  
President  
1. Sajad Ahmad dar S/o: Tariq Ahmad dar R/o: Gotipora Narbal  
2. Syed Muneer Qadri S/o: Syed Riyaz qadri R/o Sheikhhpura  
Dhobiwan ( Spokesperson )  
3: Mudasir hamid mir S/o: Abdul hamid mir R/o Mamoosa  
Pattan (Executive member)  
4: Kulsum ahad Through husband Ajiaz Ahmad wani  
R/o Pattan ( Executive Member)

(Caveator)  
V/s  
Public at large  
In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

#### From Office of the Advocate Adv Mohammad Umar

In the case of  
1. Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi  
2. Nayeem Ahmad Sofi  
Sons of Ghulam Mohiuddin Sofi  
Both residents of Jamia Mohalla Pattan, Tehsil Pattan  
3. Mst Baby D/o Ghulam Mohiuddin Sofi W/o Mohammad  
Ashraf Mir R/o Qamarwari Srinagar

(Caveator)  
V/s  
Public at large  
In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 12th pass Provisional Cum Character Certificate issued by Boys Higher Secondary Magam . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the above mentioned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Naseer-ul-Lateef  
S/o Abdul Lateef Shah  
R/o Sozeth Narbal

fko

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SHOGUFTA SHAHEEN D/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT to (New name) SHU- GUFTA SHAHEEN W/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF RATHER . In future i will be known as (new Name)SHUGUFTA SHAHEEN W/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF RATHER. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. Af- ter 7 days no objection will be accepted.

SHUGUFTA SHAHEEN  
W/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF RATHER.

mcb

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name & DOB in my Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as Feroz Ah Rather C/O Ab Satar Rather & DOB is 11-07-1973 while my correct Name & DOB as per PAN Card is Farooz Ahmad Rather C/O Abdul Satar Rather & DOB is 20-11-1973. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Farooz Ahmad Rather  
C/O Abdul Satar Rather  
R/O Ashmuji Khalsa Kulgam

JNA7780878931

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my Name from (Old Name) RIYAZ AHMAD BHAT to (New Name) RAYAZ AHMAD BHAT in future I will be known as (New Name) RAYAZ AHMAD BHAT. If anybody is hav- ing any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 (Seven) days after 7 days no objection will be accepted.

RAYAZ AHMAD BHAT

JNA7780878931

#### OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR SRINAGAR

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the License No.JK-0120060048695 issued in favour of IDRESS AMIN SHAH Parentage MOHAMMAD AMIN SHAH

Whereas an application has been recieved by one IDRESS AMIN SHAH Parentage MOHAMMAD AMIN SHAH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as IDREES AMIN SHAH Which needs to be changed as IDRESS AMIN SHAH.

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

Regional Transport officer  
Kashmir

mcb

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter the name is entered as ASMA while his actual name is ASMA JEHangIR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

JEHANGIR GANI  
F/O ASMA JEHangIR  
R/o NASRULLAH PORA BUDGAM

mcb

CELL. 9906821513

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

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the License No.JK-0420150027339 issued in favour of BILAL AHMAD KHAN Parentage GHULAM NABI KHAN

Whereas an application has been recieved by one BILAL AHMAD KHAN Parentage GHULAM NABI KHAN wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as BILAL AHMAD Parentage GH NABI KHAN Which needs to be changed as BILAL AHMAD KHAN Parentage GHULAM NABI KHAN.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Aqib Bashir Lone To (New Name) Aqib Bashir . In future I will be know as (New Name) Aqib Bashir. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall b entertained.

bmj

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and father's name in my Aadher Card bearing Aadhar No:- 5520 5657 1227 has been wrongly mentioned as Ghulam Hussan Marazi S/O. Abdul Khaliq Marazi instead of Gh Hassan Marazi . S/O. Ab Khaliq Marazi . Now I am applying for its Correction as per Domicile Certificate recard Bearing Certificate No:- Dom/1910/08feb2023/170816127 . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Gh Hassan Marazi  
S/O. Ab Khaliq Marazi  
R/O :- Langate , Tehsil :- Langate .  
Distt :- Kupwara . Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .

mcb



Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed homestay unit under the name & Style of M/s. Golden Oaks " situated at Near Aisha medicate Arbal Shalimar srinagar

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Ms. Sami Ibrahim W/o Mohammad Ibrahim Bhat R/o RathPora Eidgah Srinagar Intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed homestay unit under the name and style" M/s. Golden Oaks" situated at Near Aisha medicate Arbal Shalimar srinagar Tour- ist Trade Act(1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experi- ence certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Ma- terial (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:- ddreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

FKO

#### Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

-----E mail Id xenmhd-ang@jk.gov.in-----

GIST of short term e-NIT No MHTA/TS/51 of 2025-26 DATED: 22-10-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT short term e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered contractors/Firms having experience in executing relevant mechanical works for the below mentioned works:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Repairs to Departmental Snow Cutter (Fresia-F90) of Mechanical Snow Clearance Control Room Kulgam.	99070.00	200.00	2000.00	07
2	Repairs/replacement of Clutch Plate Assembly of Snow Cat 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sonaliika 90 HP), Snow Cat 7 <sup>th</sup> (Preet 90 HP) and Providing and fitting of Glass Pane to Snow Cat 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Mechanical Snow Clearance Control Room Kulgam/Bathipora.	144000.00	200.00	2900.00	07
3	Preventive/ Corrective Maintenance of 2 No.s Front End Loaders ( Liugong 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) of Mechanical and Hospital Sub Division 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anantnag (Hq Pulwama).	178750.00	200.00	3600.00	07

- **Position of Administrative Approval:** Accorded vide No. M&HED/K/Acctt/35 of 2025-26 dated 08-05-2025 by Chief Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Directorate Kashmir.
- **Position of Technical Sanction:** Accorded
- **Position of Funds:** Available
- 1. **Downloading of Bids:** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from **22-10-2025 (16:00Hrs)**
- 2. **Submission of Bids:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from **22-10-2025 (17:00Hrs)** to **30-10-2025 (14:00Hrs)** in two covers.
- 3. **Opening of Bids:** The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on **31-10-2025 (14:00Hrs)** in Office of the undersigned.

DIPK-7445/25  
dated: 23-10-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
Mechanical and Hospital Division  
Anantnag

No: MHTA/ TS-352/2575-77  
Dated: 22-10-2025

#### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. ANMT SCHOOL ANANTNAG Near Power recelving station Akura Mattan Anantnag(192125)

##### ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Subject: Admission to Left Over seats in Various 12" based Diploma Courses coming under the pur- view of SAHC Council J&K for the session 2025-26,

Ref.No:S.O 333 of 2024 Dated: 13/06/2024 & SAHC/Gen/25/1/701-711 Dated: 14/10/2025.

Pursuant to the notification issued by State Allied Healthcare Council vide No:SAHC/Gen/25/1/701- 711 Dated:14/10/2025 & with reference to S.O 333 Dated:13/06/2024 , applications are invited from eligible/desirous candidates for admission to left over seats in various 12" based Diploma Courses at Govt. ANMT School Anantnag as per the Discipline/stream wise break-up given below ;

S.NO.	TRAINING COURSE	LEFTOVER SEATS
1	XRAY ASSISTANT	20
2	OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT	13
3	LABORATORY ASSISTANT	12
4	ECG TECHNICIAN	11
5	ANAESTHESIA ASSISTANT	6.
6	OT TECHNICIAN	7
7	DENTALASSISTANT	16
8	PHARMA/MEDICAL AS- SISTANT	12
9	ISM	8
Grand Total		105

The selection of the candidates to such courses shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by Health & Medical Education Department J&k & as notified by J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations for the session 2025-26.

**Note:** In case ,if the number of candidates belonging to a reserved category being less than the number of seats available for the category, the resultant vacancies shall be filled from amongst the candidates figuring in the open merit category strictly in order of merit.

##### Eligibility Criteria

A candidate must:

1. be a domicile of UT J&K.
2. not have crossed minimum age of 35 years as on 01-01-2025.
3. have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination from recognized board with Science subjects.
4. be medically fit.

##### Important Information:

1. Attach self attested Photo copies of D.O.B certificate, 10+2 marks Sheet, domicile certificate, valid Category certificate by competent authority & Two recent Passport size photographs with applica- tion form.
2. Offline Application forms will be available at establishment section of Govt. ANMT School Akura Anantnag from 23/10/2025. ; :
3. The application forms complete in all respects along with requisite documents are to be submit- ted in the Establishment Section of the undersigned.
4. Last date for submission of duly filled application forms shall be 31/10/2025 till 3.30pm.
5. Incomplete/deficient forms will be readily rejected.

No: Est/ANMTS/Ang /117883  
DIPK-7425/25 Dated: 23/10/2025.

Principal  
Govt ANMT School Anantnag

#### Govt ANMT SCHOOL Anantnag

##### Application form 12th based Diploma Courses

TO BE FILLED BY THE CANDIDATE						
Applying for training Course:						
1 <sup>st</sup> pref. _____, 2 <sup>nd</sup> pref. _____, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pref. _____, 4 <sup>th</sup> Pref. _____.						
_____ 5 <sup>th</sup> pref. _____, 6 <sup>th</sup> pref. _____, 7 <sup>th</sup> pref. _____.						
_____ 8 <sup>th</sup> pref. _____, 9 <sup>th</sup> pref. _____.						
Name of the Candidate (as per D.O.B certificate): _____.						
Parentage (as per D.O.B certificate): _____.						
Date of Birth _____.						
Age as on 01-01-2025 (Years,Months, days) _____.						
Permanent Address: _____.						
Gender _____ Category _____.						
Contact NO: _____.						
Email Id: _____.						
Academic Qualification:						
Class	Subjects	Year of Passing	Marks Obtdnd.	Max. Marks	Percentage(%)	Board/Institute/ University
12 <sup>th</sup>						
Dated: _____.						
Signature of Candidate						



## Midnight Fire Reduces 9 Habba Kadal Homes To Ashes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A devastating fire tore through Karfali Mohalla in Habba Kadal during the night between Wednesday and Thursday, reducing nine houses and a godown to ashes and leaving thirteen families homeless.

According to locals, the fire erupted around midnight near the community hall in the densely populated locality. Flames quickly spread from one house to another, creating panic among residents.

Fire and Emergency Service teams from Maharaj Gunj, Babdem, and Headquarters stations rushed to the scene to control the inferno, but narrow lanes and congested housing typical of old Srinagar slowed containment efforts. After several hours of firefighting, nine houses were completely destroyed, with several adjoining homes partially damaged.

Residents described the night as one of chaos and fear. “Flames rose so high, lighting up the entire neighbourhood. People ran screaming, clutching whatever belongings they could grab,” said Sahil, a local resident. Many

barely escaped with their children, while others lost decades of memories, photographs, clothes, documents, and savings in minutes.

Authorities confirmed that no casualties were reported. However, the material losses were immense, leaving families stranded in the chilly October night. Locals came together, sharing clothes, blankets, and food salvaged from neighbours.

Political and social leaders have expressed concern. PDP President Mehbooba Mufti tweeted: “Dozens of families have been left without a roof over their heads in this harsh winter, losing not just shelter but a lifetime of belongings. It’s heartbreaking.” She urged the government to provide immediate financial assistance and building materials so families can rebuild.

Police and Fire Department teams have launched an investigation into the cause of the fire and are recording statements of affected families. District administration officials visited the site, assuring relief and rehabilitation measures for those affected.

### 'Early Intervention Of Mental Health Issues'

## KU Hosts Workshop For School Teachers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir (KU), launched a two-day training workshop for school educators on ‘Time-Dependent Prevention and Early Intervention of Mental Health Issues in School Settings’ at the University’s Main Campus.

The programme aims to equip teachers with the skills to identify, respond to, and prevent mental health issues among students through structured interventions and school-based strategies. School teachers from various districts are participating in interactive sessions, skill-building modules, and discussions on early intervention techniques.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan emphasized the importance of youth mental health, saying, “Teachers are often the first to notice

when a child is struggling, and empowering them with the right tools and understanding can make all the difference.”

Noted psychiatrist Dr. Arshid Hussain from IMHANS Srinagar highlighted the transformative role teachers can play in fostering emotional well-being when equipped with scientific and empathetic approaches.

Dr. Aadil Bashir, faculty at KU’s Department of Social Work and Principal Investigator of the ICMR-sponsored project, said the workshop bridges the gap between research and practice, translating field findings into practical tools for educators.

As part of the project, the team has developed “Wal Sukoon Chandav” (Come, Let’s Find Peace), a manual designed to support students’ emotional well-being, promote resilience, and create safe, responsive school environments.

### 2nd Edition Of Kashmir Marathon

## Div Com Directs Pothole-Free Track, Aid Stations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director Tourism, Vice Chairman LCMA, ADC Srinagar, SSP Traffic, Director Health, and officers from departments including Information, KPDCL, R&B, PHE, Youth Services & Sports, and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com emphasized ensuring comprehensive arrangements at the flag-off cum finishing spot, including electricity, sanitation, first-aid, and toilet facilities.

He directed the Director Tourism to share the detailed Marathon route plan with all concerned departments for effective coordination of responsibilities and arrangements.

The Director Tourism and SSP Traffic were instructed to arrange an adequate number of barricades for smooth traffic management on the event day.



# After 15 Years, Noor Jehan Bridge Set To Open

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The long-delayed Noor Jehan Bridge at Qamarwari, spanning 127 metres over the Jhelum River, is finally set to open within days—offering long-awaited relief to thousands of commuters caught daily in downtown Srinagar’s traffic snarls.

Sanctioned in 2009 at an estimated cost of 9.5 crore, the bridge was conceived to ease congestion near the old Cement Bridge—one of the city’s busiest and most chaotic junctions. However, the project missed multiple deadlines over the years due to land disputes, contractor delays, and shifting government priorities.

Shabir Ahmad Kumar, Superintending Engineer, R&B Division Srinagar (North), said that the bridge has been completed and is ready for use. “We have conducted the load test and resolved all pending issues. The bridge is complete and awaiting final approval for public opening,” he said.

Locals, who have endured over a decade of gridlock, expressed hope that the new

## DC Srinagar Reviews Progress

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, conducted an onsite inspection of the Rs 14.77 crore Noor Jehan Bridge over River Jhelum at Qamarwari, assessing the progress of the near-completion project aimed at improving connectivity between Noorbagh and Qamarwari.

Accompanied by Additional DC Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B Shabir


Ahmad, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, Executive Engineers, and Tehsildars, the DC reviewed the pace and quality of work.

Labroo directed the executing agencies to expedite remaining works, ensure proper road alignment, and complete finishing works on a war footing. He highlighted that the bridge, whose load testing has been completed, will significantly ease traffic on the existing Qamarwari-Cement Bridge and provide alternative connectivity across the River Jhelum.

bridge will ease movement between Noorbagh and Qamarwari. “If this bridge had opened on time, half of this traffic chaos wouldn’t have existed. But now that it’s finally ready, we hope to see real change,” said Riyaz Ahmad, a resident.

For nearly 15 years, the area has been a nightmare for commuters, with ambulances, school buses, and office-goers frequently stranded for hours during rush hours.

Once operational, the Noor Jehan Bridge will directly connect Noorbagh with Qamarwari, drastically reducing travel time and easing pressure on the old Cement Bridge—ushering in smoother intra-city mobility across Srinagar’s northern corridor.



## SAD DEMISE


With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Ali Mohammad Ganaie, S/o Mohammad Ramzan Ganaie, R/o Wandakpora, Tehsil Awantipora, Pulwama, who passed away on Wednesday, 22nd October 2025.

The deceased was a kind-hearted and humble person, loved and respected by all.

Fateh Khawani will be held on Saturday, 25th October 2025, at his residence in Wandakpora. Condolence prayers will continue throughout the day.


### Bereaved Family:

- Mohammad Maqbool (Son)
- Mohammad Saleem (Son)
- Rayees Ahmad (Grandson)




- 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 )



### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 19
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4: 09
Magrib	5:50
ISHA	7: 11

## This Day In History

- 1260 - Qutuz, Mamluk Sultans of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Baibars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself
- 1260 - The spectacular Cathedral of Chartres is dedicated in the presence of King Louis IX of France; now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 1360 - The Treaty of Brétigny is ratified at Calais, marking the end of the first phase of the Hundred Years' War.
- 1531 - Bavaria joins Schmalkaldic League
- 1596 - Battle at Kerestes: Ottoman beat Austria-Hungary & Germany
- 1601 - Johannes Kepler succeeds Tycho Brahe as imperial mathematician to Emperor Rudolph II
- 1648 - Treaty of Westphalia ends The Thirty Year's War in the Holy Roman Empire; Switzerland's independence recognized
- 1656 - Treaty of Vilnius: Russia & Poland sign anti-Swedish covenant
- 1681 - Earl of Shaftesbury accused of high treason in London
- 1795 - 3rd Partition of Poland, between Austria, Prussia & Russia
- 1812 - Napoleonic Wars: The Battle of Maloyaroslavets takes place near Moscow.
- 1861 - First US transcontinental telegram is sent (from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.)
- 1909 - Italy and Russia sign the Racconigi Pact in which both nations promise to support the status quo in the Balkans
- 1917 - Battle at Caporetto: German & Austria smash Italian army
- 1924 - Nobel prize for physiology or medicine awarded to Dutchman Willem Einthoven “for his discovery of the mechanism of the electrocardiogram”
- 1930 - A bloodless coup d'état in Brazil ousts Washington Luís Pereira de Sousa, the last President of the First Republic.Getúlio Vargas then installed as “provisional president.”
- 1932 - British government signs trade treaty with USSR
- 1938 - US forbids child labor in factories
- 1942 - Second day of battle at El Alamein: British infantry
- 1944 - US aircraft carrier Princeton sinks at Philippines
- 1945 - Charter of United Nations comes into effect
- 1946 - Netherlands & Indonesia sign cease fire
- 1952 - Arab Liberation Movement becomes only political party in Syria
- 1957 - The USAF starts the X-20 Dyna-Soar program.
- 1958- USSR lends Egypt 400 million rubles to build Aswan Dam
- 1969 - Hanif, Mushtaq & Sadiq Mohammad start their only Test Cricket together
- 1975 - Turkish diplomat shot dead in Paris
- 1980 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1980 - Iraqi troops occupies Khorramshar
- 1984 - Intelsat 5 re-enters Earth's atmosphere 5 months after it failed
- 1986 - Great Britain drops diplomatic relations with Syria
- 1994 - Bomb attack on opposition in Sri Lanka, 55+ killed
- 1998 - Launch of Deep Space 1 on comet and asteroid mission
- 2009 - First International Day of Climate Action, organized with 350.org, a global campaign to address a claimed global warming crisis.
- 2012 - Libyan militias capture Bani Walid resulting in 130 civilian deaths
- 2016 - Suicide bomb kills 61 and injures 117 at a police training academy in Quetta, Pakistan, ISIS claims responsibility
- 2020- Deadliest shipwreck of the year claims 140 lives on a ship that sank with 200 migrants on board off the coast of Senegal
- 2021- Michael Jordan's 1984 Nike Air Ships sell for \$1.472 million at Sotheby's, setting a new record for sneakers at auction

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shabnum Jan W/o Late Syed Javeed Hussain Mother of Syed Muntaha Javeed R/o Rajpora Pulwama do hereby solemnly declare as under: That my daughter is reading in class 8th at Lyceum International Pulwama. That mother's name of my daughter has been mentioned in the school records as: Syed Shabnum The correct and actual mother's name of my daughter is as per Aadhar as under: Mother's Name: Shabnum Jan Now correction required, if anybody has any objection may contact concern school within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Shabnum Jan W/o Late Syed Javeed Hussain Mother of Syed Muntaha Javeed R/o Rajpora Pulwama

fko



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**Switchboard:** (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705  
**Editorial:** (0194) 2502327  
**Email:** editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

## The Kashmir We Don't Photograph

Every season, our phones fill with different shades of Kashmir. There are images of Dal Lake shining at sunrise, tulip gardens in full bloom, and hillsides covered in flowers. Tourists arrive with cameras, calling it “paradise on earth.” Those pictures travel far, but they show only one side of life here.

Away from those frames, another Kashmir exists. The man rowing a shikara at dawn has been working since early morning, hoping to earn enough to feed his family. The woman planting rice spends hours in muddy fields, her back bent and hands sore. The street vendor selling nuts near the lake faces eviction whenever officials clear the roads.

These people are the ones who keep the valley alive, but their stories rarely appear in anyone's photo.

Behind the beauty, life has become harder for many families. Prices keep rising while jobs remain scarce. Government data says unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is around six percent, but among young people, it is nearly three times higher. Tourism brings money, but most of it goes to those who own hotels and transport. The workers who serve visitors earn the least and struggle the most.

The way Kashmir is shown to the world also adds to the problem. When people see only perfect landscapes, they forget the effort behind them. Local photographers often say their pictures of farmers, artisans, or children in old neighbourhoods get ignored. Media outlets prefer snow peaks and sunsets over stories of people's lives and work.

Kashmir's story is more than its scenery. It belongs to the farmer who waits for rain, the mother who runs her home with little, and the young man who still searches for a job. They carry the real spirit of this land.

To truly see Kashmir, we have to look past the post-card views. The real beauty lives in the people who row the boats, plant the fields, weave the shawls, and build the homes. They are the ones who keep this valley breathing every day.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Kashmir's Swiss Dream

The Alps and the Himalayas share more than beauty. It's time Kashmir follow Switzerland's economic playbook.

Irshad Mushtaq

When people picture prosperity, Switzerland often comes to mind. The country's snow peaks and green valleys remind many of Kashmir, but their economies tell very different stories. Switzerland turned its mountains into money, while Kashmir is still struggling to tap its potential.

The Swiss secret lies in habits more than resources. From an early age, children learn to save, invest, and live within their means. A culture of financial discipline runs deep. Instead of chasing short-term comfort, people focus on long-term security. In Switzerland, debt is seen as a trap, not a tool, and most citizens avoid it to stay financially independent.

Entrepreneurship also drives Swiss prosperity. Small and medium enterprises make up almost 99% of their businesses. The government supports innovation with skill programs, easy credit, and world-class education. This blend of creativity and stability keeps the economy strong even during global downturns.

Another lesson lies in moderation. Swiss people enjoy comfort without excess. They invest in their futures instead of flaunting wealth. Their social welfare and healthcare systems ensure no one is left behind, which keeps productivity and trust high.

For Kashmir, these lessons matter. We need to build financial awareness, especially among youth. Schools can teach basic investing and saving habits. The government can back local entrepreneurs with training and low-interest loans. Families can rethink spending patterns and prioritize education, health, and skill-building.

Kashmir may not become Switzerland overnight, but with steady steps toward literacy, entrepreneurship, and responsible finance, it can grow into a place where natural beauty meets real prosperity.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

### Letter to Editor

## The Hands That Nurture Kashmiri Children

Before the first bell rings in government schools across Jammu and Kashmir, a woman moves through the classrooms carrying a broom in one hand and a child's hand in the other. She wipes desks, arranges mats, comforts crying children, and helps little ones begin their day feeling safe and cared for.

She is the AAYA, a familiar figure in schools whose presence shapes early learning in ways that often go unnoticed. Her role may seem small, but it is central to how children experience school for the first time.

Under the Samagra Shiksha framework, the government has strengthened Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), aiming to nurture children aged three

to six through learning, health, and care. Teachers lead lessons, but the AAYA provides the support that allows learning to take root. She is the bridge between home and school, turning anxiety into comfort, and hesitation into curiosity.

Her work extends far beyond keeping classrooms tidy. She guides children safely between play areas, toilets, and classrooms, ensures hygiene, cleans toys and mats, and supports teachers during storytelling, art, and group activities. During meals under programs like PM POSHAN, she makes sure every child eats properly, follows hygiene routines, and feels included. A gentle word or gesture from her can transform a shy child's day.

Her emotional presence matters

just as much. She often soothes the first tears, calms fears, and offers a lap of reassurance. She understands the small needs of children in ways adults focused on instruction may miss. In her care, children learn trust, safety, and belonging, the invisible lessons that shape their earliest social and emotional growth.

Recognition of AAYAs remains limited. Teachers and school heads can change that. Respect, guidance, and inclusion in staff discussions allow AAYAs to feel valued. Training in early childhood development, hygiene, safety, and first aid strengthens their work. Timely honorarium and acknowledgment of their daily efforts reinforce their dignity.

When teachers and AAYAs work in harmony, children witness respect

and cooperation between adults. They absorb lessons in empathy, fairness, and equality without being taught. Schools become spaces where care is central, forming the foundation of education.

The AAYA may not teach letters or numbers, but she teaches children how to trust, feel safe, and belong. Each child walking confidently into a classroom carries the invisible hand of an AAYA who made the first day less frightening and more beautiful.

The real measure of our schools lies in how they treat those who nurture the heart of learning.

Sincerely

Arshid Qalmi  
aqalmi303@gmail.com

# Who Is Plundering Doodh Ganga Again?

Despite Supreme Court and NGT orders declaring Short-Term Permits illegal, sand mining continues in Kashmir's rivers, exposing a deep governance failure and an alarming disregard for the law.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

“If the law of the land says Short-Term Permits are non-est, how can new ones be issued? When court orders are so clear, why is enforcement so weak? These are questions that need answers not in files, but in action on the ground. The Supreme Court gave us a chance to correct the past. Whether we seize it or let the river die under the weight of excavators will decide the kind of future we want, for Doodh Ganga, and for Kashmir itself.

In March 2024, India's Supreme Court delivered what many environmentalists hailed as a landmark judgment. A bench led by Justice Abhay S. Oka and Justice Sanjay Karol ruled that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had acted arbitrarily in granting blanket exemptions to certain mining and construction activities. The court made it clear: every project that could harm the environment must first obtain a proper environmental clearance.

This ruling, in the Noble M. Paikada vs. Union of India case, went a step further by declaring “Short-Term Permits” (STPs) and “Disposal Permits” (DPs) illegal, non-est, under law.

These permits had long been used as shortcuts to bypass environmental checks and speed up riverbed mining operations. The judgment, in effect, outlawed a practice that had devastated river systems across India, including Kashmir's Doodh Ganga and Sukhnag streams.

But, months later, the same old story unfolds in broad daylight. Trucks, excavators, and JCBs are back at the banks of Doodh Ganga in Budgam district, ripping sand and gravel from its bed. And they do this under the same permits, STPs and DPs, that no longer have any legal standing.

This isn't the first time authorities have turned a blind eye. Earlier, on March 15, 2024, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed an interim penalty of 15.79 lakh on two contractors for illegal riverbed mining in Chadoora. They had used heavy machinery in violation of their environmental clearance.

The NGT order, passed by Justice Sudhir Aggarwal and Dr. A. Senthil Vel, also banned further mining in Doodh Ganga and directed the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JK-PCC) to recover the fine.

The tribunal even calculated the contractors' potential earnings from the illegal extraction, over 1.5 crore in three months, and ordered them to pay 10% as environmental compensation.

The message was unmistakable: Kashmir rivers are not for sale.

But enforcement has faltered. Even after clear judicial directions, the final penalty remains unrecovered, and mining has resumed in the same streams under new “Short-Term Permits.”

The District Mineral Officer (DMO) of Budgam and the Assistant Director of Fisheries have issued fresh permits, allegedly allowing contractors to excavate riverbed material at Kralwari and Borwah villages, again using heavy machinery.

On October 21, 2025, I visited Kralwari myself, along with a few concerned citizens. What we witnessed was shocking. Excavators were operating openly in the river. The machines roared as if mocking the law. The contractor showed no fear, perhaps emboldened by official backing.

When questioned, local irrigation officials appeared helpless. They admitted they couldn't intervene. It's strange how the same departments act swiftly against poor labourers who dig sand manually but stay silent when powerful contractors use machines that gouge the riverbed.

Later that day, the Assistant Director of Fisheries, perhaps realizing his mistake, wrote a letter to the DMO Budgam (communication no. ADF/Bud/2025-26/Misc dated 21.10.2025) asking that the contractor stop using heavy machinery. The DMO did not act.

This is more than a local issue. It reflects how environmental governance collapses when accountability is missing. The Supreme Court's 2024 ruling was explicit. The NGT's July 2025 order in Raja Ram Singh vs. State of UP reiterated the same: Short-Term Permits and Disposal Permits hold no legal value. But they continue to be issued, as if court judgments are optional advisories.

Across Kashmir, such violations have become routine. From Doodh Ganga to Sindh and Rambhara, unregulated mining has altered river flows, eroded embankments, and destroyed aquatic life. A study by the J&K Pollution Control Committee in 2023 recorded that suspended solids in

Doodh Ganga exceeded permissible limits by nearly 300%. Riverbanks that once absorbed floods are now weakened by unchecked excavation.

Each illegal truckload of sand taken out means lost soil fertility, lost livelihoods for local fishers, and lost resilience against climate disasters.

Kashmir's environmental story has always been one of beauty meeting neglect. The region's fragile ecosystems demand strict enforcement. The Supreme Court's orders should serve as a foundation for reform, not a document to be ignored.

Authorities need to move beyond token actions. The JKPC must recover the pending compensation and hold responsible officers accountable. The District Magistrate Budgam must stop issuing illegal permits and initiate departmental action against violators.

Above all, public participation, something the Supreme Court itself emphasized, must become central to river governance. Local communities, especially those living near riverbanks, should be empowered to monitor and report violations. Digital monitoring of mining sites through drones and satellite data can further strengthen transparency.

Doodh Ganga is a lifeline for thousands. Its name, “river of milk”, once symbolized purity and abundance. Today, it tells a story of greed and governance failure.

If the law of the land says Short-Term Permits are non-est, how can new ones be issued? When court orders are so clear, why is enforcement so weak? These are questions that need answers not in files, but in action on the ground.

The Supreme Court gave us a chance to correct the past. Whether we seize it or let the river die under the weight of excavators will decide the kind of future we want, for Doodh Ganga, and for Kashmir itself.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He can be reached at bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com



# It's Time Men in Kashmir Are Heard

Beneath the smiles and “I’m fine” lies a crisis of men’s mental health in Kashmir. Their pain deserves attention.

Sadam Bin Jameed

I grew up in Srinagar hearing the same words boys everywhere hear: “Be strong. Don’t cry. Be a man.”

At first, it felt like guidance, a way to survive in a world full of rules and expectations. Over time, it became a weight.

A silent, invisible weight that follows you into adulthood, shaping how you speak, laugh, and even breathe.

Men in Kashmir, including my friends, classmates, and neighbours, carry burdens no one asks about. There’s the pressure to provide for the family, to perform at school or work, to protect loved ones from harm.

Fathers work long hours, often juggling multiple jobs, so the household runs smoothly. Sons push themselves to excel in exams, sports, or careers, trying not to disappoint their parents. And brothers act as anchors when the storms of life hit, silently taking on problems that never belong to them alone.

But rarely do we pause to ask how they are coping.

I’ve seen the subtle signs of men



breaking silently in hallways of hospitals, on streets, and in class-

rooms. A long stare into nothingness, withdrawal from friends, late-night scrolling through old messages, laughter that seems a shade too loud.

These moments are expressions of the pain we teach men to bury.

Global reports show men are far more likely to die by suicide than women. This is reflected in the young Kashmiri men who juggle the expectations at home with dreams they cannot speak aloud. Society rewards endurance and strength while punishing vulnerability. We celebrate men as providers and protectors but rarely as humans who need care, love, and understanding.

I know men cry. I’ve cried. We cry in showers, in dark rooms, through work, sarcasm, or anger. Our emotions don’t disappear. They wear masks. Many of my peers carry these invisible scars, often alone.

I’ve watched friends joke through exhaustion, laugh off stress, and hide behind stoicism because we are told that showing emotion is weakness. We internalize these lessons, turning our hearts into vaults of unspoken pain.

The pressure can feel amplified in the valley. Political instability, economic uncertainty, and social expectations shape the environment in which men grow.

A young man might dream of



**IF YOU ARE A MAN READING THIS, YOUR PAIN IS VALID.** You don’t have to carry it alone. Speak to someone: a friend, a family member, or a counselor. Let your words breathe. And if you love a man, including a father, brother, partner, and friend, look beyond the surface. Ask how he is doing, and listen. Your question could be the lifeline he needs.

leaving for higher education, but worry about supporting his family financially. A husband might feel exhausted from trying to be everything at home, while a father might carry generations of expectation on his shoulders.

Each silent struggle contributes to a pattern where men break

alone, their pain invisible to those around them.

Mental health conversations exist, but men are often left out. Campaigns speak of hope, hashtags spread awareness, but the young man who works three jobs or the student hiding tears behind textbooks rarely sees himself reflected.

Husbands smile at dinner tables while carrying the weight of unspoken failures. Sons sit beside their mothers, longing to confess loneliness and fear but remembering the lessons of childhood: men must endure.

Real courage lies in facing these struggles, sharing them, and asking for help. Emotional health is not gendered. Pain does not discriminate between male or female. Permission to express it often does.

If you are a man reading this, your pain is valid. You don’t have to carry it alone. Speak to someone: a friend, a family member, or a counselor. Let your words breathe. And if you love a man, including a father, brother, partner, and friend, look beyond the surface. Ask how he is doing, and listen. Your question could be the lifeline he needs.

Redefining manhood in Kashmir starts with permission: permission to feel, cry, break, and heal. The bravest thing a man can do is admit he is hurting and still choose to live. That honesty, finally, is strength. And when we allow that, we create a culture where men, too, can grow, recover, and live fully.

At the end of the day, strength is not silence. Strength is honesty. And in Kashmir, it is time for men to be heard.

— The author is a pre-final student at Government Medical College Srinagar and a youth mental health advocate.

**REDEFINING MANHOOD IN KASHMIR STARTS WITH PERMISSION:** permission to feel, cry, break, and heal. The bravest thing a man can do is admit he is hurting and still choose to live. That honesty, finally, is strength. And when we allow that, we create a culture where men, too, can grow, recover, and live fully.

## Boardrooms Over Courtrooms

As Kashmir embraces new economic opportunities, lawyers are stepping out of courtrooms and into boardrooms, becoming architects of trust, governance, and sustainable growth.



Syed Arsalan Abid

There was a time when law in Kashmir meant courtrooms, pleadings, and long delays. That world still exists, with its familiar echo of arguments and verdicts, but it no longer defines the influence of the legal profession.

Today, the most consequential legal battles are fought before a case ever reaches a judge: inside boardrooms, policy meetings, compliance reviews, and strategic discussions that shape institutions and lives.

Law has migrated from reaction to anticipation, from punishment to prevention. The modern lawyer’s brief is no longer to justify past actions but to safeguard the future. They watch over decisions before mistakes happen, helping institutions confront complexity with foresight and care.

Every company, public body, or civic initiative operates in a web of accountability. Lawyers now serve as strategists, risk managers, and moral guides. They handle data responsibly, design compliance systems, and draft contracts that protect people and investments alike. Success is measured in crises prevented rather than cases won.

The most effective counsel is invisible, but it stabilizes businesses, shields reputations, and averts missteps before they occur. Law has become the nervous system of decision-making, silently structuring what appears to be organic growth.

The modern lawyer is a builder of trust. They interpret statutes, but they also design frameworks that govern ethics, sustainability, and accountability. For business leaders, this means seeing legal guidance as a foundation rather than a hurdle. Governance is strength. Institutions that em-



**THE ESSENCE OF LAW IS SHIFTING FROM JUDGMENT TO GUIDANCE.** Lawyers moderate ambition, steady progress, and translate ethics into action. Commerce can create wealth. Policy can grant power. Only law sustains legitimacy. And legitimacy, more than profit or politics, keeps societies and institutions from collapsing under their own success.

bed fairness into their operations outlast those that prioritize speed over scrutiny.

Nowhere is this shift more pressing than in Kashmir. For decades, law here was synonymous with dispute and delay. New economic opportunities, including tourism, horticulture, renewable energy, infrastructure, and real estate, demand a different role from legal professionals. They are no longer observers of development. They are co-authors of it.

The region’s growth depends on confidence. Entrepreneurs need assurance that contracts will hold, that regulations will remain predictable, that enforcement will be impartial. Lawyers draft terms that shield local business from exploitation, mediate conflicts before they escalate, and negotiate deals that encourage investors to stay. Development in Kashmir is becoming a story of principles rather than exceptions, predictability over whim, and trust over chance.

For young lawyers and students, the opportunities are vast. Compliance, arbitration, investment structuring, policy design, environmental clearances, and digital regulation now lie within the profession’s reach. Law in Kashmir is evolving into a tool that secures fairness, empowers the

persistent, and keeps progress grounded in integrity.

The transformation in Kashmir mirrors a global trend. Law now governs data privacy, AI ethics, sustainable finance, corporate diplomacy, and trade disputes. Tomorrow’s lawyers will be policy architects, ESG advisors, ethics auditors, and crisis navigators.

To practice law effectively is to think across disciplines, part economist, part technologist, part philosopher, while ensuring fairness remains central.

The essence of law is shifting from judgment to guidance. Lawyers moderate ambition, steady progress, and translate ethics into action. Commerce can create wealth. Policy can grant power. Only law sustains legitimacy. And legitimacy, more than profit or politics, keeps societies and institutions from collapsing under their own success.

Kashmir’s new legal frontier lies not in courtroom victories but in the silent impact of decisions made well. The unseen counsel, the foresight that prevents harm, and the frameworks that support growth are the victories that will shape the region’s future long after applause has faded.

— The author is a Commercial Advocate and Corporate Advisor from Kashmir.

## Living With Loss

Winter is returning to Kashmir, and with it, a daughter learns to live with loss, remembering those who remain only in memory.

Sana Gul Khurshid

Winter is almost here again. The sunsets have started slipping away early, as if they too are tired of the day. The evenings have grown heavier, the kind that press against the windows.

There are blankets now, the smell of burning wood, the familiar hum of heaters, and the emptiness that sits beside it all.

The rooms are warm, but there is an ache in the air that warmth cannot touch. I keep noticing those who are missing. Their absence feels louder than the wind outside.

When I look out from my window in Srinagar, people move with their heads bent low. Their shadows stretch long on the road. I keep watching them, searching for something I cannot name. Peace, perhaps.

Life changes without warning. No one told me that last winter would be my mother’s last. We spoke about ordinary things: the price of apples, the way the sun hit the Chinar leaves in the courtyard. I didn’t know I was living inside the last moments with her. When she left, it felt as if a door had shut and the house had fallen silent forever.

I still hear her voice in the rooms. The same rooms that now echo differently. Her shawl still hangs on the back of a chair. I touch it sometimes, as if fabric can bring back a heartbeat.

The days that followed were strange. I was breathing, but I had forgotten how to live. It was as if I was made of air and stone at once: light and heavy, alive and absent.

Grief is a private language. Mine came like snow, soft at first, then relentless. It filled every corner of my mind. I tried to hold it back, to seem strong for others, but it pushed against my chest until I couldn’t breathe.

The world outside carried on, but I stayed behind, in a world that had tilted away from light.

There were days when I wanted to forget. And there were nights when forgetting felt like betrayal.

I learned that grief doesn’t follow rules. It comes when it wants. It leaves when it must. The pain doesn’t vanish. It changes shape, turns quieter in-



side you.

I prayed a lot that winter. I spoke to Allah through tears, silence, and the long nights when the valley slept. Each prayer felt like a thread holding me together. Slowly, the wound began



**MY MOTHER IS GONE, BUT SOMEHOW, she remains in everything: the whisper of the wind, the scent of Kahwa, and the hush before dawn.**

to close. Not because I stopped missing her, but because I learned to live with the missing. Loss feels multiplied in our homeland. The landscape re-

members everything: the faces in photographs, the graves under snow, and the homes that once smelled of noon chai and laughter. Every family here carries a story of absence. My story is only one among thousands.

But grief, I’ve come to believe, is the most personal thing in the world.

No one else can measure it for you. No one else can heal it for you. I had to walk through it alone, step by step, until I could breathe again.

That is what winter teaches in this valley: how to live with stillness, wait for spring, and let memory rest without letting it fade.

And so, as the cold appears on the windowpane, I sit by the fire and watch the smoke rise into the night. The pain is gentler now, like snow settling on rooftops.

My mother is gone, but somehow, she remains in everything: the whisper of the wind, the scent of Kahwa, and the hush before dawn.

Winter has returned to Kashmir, and this time, I meet it differently. I no longer fight the cold. I let it in.

— The author is an Eye Care Professional at TRUVISION, Srinagar. She can be reached at sanakhurshid263@gmail.com.



# Defence Ministry Approves Procurement Proposals Worth Rs 79,000 Crore

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The defence ministry on Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Nag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the three services.

The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It is the second major decision on procurement following Operation Sindoor.

Procurement projects worth Rs 67,000 crore were approved on August 5.

The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 79,000 crore, the defence ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, approval was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPDs), 30-mm Naval Surface Guns (NSGs), Advanced Light Weight Torpedoes (ALWTs), the Electro Optical Infra-Red

Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for the 76-mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.

The procurement of LPDs will help the Navy undertake amphibious operations along with the Army and the Air Force, the ministry said.

LPDs are amphibious warfare ships that are generally capable of carrying helicopters, ground mobility vehicles, tanks and land troops.

The Indian Navy was looking at procuring at least four LPDs.

The ministry said the integrated sea capability provided by LPDs will also help the Navy undertake peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief measures.

"The induction of ALWT, which is indigenously developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, DRDO is capable of targeting conventional, nuclear and midget submarines," the ministry said in a statement.

The procurement of 30-mm NSGs will enhance the capability of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard to conduct low-intensity maritime operations and initiate anti-piracy measures.

For the Indian Army, approval was accorded for the procurement of the Nag missile system (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), the ground-based mobile ELINT (electronic intelligence system) and high-mobility vehicles (HMTVs).

The procurement of the NAMIS will enhance the Army's capability of neutralising the enemy's combat vehicles, bunkers and other field fortifications, whereas the GBMES will provide round-the-clock electronic intelligence of enemy activities, the ministry said.

The induction of HMTVs will significantly improve logistics support to the forces in diverse geographical terrains, it added.

The DAC approved the procurement of Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/ Destruction System (CLRTS/ DS) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). It also cleared some other procurement proposals of the IAF.

The CLRTS/DS has the capability of autonomous take-off, landing, navigating, detecting and delivering payloads in the mission area.

# UK Boosts Security Funding for Mosques Amid Hate Crimes Spike

Press Trust Of India

London: Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday announced a 10-million-pounds boost to security funding for the UK's mosques and Muslim faith centres to protect them from hate crime and attacks.

The additional investment into the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme is aimed at providing security measures such as CCTV, alarm systems, secure fencing, and security personnel services.

The scheme was created to protect mosques, Muslim community centres, and Muslim faith schools that have experienced or are vulnerable to hate crime.

"Britain is a proud and tolerant country. Attacks on any community are attacks on our entire nation and our values," said Starmer.

"This funding will provide Muslim communities with the protection they need and deserve, allowing them to live in peace and safety. I want a Britain built for all and my government is committed to delivering safer streets for everyone – and that means protecting places of worship from those who seek to divide us through hate and violence," he said.

The most recent official statistics revealed that anti-Muslim hate crimes rose by 19 per cent in the year ending March 2025, and 44 per cent of all religious hate crimes targeted Muslims. The funding boost follows Starmer's visit to Peacehaven Mosque in East Sussex, which was targeted in an arson attack earlier this month.



"The attack on the Peacehaven Mosque was an appalling crime that could easily have led to an even more devastating outcome," said UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood.

"I am proud of this country because of the rights we all have to follow the faith of our choosing, and to live free from hatred and fear. That right must be defended. Violence and intimidation directed at any community or faith are attacks on us all. We must stand together against those who seek to

divide us," she said.

The additional 10-million-pound funding is intended to ensure more sites can be protected, building on the 29.4 million pounds already available for this year towards the protection of mosques and Muslim faith schools under the government-backed protection scheme.

Akeela Ahmed, CEO of the British Muslim Trust, welcomed the move because she said too many members of Britain's Muslim communities have become "fearful and apprehensive as their mosques, places dedicated to faith, love and peace, have been vandalised, set on fire and worshippers abused and assaulted".

"We welcome the announcement of this funding, which will play a key role in helping members of Britain's Muslim communities feel the safety and reassurance they need and deserve," she said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## CWC Report: Himalayan

Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)—sudden floods caused by the breach of unstable moraine dams, which can inflict severe downstream damage. While predicting individual outburst events is not currently feasible, continuous monitoring remains critical.

CWC's monthly reports are shared with central and state disaster management authorities for early warning purposes and are published on its website for wider access. According to the Glacial Lake Atlas of Indian River Basins 2023, 28,043 glacial lakes larger than 0.25 hectares have been mapped across the Himalayas, 7,570 of which are in India.

## Resolution On

that the party would formally request Speaker A.R. Rather to exercise his discretion and include the proposal in the legislative business, highlighting the issue's importance.

"Waqf is a sensitive, faith-linked matter that deserves debate and return to local religious leadership under Mirwaiz Kashmir," Parra wrote.

The PDP legislator has consistently advocated for restoring the Waqf Board's traditional community role and returning its management to the local religious leadership led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

## NC, Congress

of silence before addressing the media.

NC Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq called Malik's detention "unjustified" and said it deprived the people of Doda of their rightful representation in the Assembly. "We demand the unconditional release of Mehraj Malik. His detention under PSA is undemocratic and undermines the public mandate," he said.

Sadiq added that the party had repeatedly raised the issue with the government but received no satisfactory response. "Keeping an elected representative away from the House sends the wrong message about democracy in Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked.

Earlier, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rathe disallowed a discussion in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the detention of Doda MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), saying the session had commenced with obituary references.

National Conference legislators Tanvir Sadiq and Hilal Akbar Lone had sought to raise Malik's continued incarceration, arguing that an elected representative must be allowed to serve his constituency.

Mehraj Malik was arrested earlier this year and later booked under the PSA, drawing criticism from multiple quarters. The NC affirmed it would continue pressing for his release.

## J&K RS Polls Today

the fourth remains too close to call. The NC's advantage, however, has strengthened with support from the Congress, CPI(M), PDP, and several independents.

According to the present political arithmetic, NC candidates have the backing of 57 MLAs — including 41 NC members, six from Congress, three from PDP, one from CPI(M), and six independents — while the BJP bloc stands at 28. The voting preferences of two MLAs, Mehraj Malik and Sheikh Khurshid, remain uncertain. Malik, currently detained under the Public Safety Act, cast his vote earlier this week inside Kathua district jail.

The elections are being held under three notifications. In the first two contests, NC's Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan and Sajjad Kichloo are pitted against BJP's Ali Mohammad Mir and Rakesh Mahajan, respectively — both seen as easy wins for the NC.

The main battle lies in the third notification, which covers two seats and has three contenders — NC's G.S. (Shammi) Oberoi and Imran Nabi Dar, and BJP's Sat Sharma. The two

candidates securing the highest votes will be declared winners.

The NC is expected to split its votes between Oberoi (29) and Dar (28), while the BJP's 28 MLAs will back Sharma. The contest could come down to the discretion of independent MLAs, who are not required to display their marked ballots to polling agents.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday exuded confidence that the NC would sweep all four seats but acknowledged that success would depend on "every non-BJP vote being cast in favour of NC's candidates."

Omar also revealed that PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had been approached for support. "One of our candidates, Shammi Oberoi, met Mehbooba Ji and requested her backing. Our president Dr. Farooq Abdullah also spoke to her. She has assured me she will consult her colleagues and take the right decision," he said. The political equation, however, saw a minor tilt after Sajad Lone's Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) announced its decision to abstain from voting, a move that could indirectly aid the BJP.

Meanwhile, Congress MLAs skipped a key allies' meeting convened by the NC earlier this week, though Omar played down the absence, saying, "They have their own internal processes. This is nothing new and will not affect the outcome."

Jammu and Kashmir has been unrepresented in the Rajya Sabha since February 2021, when the terms of Ghulam Nabi Azad, Nazir Ahmad Laway, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, and Shamsher Singh Manhas expired.

As J&K heads into its first Upper House election in five years, both the NC and BJP are banking on disciplined blocs and last-minute alliances to claim symbolic victories in what has become one of the most politically watched contests in recent years.

## PDP, Cong To Back

internal deliberations. "We have set aside differences with the NC to uphold the larger values we represent and to counter the BJP," he said. All six Congress legislators have been issued a formal whip to vote for NC candidates.

"We have taken this stand after considering the sensitivities of our region and our identity as a secular, democratic force," Karra said.

The Congress' decision to vote in favour of NC comes hours after the PDP made a similar pledge. Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on announced its support to the ruling National Conference (NC) for the third Rajya Sabha seat, saying the move was aimed at keeping the "fascist forces" out. The first Rajya Sabha polls since Jammu and Kashmir's downgrading to a Union Territory are scheduled for Friday.

"We have decided to give support to the NC and vote for their candidates," Mehbooba Mufti said at a press conference, emphasizing that the decision was taken to keep the BJP away.

"The PDP, which has three votes, will vote to keep the BJP away and vote for such a party which does not deserve it. We will vote keeping in mind that we have to stop the fascist and communal forces at any cost," she asserted.

Mehbooba acknowledged differences with the NC, saying that when the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was formed, the aim was to provide collective leadership in J&K to counter the BJP. "But they broke it when they realised it does not serve them any benefit," she said, referring to the alliance that included both NC and PDP.

The decision to support the NC was taken after discussions with PDP leadership and MLAs, she said. NC president Farooq Abdullah had personally called her requesting support, and NC treasurer and Rajya Sabha candidate G.S. Oberoi (Shammi Oberoi) met Mehbooba on Wednesday to seek backing.

However, the PDP's support comes with conditions. Mehbooba said it was given on

the understanding that the NC would support bills introduced by PDP MLAs — the Land Regularisation Bill and the Regularisation of Daily Wagers Bill — in the Assembly.

"I told Farooq (Abdullah) to help us in passing our bills. They have the majority, the Speaker, and the assembly are theirs," she said. Mehbooba added that the BJP had opposed the Land Regularisation Bill, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma reportedly describing it as "land jihad."

The PDP will support the NC candidate on the third seat but not the fourth. "Our three votes are very few, but they mean a lot. We want to give our votes for Shammi Oberoi. We do not want to give support to the fourth candidate because if they lose, they will blame the PDP," she said.

Mehbooba also stressed that the ball is in NC's court regarding the PDP bills. "Whether it is the land rights bill or the daily wagers bill, if NC does not act, the decision will be taken in the people's court," she said, adding that if the bills are stalled, it would indicate that BJP's agenda is being implemented with NC's complicity.

## NC Issues Whip

issued a three-line whip to party MLAs, directing them to refrain from abstaining, remaining absent or voting contrary to the directions of the party.

The NC has fielded candidates on all four seats, while the opposition BJP has named three candidates.

Given its strength in the assembly, the NC is expected to win three seats comfortably, with a keen contest likely for the fourth. PTI

## Assembly Session

Akhlaq Khan, and former legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori.

On Friday, the House is scheduled to vote to elect four Rajya Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir. The seats have remained vacant since 2021 as Assembly elections were delayed until last year. Three NC candidates are expected to sail through comfortably due to the party's numbers, while the fourth seat will see a tight contest between veteran BJP leader Sat Pal Sharma and young NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar. Dar will require support not only from NC members but also from the opposition PDP, Awami Ittehad Party, and AAP.

The session is expected to be stormy, with debates likely to focus on issues such as restoration of statehood, reservation policies, and regularisation of thousands of daily wagers. Opposition members are also expected to scrutinise the promises made in the NC's manifesto ahead of last year's J&K polls.

Officials said MLAs have submitted 450 questions for discussion, along with 13 private members' bills and more than 50 resolutions. The House will also consider nearly three dozen bills introduced during the budget session but still pending.

## NC, BJP Clash

who passed away in August this year — triggered a row after National Conference (NC) MLA Bashir Veeri termed his role controversial, with BJP member Sham Lal Sharma demanding the remarks be expunged.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, while asking Veeri to respect the deceased, did not accept Sharma's demand to expunge the NC MLA's remarks.

Congress legislative party leader G A Mir, however, called Malik a good leader, who was outspoken and popular.

"He might have benefitted from it (Article 370 abrogation), but he suffered as well. We saw how he had to struggle in his last days to put the truth before the people," Mir said.

PDP MLA Rafiq Naik said while there may be differences with Malik, "we should not

speak negatively while paying tributes to the deceased"

"We may have differences, but since he (Malik) has left us, we should speak good of him," he said.

Naik also raised the issue of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, who was arrested last month under the Public Safety Act for allegedly disturbing public order in Doda district, but the speaker said, "You are speaking on obituary references, and he (Mehraj Malik) is still alive."

On Satya Pal Malik, CPI(M) MLAM Y Tarigami said obituary does not mean "we do not learn a lesson".

"Respect apart, a person who was entrusted with a public responsibility should also be assessed for his actions. Otherwise, it becomes a routine exercise. Even criticism can be done by staying within the levels of decency," Tarigami said.

Awami Ittehad Party MLA Sheikh Khurshid said while constructive criticism should be allowed, Satya Pal Malik was the last governor of J-K, who later raised farmers' issues and was an honest politician.

Asserting that August 5, 2019, was a historic day (when Article 370 was abrogated), BJP's Vikram Randhawa, while referring to Satya Pal Malik, said an ordinary person cannot be made the governor of five states. "The BJP saw his talent and appointed him (as governor). August 5 is a historic day for J-K, and it was a coincidence that Satya Pal Malik breathed his last on August 5 (this year)," Randhawa said.

The remarks led to protests by some NC MLAs.

In his long political career, Satya Pal Malik served as the governor of Bihar, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, and Meghalaya.

## CM Moots Parliament

Speaking in the House, Omar said those being remembered "worked to do something better" and emphasized that mistakes are inevitable in public life. He stressed that obituary proceedings should avoid lengthy speeches, proposing that tributes be announced solely by the Speaker to save time for legislative business. The Speaker welcomed the suggestion, saying it would be duly considered.

Highlighting the contributions of former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, the Chief Minister noted his service as an MLA, minister, and governor in multiple states. "We may have different opinions, but Satya Pal Malik might have taken decisions suited to the time," Omar said.

Omar also paid tribute to former legislator G M Shaheen, describing him as a courageous leader who continued to serve the people with determination even after surviving a major landmine blast.

Expressing concern over administrative lapses, the Chief Minister noted that the district administration had failed to inform the Assembly Secretariat about the demise of Mohammad Sultan Pandithpuri. He requested the Speaker ensure that an explanation is sought from the concerned officers.

"Those we remember today once stood where we stand. One day, we too will be remembered. Let us strive to learn from their example," Omar added.

## DM: Pak Will

was interacting with army troops during a 'Bara-Khana'.

Singh reiterated that Operation Sindoor is not over and it has only been halted, adding a harsher response will be given if Pakistan resorts to any misadventure.

"Our pilots displayed only a demo of India's power to Pakistan. If given an opportunity, they will showcase our real strength," he said.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, carrying out airstrikes on terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan.

# Govt Initiates Process To Appoint New CJI; Justice Surya Kant Next In Line

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The government on Thursday initiated the process to appoint the next chief justice of India as incumbent B R Gavai demits office on November 23, sources said.

The letter asking Justice Gavai to name his successor is set to be delivered either this evening or on Friday, people aware of the procedure to appoint Supreme Court and high court judges said.

According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of documents which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of SC and HC judges states that appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

The Union law minister would, "at the appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of his successor.

Conventionally, the letter is sent a month before the incumbent CJI retires on attaining the age of 65 years.

Justice Surya Kant is the seniormost judge after the CJI and is next in line to become the head of the Indian judiciary.

Once appointed, Justice Surya Kant will become the next CJI on November 24 and hold the office for nearly 15 months till February 9, 2027.



# Kashmir's Autumn Smog: Leaf Burning in Kashmir Fuels Pollution, Respiratory Ills

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As autumn wanes in Kashmir, a familiar haze blankets the valley—not from fog, but from the widespread burning of fallen leaves and tree branches. This long-standing practice, intended to produce charcoal for Kangris (traditional firepots) during harsh winters, is raising serious health and environmental concerns.

Every year, apple-growing districts like Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla, Kulgam, and Anantnag see smoke rising from orchards and roadside piles of leaves. The dense smoke contains fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and Benzo(a) pyrene, a carcinogenic compound linked to lung disease.

Dr Umar Mushtaq of SKUAST Kashmir explained, "This smoke penetrates deep into the lungs, triggering respiratory problems, particularly among children, the elderly, and those with asthma or heart conditions." The smoke also irritates eyes and throats and reduces oxygen-carrying



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

capacity in the blood.

Despite environmental regulations and Supreme Court guidelines prohibiting open burning, many residents feel they have no choice. Orchardist Waqar Ahmed of Pulwama said, "We need charcoal for our Kangris, and with frequent power cuts, this is the only way to stay warm."

Environmentalists warn that

the combined effect of thousands of small fires forms a toxic smog, worsened by Kashmir's topography which traps pollutants during temperature inversions. Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, an environmentalist, added, "These fires also damage soil health, killing beneficial microorganisms and reducing fertility."

Experts suggest eco-friendly

alternatives such as composting leaves, using urea sprays for faster decomposition, or allowing sheep to graze in orchards, which enriches the soil naturally while eliminating waste.

Doctors report spikes in respiratory ailments during this season. Shabid Ahmed, a University of Kashmir biology scholar, emphasized awareness:

**MANY PEOPLE DO NOT REALIZE HOW HARMFUL THIS PRACTICE IS. The government should educate farmers and provide support for safer disposal methods."**

"Many people do not realize how harmful this practice is. The government should educate farmers and provide support for safer disposal methods."

Without urgent interventions and public awareness, Kashmir's autumn will continue to end in smoke—posing a silent but serious threat to the valley's health and environment. (inputs from KNO)

## BJP Protests NC MLA's 'Communal Party' Remark

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday held a protest against remarks by the National Conference (NC) MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri, who had called it a "communal party".

According to details, the NC MLA, while paying tributes to BJP ex-MLC, Ramesh Arora, highlighted the role and works done by the leader.

He also said that Arora despite being affiliated with the 'communal party' was having a 'secular mindset'.

Soon after his remarks, BJP legislators stood from their benches and held a protest, demanding action against the NC legislature.

The party raised objections over his remarks, with BJP legislator, Sham Lal Sharma stating that such derogatory comments have been made while paying tributes to anyone during the obituary.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather also asked the legislators not to use any controversial remarks during obituary references. (KNO)

## White Knight Corps Commander Reviews Security Measures In Udhampur



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** White Knight Corps General Officer Commanding (GoC) Lieutenant General P K Mishra on Thursday visited Basantgarh hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district to review the security mechanism in the militancy-infested mountainous belt.

He interacted with troops and commended their exceptional dedication and commitment to duty in the region.

"GoC White Knight Corps, along with GoC Delta Force, visited Basantgarh to review the security mechanism and commended troops of Delta Force for their exceptional dedication and commitment to duty," the White

Knight Corps said in a post on X. The GoC emphasised maintaining a proactive stance, adopting cutting-edge strategies, and upholding the highest standards of professionalism in operational conduct.

The Dudu-Basantgarh area, along with other parts of the Jammu region, has been the site of multiple search and anti-terror operations throughout 2025.

Basantgarh has witnessed several encounters and terror incidents in the past.

It lies on a traditional infiltration route used by Pakistani terrorists who enter from the International Border in Kathua and move via higher reaches to Doda and Kishtwar districts in the Jammu region and further into the Kashmir Valley.

## Omission of Former MLA from Obituary References

Speaker Slams Kupwara Administration

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday criticized the Kupwara district administration after the name of former Langate MLA Muhammad Sultan Panditpori was omitted from the Assembly's obituary references.

During the proceedings, Rather castigated the administration for failing to notify the Assembly Secretariat about Panditpori's death. "This is an irresponsible attitude," the Speaker said, adding that the district administration did not inform the Secretariat regarding his demise.

## J&K Govt Reconstitutes IMPARD's Governing Bodies

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reorganized the Executive Council and its Sub-committee for the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD).

As per an order, the new Executive Council will be chaired by the Chief Minister, with the Chief Secretary serving as Vice-Chairman, and includes key Administrative Secretaries from departments like Planning, Finance, and General Administration, along with the Director of J&K IMPARD as the Member Secretary.

Meanwhile, the Sub-Committee will be chaired by the Chief Secretary and will also include Administrative Secretaries from Planning, Finance, General Administration, and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, with the Director and Joint Director of J&K IMPARD acting as Member and Member Secretary, respectively.

## Edu Min Directs Staff Creation For 184 Hanging Schools

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo has directed the School Education Department (SED) to move a proposal for the creation of staff for 184 "hanging schools" to the Finance Department for approval. These schools, upgraded over time, have been functioning without formally sanctioned staff, relying instead on internal arrangements, officials said.

During a meeting with senior officers, the minister was briefed on the status of these schools and instructed that the proposal for staff creation be submitted without delay to the Finance Department for concurrence. She emphasized the importance of avoiding unnecessary delays in processing urgent files and directed all officers to ensure timely disposal.

Minister Itoo also called for the drafting of a comprehensive transfer policy for RETs and other inter-district or inter-divisional transfers, directing the Secretary of the SED to seek inputs from the directors of planning and finance for framing the policy.

On the issue of civil works, the minister reviewed the ongoing projects

under Samagra Shiksha and instructed that a mechanism for physical monitoring at the district level be introduced immediately. "The services of 82 engineers engaged under Samagra Shiksha should be utilized for monitoring civil works at the individual level," she said. Chief Education Officers, along with Executive Engineers from the PW(R&B) Department, are to jointly review progress on a monthly basis.

Further, Itoo directed the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new works approved under the PAB for 2025-26 and instructed that they be handed over to the PW(R&B) Department for tendering and allotment without delay.

The minister also expressed concern over the non-utilization of funds released to CEOs for urgent procurement and other exigencies, warning that action would be taken against officials who unnecessarily parked funds instead of using them as per proper procedures.

Itoo's instructions underline the government's focus on strengthening educational infrastructure in the Union Territory while ensuring accountability and timely execution of developmental projects.

## Baramulla Police Arrest Man For Posing As Journalist

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** In a major crackdown on criminal misuse of media credentials, Baramulla Police have arrested Riyaz Ahmad Mugloo for allegedly posing as a journalist to extort money and intimidate individuals and public officials through social media.

According to a police statement, Mugloo was involved in multiple cases of extortion, blackmail, and criminal intimidation. He reportedly threatened employees of the Municipal Council Baramulla with defamatory social media posts unless payments were made. An FIR (No. 186/2025) under Sections 308(2), 351, and 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was

registered at Baramulla Police Station, and an investigation was launched.

During the probe, police seized video evidence showing Mugloo accepting bribes, along with digital devices and other materials to examine his online activities and any potential links to similar cases. Officials noted that a previous complaint against him, involving threats to malign a citizen over social media videos, was already under investigation.

The media organization he was associated with had terminated his services following repeated allegations. Police confirmed that investigations are ongoing to uncover the full extent of his criminal conduct and identify any possible accomplices.

## Police Nab 6 long-term Absconders

In continuation of its sustained crackdown against absconders and proclaimed offenders, Police on Thursday said to have arrested six long-evading absconders in Sopore, Shopian and Awantipora who had been on the run for years in separate cases.

In Sopore, absconder namely Saleem Ahmad Sheikh son of Fojia Sheikh resident of Parimpora, presently Sheikh Colony Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar was wanted in Case FIR No. 29/2003 U/S 379, 511 RPC of Police Station Dangiawacha. The accused had been evading arrest since 2003, a police spokesman said in a statement.

After sustained efforts, the police team traced and arrested him. The second absconder, Bashir Ahmad Mir son of Ali Mohammad Mir resident of Lachipora Handwara, was wanted in Case FIR No. 134/2012 U/S 379 RPC of Police Station Tarzoo. He had been absconding since 2016 and was arrested after meticulous tracking by Police. After completion of legal formalities, both the accused will be produced before the courts of competent jurisdiction, the statement added.

In Shopian, Police have apprehended three long term absconders who had been evading arrest for several decades. The arrested absconders namely Munshi Chohan resident of Aribal Kulgam wanted in FIR No. 29/1999 under sections 381 RPC of Police Station Shopian, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat resident of Niloora Pulwama wanted in FIR No. 25/2002 under sections 379, RPC, 6 Forest Act of Police Station Shopian and Farooq Ahmad Lone resident of Noorpora Tral wanted in FIR No. 410/2010 under sections 379 RPC of Police Station Shopian, the spokesman said, adding that these individuals were involved in various criminal cases and had been deliberately evading the due process of law for over three decades.

"In Awantipora, Police arrested one absconder who was evading his arrest for the last 14 years. Police received non-bailable warrants under section 299 CrPC/ 335 BNSS issued by the Hon'ble Principal Session Court Pulwama against one absconder namely Latief Ahmad Akhoun son of Jalal din resident of Mulfag Harwan Srinagar. The absconder was involved in case FIR No 100/2011 under section 20/20 NDPS Act registered at Police Station Awantipora. Subsequently, the arrested accused was produced before the Hon'ble Court of Law," police said.

These arrests mark another success in Police's sustained crackdown against fugitives and those evading the process of law. Police reiterates its firm resolve to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice by bringing every absconder and proclaimed offender to face due legal process, the spokesman added. (Observer News Service)

## Woman Dies After Being Hit by Motorcycle In Awantipora

**Awantipora:** A woman from Tral lost her life after being struck by a motorcycle near Charsoo, Awantipora on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the woman was crossing the road when she was hit by a motorcycle, sustaining multiple injuries.

He said she was first treated at PHC Awantipora before being referred to SMHS Hospital in critical condition, where she succumbed to her injuries.

She was identified as Khateeja, wife of Ab Majeed Bhat and a resident of Mundeora, Tral.

Meanwhile, officials have taken up investigations into the incident. (Observer News Service)

## Frequent Fires Devastate Karnah, Locals Demand More Stations

Fire incidents have become a recurring crisis in Karnah, where even a minor spark during dry weather can escalate into a major disaster. Reports indicate that around 20 to 25 fire incidents occur in the region every year, often leaving poor families homeless and financially devastated.

The latest tragedy struck on Wednesday in Chitertkoot, where Zahoor Ahmad Khawaja's house was completely engulfed in flames within minutes. Despite the joint efforts of the Army and local residents, the blaze could not be controlled. A Fire and Emergency Service vehicle eventually arrived but by then the house had been reduced to ashes.

Officials noted that the delayed response was due to poorly maintained and difficult roads in Karnah, which make access to remote villages challenging. Residents pointed out that the sole Fire and Emergency Service station in Tangdhar, which houses large fire vehicles, struggles to reach distant mountainous areas in time.

Locals are now urging the government to establish at least three additional fire stations in Karnah and Chitertkoot and to deploy smaller, fast-response vehicles to handle emergencies more efficiently. They called on the district administration and senior officials to take urgent action, emphasizing that dozens of poor families lose their homes and lifelong savings to fire incidents each year. (KNO)

## Elections Observers Inspect PS In Nagrota

**Election Observers for Bye- Election to AC-77 Nagrota today visited a number of polling stations to assess the arrangements made for the convenience of the Voters.**

The team consisting of General Observer Kunal Silku; Police Observer Avinash Kumar and Expenditure Observer Ashish Yadav inspected polling stations at Nagrota, Panjgrain, Khanpur and Rathoredhok.

During the visit, the Observers interacted with the locals and issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned ARO, police and other officials to ensure foolproof arrangements at all polling stations, including adequate lighting and drinking water facilities.

The team emphasised generating awareness among the voters regarding the polling process, functioning of grievance redressal mechanism and the importance of maximum voter participation in a well-organised and peaceful atmosphere. (Observer News Service)

# Ladakh Home To Around 477 Snow Leopards, Highest In India: Report

Press Trust Of India

**LEH:** The Union Territory of Ladakh is hosting the highest population of about 477 snow leopards out of a total of 718 across India, marking a major milestone in the region's collaborative conservation efforts involving local communities, scientific research and awareness initiatives, officials said on Thursday. The Union Territory of Ladakh is hosting the highest population of about 477 snow leopards out of a total of 718 across India, marking a major milestone in the region's collaborative conservation efforts involving local communities, scientific research and awareness initiatives, officials said on Thursday.

They added that Ladakh's success story serves as a model for global conservation efforts, showcasing the power of community-led initiatives in protecting endangered species.



"The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII) report 2024 estimates 718 snow leopards in India, with Ladakh hosting the highest population of about 477. As the State animal of Ladakh, the snow leopard's conservation remains vital to protecting the

region's unique high-altitude ecosystem," a senior official said.

Committed to raising awareness for the safe future of the majestic snow leopard found in the higher regions of Ladakh, the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army, in collaboration with the

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ladakh administration, came together on Thursday to celebrate International Snow Leopard Day to generate awareness on the safety and preservation of the elusive species.

Officials said that with an estimated 477 snow leopards calling Ladakh home, the region boasts one of the world's highest densities of these creatures, accounting for approximately 68 per cent of India's total snow leopard population.

"This milestone is a testament to Ladakh's collaborative conservation efforts, combining local community engagement, scientific research and awareness initiatives," they said, adding that these endeavours have not only protected snow leopards but also promoted eco-tourism.

As part of the celebrations, the Fire and Fury Corps organised an awareness programme at the Rin-

chen Auditorium in Leh, which was attended by Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, General Officer Commanding, 14 Corps, and S Rajesh, Chief Wildlife Conservator, along with other military and civil dignitaries. The programme aimed to spread awareness for nurturing and preserving the snow leopard habitat.

Lieutenant General Bhalla appreciated the efforts taken by all stakeholders in the conservation of snow leopards in Ladakh and expressed the full support of the Fire and Fury Corps towards the endeavours undertaken for the noble cause.

Rajesh expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for organising the awareness programme and reaching out to the local population, saying such events will go a long way in ensuring a safe and peaceful habitat for snow leopards in the Ladakh region by generating local community support for the cause.



# Shubham Gill Rues Missed Chances In Adelaide Game After Losing Series

Press Trust of India

**ADELAIDE:** India captain Shubman Gill admitted that dropped catches and a total which was just adequate cost his side dearly as Australia clinched the ODI series with a disciplined all-round performance here on Thursday.

India lost the second ODI by two wickets after a seven-wicket defeat in the first match at Perth. Here, the Indian fielders were not at their sharpest, spilling at least three chances, including Matthew Short, who made a fine 74 off 78 balls.

"We had just enough runs on the board. Never easy when you drop a couple of chances to be able to defend that kind of a total," Gill said during the post-match presentation ceremony.



The young skipper did not find any demons in the pitch either.

"In the first game, the toss was more crucial because of the rain, but in this one both teams played for almost 50 overs. The wicket did a little early on, but it settled nicely after 15-20 overs," Gill said.

The 26-year-old praised senior batter Rohit Sharma for his fighting knock of 73.

"Never easy, coming back and playing after a long time. The initial phase was challenging, but very pleased with how he batted. He fought out well; I would say he missed out on a really big knock," the India skipper said.

Australia, led by Mitchell Marsh, displayed depth in both departments, and the home skipper hailed his bowling attack and the composure of the younger batters.

"Hazlewood was unbelievable. Our bowling unit kept trying to pick wickets. It was awesome battling from the youngsters – the future is bright for Australian cricket. We'll certainly enjoy the series win, won't celebrate too much tonight. India are a fantastic side, great experience," Marsh said.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa, who was named Player of the Match for his four-wicket haul, once again proved decisive in the middle overs.

"Nice to beat India. It's always been a good battle against them, particularly in one-day cricket. Two teams that have adapted to the conditions really well. They're the best team in the world," Zampa said.

## Bangladesh Wins ODI Series After Leaving West Indies In A Spin

The Bangladesh spinners were responsible for all 10 wickets as their team thrashed West Indies by 179 runs in the third and final ODI to take the series 2-1 on Thursday.

The dominant victory, its second largest overall and biggest ever against the Caribbean side, helped Bangladesh claim its first ODI series triumph since March 2024. In between, it has lost four such encounters.

Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain capped a successful spell with 3-54, taking his wicket-tally to 12, the highest by a Bangladesh spinner in an ODI series. West Indies was bowled out for 117 in 30.1 overs.

Left-arm slow bowler Nasum Ahmed also took 3-11 to rip through the top order while off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz and left-armers Tanvir Islam picked up two wickets each. Mustafizur Rahman, the lone paceman in the side, didn't even have to bowl.

Earlier, Bangladesh openers Saif Hassan and Soumya Sarkar put on 176 as Bangladesh piled up 296-8. (AP)

## Babar, Naseem Recalled For Pakistan's T20 Series Against SA

Former captain Babar Azam and pacer Naseem Shah have been recalled to Pakistan's T20 squad for the upcoming home assignment against South Africa and a tri-Series involving Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe next month.

Babar, after being sidelined from the T20 format since December last year, is back with young hard-hitter Abdul Samad and Naseem. The T20I series between Pakistan and South Africa will be played in Rawalpindi and Lahore from October 28 to November 1. The tri-series, also will be staged at the same venues from November 17 to 29.

Pakistan and South Africa will also feature in a three-match ODI series to be held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from November 4 to 8.

It will be followed by another three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from November 11 to 15. Naseem and Babar also feature in the Pakistan's ODI squad. (PTI)

## Lionel Messi Signs New Contract With Inter Miami Till 2028

Lionel Messi has finally agreed to a new contract with Inter Miami, a deal that required several months to complete and ensures that the sport's biggest icon will be with the Major League Soccer club for its planned move into a new stadium next year.

The deal was announced Thursday, one day before Inter Miami's playoff opener against Nashville. Messi's team – the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference – will play host to Game 1 of that best-of-three series on Friday night.

The team announced the move in a social media post, one showing Messi signing the contract inside the new stadium that remains under construction.

Inter Miami said it was a three-year deal through 2028. The notion of Messi playing two or three more seasons certainly would serve as a boost to ticket sales at the stadium the team has been building near Miami International Airport. (AP)

# Div Com Kashmir Reviews Arrangements For 2nd Edition Of Kashmir Marathon

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the second edition of Kashmir Marathon, set to be held on November 2.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director Tourism, Vice Chairman LCMA, ADC Srinagar, SSP Traffic, Director Health, and officers from departments including Information, KPDCL, R&B, PHE, Youth Services & Sports, and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com emphasized ensuring comprehensive arrangements at the flag-off cum finishing spot, including electricity, sanitation, first-aid, and toilet facilities.

He directed the Director Tourism to share the detailed marathon route plan with all concerned departments.

The Director Tourism and SSP Traffic were instructed to arrange an adequate number of barricades for smooth traffic management on the event day.

To strengthen emergency response, the Div Com directed the



Health Department to deploy a water ambulance in Dal Lake. He also directed the Health Department to establish a field hospital at Polo View for post-marathon recovery and to set up 17 aid stations along the route.

Commissioner SMC was directed to beautify the marathon route with potted flower plants in collaboration with SKUAST-K, and to ensure sanitation along the entire stretch as well as dog-catching measures for the safety of participants.

The R&B Department was instructed to ensure a pothole-free track, while arrangements for bottled drinking water and refreshments were also reviewed.

The Div Com stressed the importance of training and sensitizing volunteers regarding their roles and responsibilities during the event.

The meeting also discussed organising a joint medal ceremony for the Full Marathon (seven hours) and Half Marathon (three hours) at SKICC.

It also discussed arrangements for three-day exhibition showcasing local products.

To ensure real-time coordination among departments, the Div Com directed the establishment of a Command & Control Centre.

# Jammu Court Summons BCCI Prez Mithun Manhas In Complaint Case

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class (Sub Judge), Jammu, has issued a summons notice directing BCCI President Mithun Manhas and others to appear in court in connection with a complaint filed by retired Dy SP Sudershan Mehta.

The complaint, as per the court order, has been filed under Sections 356, read with section 45, and 61 of the BNS Act, against Manhas and other officials associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) and several media editors, including Rattan Singh Gill (The Northlines), Shafqat Hussain Bukhari (The Kashmir Horizon), Farooq Ahmed Wani (Brighter Kashmir), and a journalist from The Indian News Service.

The court notice, issued on October 18, instructs Manhas to appear in person or through a legal representative on November 24.

As per the court notice, the



list of accused in the complaint includes Mithun Manhas, Anil Gupta (Retd Brig, Member Administration, JKCA), Majid Dar (Assistant Member, JKCA), and several media editors.

The court's order emphasises that no cognizance can be taken without hearing the 'proposed accused'. It also instructs that copies of the complaint and annexures be sent to the accused via registered post.

The case, which was transferred from the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, is scheduled for the next hearing on November 24. (KNO)

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