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J&K Takes TET Row Back To SC

Govt files review petition seeking reconsideration of the apex court's order



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has filed a review petition before the Supreme Court seeking reconsideration of its order mandating the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for all in-service teachers of primary and upper primary classes, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo said on Saturday.

Announcing the development, the minister said the government had fulfilled its commitment to pursue the matter before the apex court and remained committed to protecting the interests of teachers in the Union Territory.

"As committed, the review petition has been filed before the Honourable Supreme Court. The government has

consistently pursued this matter and remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of our teachers," Itoo said in a post on X.

The move comes in response to a Supreme Court order issued last year, which made it mandatory for all in-service teachers of primary and upper primary classes to qualify the TET within two years in order to continue in service.

The issue has generated concern among a section of teachers, prompting the government to seek legal recourse.

On May 30, Itoo had said the government had acted responsibly and proactively on the issue and had taken concrete steps to address teachers' concerns.

"We have consistently taken up this | More on P6

No Safe Haven For Smugglers, Peddlers Or Terror Financiers: LG

Says This Is A War Of Years, Not A Battle Of Weeks

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday reaffirmed the administration's resolve to eradicate drug abuse and narco-terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir, declaring that there would be no safe haven for drug smugglers, peddlers or terror financiers operating in the Union Territory.

Addressing a public rally in Kishtwar after leading a padyatra under the ongoing Drug-Free J&K Campaign, the Lieutenant Governor said security agencies were systematically dismantling drug trafficking networks and pursuing narco-terrorists across the region.

"We are breaking the chain of the drug trade at every single link. Whether it's cross-border smugglers, peddlers



or the terror financiers, there is no safe haven. Our agencies are hunting down every narco-terrorist and permanently dismantling their networks," Sinha said.

The campaign, launched to raise awareness against substance abuse and mobilise public participation in

combating the drug menace, has now covered 19 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor said the movement had brought together people from all walks of life over the past nearly two months.

"Our goal is to foster a grassroots resistance against

drug abuse and end narco-terrorism," he said, adding that citizens across the Union Territory had shared the pain of affected families and encouraged young people to stay away from drugs.

Stressing that the administration's campaign extends beyond awareness drives, Sinha said stern action would continue against those involved in drug trafficking and narco-terror activities.

"For 56 days I have pursued a single mission of eliminating every drug smuggler and narco-terrorist from this land. Narco-terrorists and drug smugglers, whether in Pulwama or Ramban, Ulgam or Kishtwar, must understand that there will be no mercy for those who ruin the future of our young generation," he said.

Referring to the Centre's policy | More on P6

Anti-Terror Op Enters 14th Day In Rajouri



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A joint anti-terror operation by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF has entered its fourteenth day in the dense forests of Gambhir Mughlan and Dorimal in the Manjakote sector of Rajouri district. Security forces are continuing to track suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the region.

The security forces were seen checking the ID cards of travellers and locals, conducting intensive search operations in the region.

The operation, codenamed Operation Sheruwalli, was launched following intelligence inputs indicating the presence | More on P6

Iran Targets US Gulf Bases As Trump Seeks Quick End

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Iran launched missile and drone attacks on US military facilities in the Gulf, including the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and air bases in Kuwait, after accusing the US military of carrying out fresh strikes on Iranian infrastructure and assets near the Strait of Hormuz.

The latest exchange marked a significant escalation in tensions between Iran and the United States despite a fragile ceasefire brokered by Pakistan that took effect on April 8 after weeks of conflict.

In a statement, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said the operation was launched after U.S. forces struck telecommunications facilities on Qeshm Island and Sirik and targeted Iranian shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the IRGC, four oil tankers attempted to leave the strategic waterway



early Saturday "without coordination" and despite repeated warnings from Iranian naval forces.

The Guards said one tanker was stopped after being targeted, while the remaining vessels turned back.

The IRGC said U.S. drones later struck telecommunications towers on Qeshm Island and in Sirik.

"In response to this aggression and violation of the Strait of Hormuz regulations,

a vessel belonging to the American-Zionist enemy named Panaya was targeted by missiles from the IRGC Navy," the Guards said.

The statement added that the IRGC Aerospace Force launched ballistic missiles at two U.S. military bases in Kuwait, including Ali Al Salem Air Base, and targeted facilities associated with the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

"We had previously warned that if | More on P6

SC: Accused Cannot Be Denied Chargesheet Documents

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said that an accused cannot be denied access to documents forming part of the chargesheet as withholding them could seriously prejudice their right to a fair trial.

The observations came from a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar, which directed that a typed copy of some "highly confidential" documents be provided to retired Major General V K Singh, who is facing prosecution in a case lodged in 2007 under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The bench noted it was not the CBI's case that documents sought by Singh, who was also a former RAW official, were not relevant for the purpose of trial, and the only objection taken by the prosecution was that they were "highly confidential for the purpose of national security" and if its copies were supplied, there were chances that those may come

out in the public domain.

"It is trite law that an accused cannot be denied access to documents forming part of the chargesheet, including those from the general diary, if such documents were obtained in good faith, are relevant to the prosecution's case, and their disclosure is considered necessary by the public prosecutor for the interests of justice and fair trial," the bench said in its May 18 order.

"It is so because withholding such documents could seriously prejudice the accused's right to a fair trial," it said.

The apex court passed the order on Singh's plea challenging a September order of the Delhi High Court from last year.

The High Court had modified a December 2009 order of a trial court, which had directed the prosecution to supply copies of documents sought by Singh.

Singh had filed an application under Section 207 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) before the trial court seeking a direction to the prosecution to | More on P6

Amarnath Yatra

Beautification, Safety Works Stepped-up On NH-44

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to commence next month, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ramky Infrastructure have intensified highway improvement and beautification works along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims.

Officials associated with the project said painting and maintenance works are being carried out at various locations on the highway, including road dividers, crash barriers, curbstones and other infrastructure, to improve visibility and enhance road safety.



The ongoing exercise is part of broader preparations being undertaken by various agencies ahead of the pilgrimage, which attracts thousands of devotees from across the country every year.

Workers have been deployed at several stretches of the highway to | More on P6

HC Cancels Bail In Rape Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has set aside a court order granting bail to an accused facing trial in a rape case, holding that the trial court in Bandipora relied on irrelevant considerations and undertook an impermissible detailed analysis of evidence at the bail stage.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the Union Territory challenging the June 27, 2024 order of the Additional Sessions Judge, Bandipora, which had enlarged the accused, Parvaiz Ahmed Ganie, on bail in FIR No. 155/2022 registered at Sumbal Police Station

under Sections 341, 376 and 506 IPC.

According to the prosecution, the victim alleged that on December 27, 2022, while she was carrying cow dung to her farmland, the accused followed her, tore her clothes and forcibly committed sexual intercourse. The accused was arrested on December 29, 2022, and a chargesheet was subsequently filed after investigation.

The trial court had granted bail after noting factors such as non-seizure of a lighter and muffer allegedly used during the crime, absence of spermatozoa on the victim's seized clothing, discrepancies regarding the place of occurrence, delay in | More on P6

Mufti's AIIMS Awantipora Visit Sparks NC-PDP Faceoff

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fresh political confrontation has erupted between the ruling National Conference (NC) and the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) over the progress of the AIIMS Awantipora project, with leaders from both parties trading barbs following former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's recent visit to the institution.

The controversy began after Mehbooba revealed that she had spoken to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda and urged him to expedite the completion of the long-awaited healthcare project.

In a post on X, the PDP president said she had sought the Union minister's intervention to ensure that the project is completed without further delay.

"Spoke with Union Health Minister JP Nadda ji and requested him to expedite

the ongoing work at AIIMS Awantipora so that it doesn't get delayed any further. He was kind enough to assure me about its completion well on time," she wrote.

Mehbooba acknowledged the efforts of the construction team working on the project but said the institution must become operational at the earliest given the healthcare challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir.

"Undoubtedly the team assigned here is toiling day and night, but given how healthcare is crumbling across J&K, it is imperative AIIMS Awantipora is operational soon. It will provide much-needed relief and quality medical services," she said.

However, her visit drew criticism from the ruling National Conference, which questioned the role of an opposition leader in reviewing the status of an ongoing government project.

National | More on P6

Judicial Orders Can't Be Formalities'

HC Warns Against Unverified AI Citations, Fines School ₹25K

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that judicial orders are intended to have practical effect and cannot be formalities, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday upheld an order directing a private educational institution, Woodland House School here, to comply with an earlier interim direction to release 50 percent salary dues to a former employee, while dismissing the educational institution's petition with costs of Rs 25,000.

A Bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal ruled that interim court orders are executable under Section 36 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) and rejected the contention that the respondent's only remedy was under Order 39 Rule 2-A CPC for alleged disobedience of an injunction.



The case arose from a civil suit filed by Shakeel Ahmad, who sought recognition as a supervisor and release of salary benefits. During the pendency of the suit, the trial court on June 14, 2022 directed the school to pay 50 percent of his salary from April 2021 till May 11, 2022, subject to an undertaking that the amount would be refunded if he ultimately

failed in the suit.

The school challenged the order before the appellate court and later before the High Court, but both forums upheld the interim direction. Despite this, the school allegedly failed to comply, prompting the respondent to initiate execution proceedings.

The High Court observed that the petitioners | More on P6



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Long-Term Strength Training Associated With Lower Risk Of Death: Study

Press Trust of India

Up to 90-120 minutes of strength training per week could be related with a 13 per cent lower risk of death from any cause, with effects amplified if aerobic exercise is added, a 30-year study showed. The duration of 90-120 minutes of strength training also reduced the risk of death from cardiovascular disease by 19 per cent, and from neu-

cluding the Health Professionals Follow-up Study (1992-2022), were analysed. During the 30-year monitoring period, 35,798 study participants died. Three quarters of the 1,47,374 participants did more than the recommended 150 minutes per week of moderate intensity aerobic exercise, measured as 7.5 MET hours over the long term. "Compared with no resistance training, 90-119 minutes per week of resistance



rological diseases by 27 per cent, according to the findings published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. However, no further benefits were observed beyond 120 minutes a week of strength or resistance training. Researchers, including those from Harvard University, said that benefits of aerobic physical activity on lowering one's death risk are known, but the role of muscle strengthening exercises in reducing the risk is not clear. "Using repeated measures of resistance training over up to 30 years of follow-up, moderate long-term resistance training was associated with lower all-cause mortality, with lowest risks plateauing at around (more than) 120 minutes per week of resistance training," the authors wrote. Data from three groups of study participants, in-

training was associated with a 13 per cent lower risk of all-cause mortality, 19 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular mortality and 27 per cent lower risk of neurological disease mortality, adjusting for aerobic activity," the authors wrote. Aerobic activity alone at any level above 7.5 MET hours per week was associated with a 26-43 per cent lower risk of death. However, the lowest risk of death was observed among those with both high aerobic activity and strength training levels every week -- 45 per cent lower risk for 30-44 MET hours per week of aerobic exercise plus 60-119 minutes per week of strength training, and 53-58 per cent lower risks among those with more than 45 MET hours per week of aerobic activity, irrespective of strength training level.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Manzoor Ahmad Ganie S/o Ab Aziz Ganie R/o: Gokhama Kunzer have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Nabreema Begum W/o: Mohammad Maqbool Rather R/o: Tailagam Kreeri Baramulla have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Mohd Sameer Choudhary S/o: Nazir Hussain R/o: Raipur Jammu have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Dilshada Akhter D/o: Gh Mohd Malik R/o: Kolipora Sabidan Budgam have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Tanveer Ahmad Dar S/o: Tariq Ahmad Dar R/o: Tengpora Srinagar have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Firdous Ahmad Ganie S/o Ghulam Mohammad Ganie R/o Hariwatnoo Tangmarg District Baramulla have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan... Sub.. Application on behalf of Rameez Raja Malik s/o Mohd Ibrahim Malik R/o Hanjiwera payeeen Tehsil Pattan for issuance of legal heir certificate.. Public Notice... IT is inform to general public that applicants father's legal heir certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Mohd Ibrahim Malik s/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o Hanjiwera payeeen passed away on 26/12/2024 and left following legal heirs...

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
FATIMA BEGUM	65	WIFE	WIDOW
GH MOHD MALIK	34	SON	MARRIED
RAMEEZ RAJA MALIK	28	SON	UNMARRIED
ARSHID AHMAD MALIK	25	SON	MARRIED
MEHJABEENA BEGUM	37	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
WAHEEDA BANO	33	DAUGHTER	UNMARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Application on behalf of Ab Hameed Ganie s/o Gh Mohd Ganie R/o Pattan for issuance of legal heir certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to general public that applicants father's legal heir certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely GH mohd Ganie s/o Ab Aziz Ganie R/o Pattan died on 14/12/2003 and left following legal heirs.

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
ZAIBA BEGUM	76	WIFE	WIDOW
AB HAMEED GANAYE	48	SON	MARRIED
KHURSHED AHMAD GANAYE	42	SON	MARRIED
GULZAR AHMAD GANAIE	41	SON	UNMARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the electric connection bearing Consumer No. 0202050019938, presently registered in the name of Pervaiz Ahmad Wani, is proposed to be transferred in favour of Tahira Gulfam.

If any person has any objection regarding the said transfer, he/she may submit the same in writing before the Electric Sub Division, Baghat, Sanat Nagar within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Applicant
Tahira Gulfam
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 676606642714 the name is entered as Hajera Begam while my actual name is Hajra. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Hajra W/o Mohammad Yousuf Khan
R/o Panzan Budgam
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Mir, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir, R/o Uchlipora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that the date of birth of my daughter Uzma Nazir is 29-04-2014, born at our residence in Uchlipora. Her birth has not been registered with the concerned authority till date. I have applied for delayed registration of birth before the competent authority. If any person has any objection regarding the above particulars, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period. Otherwise, the birth shall be registered accordingly.

Nazir Ahmad Mir
Father of Uzma Nazir
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing adhaar no: 9364 1141 9357 Rukeena Akhter while my correct name is Rakeena Begum. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar centre within seven days. After that no objections shall be entertained.

Rakeena Begum
W/o Bilal Ahmad Bhat
fko_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card while my correct name as per Election Card is Zona Begum. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objections shall be entertained.

Zona Begum
S/o Gafar Sheikh
R/o TELI MOHALLA, SONASAMIL, SONASAMIL, RAJPORA, PULWAMA
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 440374909082 the name is entered as Fazeer Jan while my actual name is Fajal Jan. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Fajal Jan W/o Wali Mohammad Chaudhary R/o Usmaniya Colony Goripora
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Mehraj ud Din Bhat S/o: Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat R/o: Banbazar Mergam Shopian have applied for upgradation of my Class A contractor card issued vide No. UD/1980-81/A/4 Dated 10/10/1980 to Class A Partnership Firm. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS)

NIT No: 23/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/1694-1704

Dated: 06-06-2026

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of contractor	AAA & Dated
1	Macadamization of road Reshi Mohalla Gadpora Wagard Tral.	28.94	1100/-	2% of Adv cost	25 days	C&T of Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY, BEE	37-SE/PS/ of 2026 Dated:
2	Macadamization of Widened Shoulders of Hari Kaigam Road.	38.83	1100/-	2% of Adv cost	10 days	C&T of Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY, BEE	68-SE/PS/ of 2026 Dated:

Position of AAA: -
Position of T.S:-
Position of funds: -

Accorded
Accorded
Committed

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06-06-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	08-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	17-06-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18-06-2026 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure-A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG)

3. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG)

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

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

DIPK-1884/26 dated: 06-06-2026

Sd/-
Draftsman

Sd/-
Tech. Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL INSPECTION DIVISION SRINAGAR email: inspectiondiv-kmr@jk.gov.in

PRESS NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned applicants who have applied for the Wiremen Examination in response to this office notice No. EIDS/2011-12 dated 02-05-2026, that the examination will be conducted as per the below mentioned schedule:

Date of Examination : 15th, 16th and 17th June, 2026

Timing : 10:30AM to 1PM & 2 PM to 4:30 PM

Venue : Office of the Executive Engineer,
Electric Inspection Division,
Sulaiman Complex, Dalgate
Srinagar, 190001

The detailed schedule, list of eligible candidates and candidate wise date and timing of exam is available on the website of KPDCCL www.kpdcl.jk.gov.in

-----sd-----

Executive Engineer

Electric Inspection Division
Srinagar

No. : EIDS / 417
Dated : 06.06.2026

DIPK-NB-676/26
dated: 06-06-2026

GMC Sgr Issues Pesticide Poisoning Advisory for Orchardists

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With pesticide use remaining a routine practice in Kashmir's orchards during the growing season, the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has issued a comprehensive public health advisory, urging orchardists and their families to take precautions against pesticide poisoning and protect both human health and the environment.

The awareness message, issued by Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Head, Department of Community Medicine, highlights the serious dangers posed by improper handling and exposure to pesticides, particularly organophosphate compounds commonly used in agriculture.

The advisory, accessed by KNO, stresses that safeguarding lives, families, and the environment largely rests with orchardists themselves through responsible pesticide use and adherence to safety measures.

It cautioned that pesticide poisoning can occur during or shortly after spray-

ing operations and may rapidly become life-threatening if not addressed in time.

According to the advisory, orchardists should remain alert to symptoms collectively referred to as "SLUDGE," a common indicator of organophosphate poisoning. These include excessive salivation, unexplained tearing of the eyes, uncontrolled urination, diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, pinpoint pupils, breathing difficulties, muscle twitching, and seizures.

Doctors warned that anyone experiencing these symptoms after exposure to pesticides should stop work immediately and seek urgent medical assistance.

The advisory outlines several critical first-aid measures that should be taken before reaching a hospital.

Affected individuals should be removed from the spraying area and shifted to fresh air immediately. Any contaminated clothing should be removed carefully, preferably by cutting it off to avoid further exposure. The exposed skin and hair must be thoroughly washed with soap and water.



KU Brings Together Academics, Policymakers & Students for Climate Action Initiatives

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir marked World Environment Day 2026 with a series of academic, outreach and environmental initiatives organised across its campus over the past three days, bringing together policymakers, academics, students, environmental experts and civil society representatives to promote climate action, sustainability and ecological responsibility.

Adding significance to the occasion, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, visited the University as part of its national consultation with stakeholders. During their visit, the Committee members participated in the plantation drive organised under the World Environment Day celebrations and also visited the University Botanical Garden. The Committee interacted with Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, senior functionaries, faculty members and university officers on issues related to higher education reforms.

As part of the celebrations, the University also organised a walkathon, plantation drive, expert lecture, painting exhibition and environmental awareness activities.

Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, while addressing various events held during the celebrations, underscored the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges and reiterated the role of universities in promoting ecological awareness, sustainable practices and informed public engagement on climate and environmental issues.

The Eco Club of the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), KU in collaboration with the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, organised the main World Environment Day programme at the University campus.

The programme featured a walkathon, plantation drive, expert lecture and painting exhibition aimed at promoting environmental awareness and encouraging youth participation in conservation initiatives.

Students from Kashmir University Model High School also participated in the programme and showcased their ideas on environmental protection through a painting exhibition.

The walkathon was flagged off by the Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, in the presence of Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Dean Students Welfare Prof. Seema Singh, Dean School of Earth and Environmental Sciences Prof. Parvez Ahmad, faculty members, students and invited guests.

In her welcome address, Prof. Seema Singh, Dean Students Welfare, said that activities such as walkathons, plantation drives and painting competitions provide a meaningful platform for students to express their commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Parvez Ahmad, Dean School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, highlighted the need for greater public participation in addressing environmental degradation and climate change. He observed that Jammu and Kashmir, being an ecologically fragile region, requires sustained efforts towards environmental conservation and responsible resource management.

The programme also featured an expert lecture by noted environmental lawyer and conservationist Advocate Nadeem Qadri on "Volunteerism for Nature: The Role of Youth in Nature Conservation." He highlighted judicial interventions and initiatives undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir for the conservation of wildlife, wetlands and freshwater bodies and stressed

the need for a consortium of academics, researchers, members of the judiciary and environmental activists to strengthen environmental advocacy and policy initiatives.

Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer, Department of Students Welfare, conducted the proceedings of the event and proposed the vote of thanks on the occasion.

Meanwhile, as part of its outreach initiatives commemorating World Environment Day 2026, the Department of Environmental Science, KU organised a two-day environmental outreach programme in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) DH Pora, Kulgam and JAKNAP Projects Pvt. Ltd.

Addressing the inaugural session, Prof. Abdul Salam Dar, Principal, GDC DH Pora, welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting environmental stewardship and awareness.

In their remarks, Dr. Sami Ullah Bhat, Head, Department of Environmental Science KU and Prof. Waseem Bari, Director, South Campus KU, emphasised the importance of taking science beyond classrooms, strengthening environmental education and encouraging students to actively contribute towards conservation and sustainable development.

Dr. Arshid Jehangir, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science, KU and Dr. Basharat Mushtaq, General Manager, JAKNAP Projects Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the objectives of the outreach programme and underscored the importance of scientific knowledge, community engagement and academia-industry collaboration in addressing contemporary environmental challenges and advancing sustainable solutions.

Hyderabad Tourist Declared Dead After Being Brought to SMHS Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 60-year-old tourist from Hyderabad was declared brought dead after being shifted to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Mir Sajid Ali, son of Mir Mehmood, a resident of Hyderabad, who was presently staying at a hotel in Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Officials said the tourist was brought to SMHS Hospital, where doctors ex-

amined him and declared him brought dead.

The exact cause of death was not immediately known, and authorities were ascertaining the circumstances leading to the incident.

Hospital sources confirmed that the body was received at the hospital and necessary medico-legal formalities were being carried out.

As per KNT, Police have taken cognizance of the matter, while further proceedings are underway.

DC Reviews District Capex Budget 2026-27, Heritage Conservation Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the progress of the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2026-27, a meeting of all executing agencies and line departments was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Tathier Manzoor, Joint Commissioner SMC, Hamid Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, PDD, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District & Sectoral Officers.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress achieved in the preparation and submission of estimates for works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. He also reviewed the physical and financial status of ongoing works under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and the progress of works being executed under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the status of heritage conservation projects being undertaken in Srinagar district under the Government's

Heritage Conservation Scheme aimed at preserving Srinagar's rich cultural and architectural legacy.

While reviewing the submission of estimates for the financial year 2026-27, the Deputy Commissioner was informed that a total of 492 works have been proposed under the District Capex Budget, of which estimates for 232 works have been submitted by various executing agencies so far.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to ensure timely submission of the remaining estimates so that administrative approvals can be accorded without delay, enabling early tendering, allotment and execution of works. He emphasized that the limited working season must be utilized effectively to maximize developmental outcomes and public benefit.

The DC stressed that all works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 should be executed in a qualitative and time-bound manner to achieve the intended objectives and strengthen service delivery across sectors. Reviewing the progress of works under the Constituency Development Fund, the DC was informed that 540 works have been completed out of 756 works tendered across various sectors. He directed the concerned departments to accelerate the pace of ongoing works and ensure their completion at the earliest. He also emphasized the need for prompt submission of estimates for new works proposed under the CDF.

Directorate of Ecology, Environment, & Remote Sensing, Jammu & Kashmir.

www.jkdeers.jk.gov.in | dir-jk@jk.gov.in 0194-2494585, 0191-2474553

Paryavaran Bhawan, Forest Complex, Gladni, Narwal Jammu, 180 006
SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar, 190018

Subject: Final Selection List for the post of Lab Assistant, UT Cadre. Advertised vide Notification Nos. 03 of 2021 dated 04-06-2021, under Item No. 595-Forwarding thereof.

Reference: This Directorate's letter No. DEERS/2020/S-172/1037 dated 18-12-2020.

NOTICE

Administrative Department (Forest) vide letter No. FST-NG/5/2021-04 dated 19-05-2026 forwarded a copy of selection/recommendation list furnished by the J&K Service Selection vide communication No. JKSSB-Scry/26/2025-03 (E-7733324) dated 27-04-2026 of One (01) Lab Assistant (UT Cadre) and requesting to issue formal appointment order in favor of the selected candidate after fulfilling all codal formalities and verification of character and antecedents in terms of Government Order No. 1003-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated 27-09-2021 and Circular No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20-05-2022, under rules. The below named candidate selected as Lab Assistant (UT Cadre) is hereby directed to submit his e-mail IDs and contact number to this office either in person or on official email ID (ado-deers@jk.gov.in) within 21 days from the date of issuance of this notice as the same are required for uploading the details on Employee Verification System (EVS), failing which it will be presumed that you are not willing to take up your appointment as Lab Assistant in this Directorate and shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice.

S.No.	Name	Parentage	Address	Category
01.	Surya Dogra	Rajesh Dogra	88,67, Lower Muthi, Jammu North, Jammu-180018.	OM

DIPK-1895/26
dated 06-06-2026
No: DEERS/Estt/2026/5-1721/300-303

Navneet Singh
(Navneet Singh)IFS,
Regional Director/
Administrative Officer,
Ecology, Env. & Remote Sensing,
J&K.

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


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
21 Zil-Hajj
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	3: 35
ZUHR	12:30
ASR	5: 29
Magrib	7:43
ISHA	9: 24

This Day In History

- 640 Arab Muslim army sent by Caliph Omar (RA) begins siege of Heliopolis, city succumbs mid to late July, paving way for Muslim conquest of Byzantine Egypt
- 1002- German King Henry II the Saint crowned
- 1513- Battle of Novara, the War of the League of Cambrai: the Swiss Confederacy defeat the French
- 1520- France and England sign treaty of Scotland
- 1523- Gustav Vasa is elected King of Sweden, marking the end of the Kalmar Union
- 1536- Mexico begins its inquisition
- 1665- Battle at Monte Carlo: English and Portuguese armies beat Spain
- 1673- France and Brandenburg sign peace treaty
- 1801- Peace of Badajoz: Spain-Portugal
- 1809- Sweden declares independence, constitutional monarchy established with a new constitution empowering Riksdag after 20 years of absolute monarchy
- 1864- Battle of Lake Chicot, Arkansas (Dutch Bayou)
- 1875- Netherlands joins the gold standard
- 1882- Cyclone in Arabian Sea (Bombay, India) drowns 100,000 (disputed event)
- 1882- Electric iron patented by Henry W Seely, NYC
- 1912- The eruption of Novarupta in Alaska begins, the largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century
- 1916- The death of Yuan Shikai, ruler of much of China since 1912, causes the central government to virtually collapse in the face of warlords, including Sun Yat-sen
- 1918- Battle of Belleau Wood, 1st US victory of WW I
- 1919- Finland declares war on bolsheviks
- 1919- The Republic of Prekmurje ends
- 1923- Edgar Wallace becomes the first British radio sports journalist reporting on The Derby for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC)
- 1926- Egyptian government of Adly Pasha forms
- 1931- Belgian government of Henri Jaspar falls
- 1942- Japanese forces retreat, ending Battle of Midway
- 1944- World War II: All Major League Baseball games are cancelled in honor of the D-Day landings in northern France
- 1944- Operation Overlord: D-Day begins as the 156,000-strong Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy, France, during World War II
- 1947- Treaty drawn up for establishment of International Patent Institute
- 1950- Turkey: The Adhan in Arabic is legalized.

From KO Archives

Advani Quits In Jinnah's Defence

NEW DELHI - Just two days after his remarks on Muhammed Ali Jinnah, L K Advani on Tuesday resigned as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. His resignation came a day after the top RSS brass demanded that Advani withdraw his utterances. Returning home on Monday, Advani had brushed aside all criticism and described his visit as "an unforgettable week in my life". He said he welcomed a debate on the remarks about Jinnah.

Significantly, Advani wrote the resignation letter just before leaving Karachi on Monday.

RSS has been demanding that he withdraw his statements in Pakistan specially that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was secular.

Hours after the midnight demand of the Sangh Parivar founthead that he "review" the statements made in Pakistan during his weeklong visit.

Advani called Sanjay Joshi, RSS pointsman in- BJP to his residence this morning and handed over to him a letter announcing his resignation as party President.

The party made this disclosure in a press statement along with which it released a letter written by Advani to Joshi significantly "just before" leaving Karachi yesterday.

"I have decided to request the party to relieve me of Presidencyship," the letter said.

(Kashmir Observer, 07 June, 2005)

Who Failed the Test?

The drive to raise educational standards will succeed only if reform focuses on strengthening institutions rather than revisiting settled appointments.



Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah

The debate surrounding the Teacher Eligibility Test has become far larger than an examination. It now raises a fundamental question about fairness, accountability and the way governments choose to fix past policy failures.

When the Teacher Eligibility Test, or TET, was introduced in 2010 following the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, its purpose was clear. Officials sought a common national benchmark for recruiting elementary school teachers. Through the Central Teacher Eligibility Test and various state-level examinations, authorities aimed to ensure that new entrants possessed basic subject knowledge, pedagogical understanding and classroom aptitude.

TET functioned as a gatekeeper. It served as a quality check before entry into the profession. It was never conceived as a tool for evaluating teachers who had already spent years, and often decades, in classrooms.

That distinction sits at the heart of the current controversy.

Recent judicial interpretations have expanded the significance of TET beyond recruitment. The Supreme Court has clarified that TET constitutes a statutory minimum qualification for elementary school teaching. The ruling extends its relevance to certain categories of serving teachers as well, particularly in questions involving promotions and continued service.

Teachers with substantial years remaining in service may now face expectations to acquire the qualification within a specified period.

The judgment strengthens the legal status of TET as a uniform national standard. It also transforms the examination from a prospective recruitment benchmark into something

much broader. A policy designed for future entrants now reaches backward toward employees appointed under entirely different rules.

That shift needs closer scrutiny. Thousands of teachers entered government service before TET existed. They fulfilled qualifications prescribed by their respective states, and passed recruitment procedures established by public authorities. Their appointments complied with the legal framework of that period. Many spent decades working within systems designed, regulated and supervised by governments themselves.

Placing a new qualifying examination before these teachers raises an uncomfortable governance question. If educational quality remained below expectations, who bears responsibility? The individual teacher who complied with every rule in force at the time of appointment, or the institutions that created those rules?

Public administration usually answers that question in a straightforward way.

Civil servants selected through the Union Public Service Commission enter service under standards established by the state. Doctors complete accredited medical education and obtain licenses through statutory bodies. Engineers graduate from recognized institutions and enter professional practice through accepted qualification systems.

Governments routinely improve these systems: recruitment criteria evolve, training standards become stronger, and regulatory frameworks become more demanding.

Those reforms generally apply to future entrants. Administrative continuity and legal certainty create confidence that individuals who entered service lawfully will not face large-scale requalification exercises decades later because policymakers changed their minds about earlier standards.

Teaching appears to occupy a different category.

The logic underlying the expanded role of TET assumes that a written eligibility examination remains an effective measure of professional competence long after appointment. That assumption overlooks the very nature of teaching.

A classroom is not an examination hall. Great teaching involves communication, judgment, empathy, adaptability and the abil-



“The larger concern surrounding TET extends beyond the examination itself. Educational standards should rise. Governments possess both the authority and the obligation to pursue that goal. The challenge lies in determining how reforms are implemented.”

Qualification and competence are related concepts, but they are not identical.

International experience points toward a more effective path. Finland, widely regarded as one of the world's strongest education systems, focuses heavily on rigorous teacher preparation before entry into the profession. Prospective teachers undergo highly selective admissions processes, extensive academic training and supervised classroom experience. Professional trust follows qualification.

Japan and several OECD education systems follow a similar approach. Mentorship, school-based learning, collaborative evaluation and continuous professional development form the backbone of teacher accountability. Performance receives attention throughout a teacher's career, while improvement remains the central goal.

These systems share a common principle: educational quality is built at the front end through strong preparation and sustained professional growth.

That principle does not weaken accountability. Strong accountability remains essential in public education. Schools need effective mechanisms to evaluate performance and support improvement.

ity to engage students with different abilities and backgrounds. It requires classroom management, lesson planning, emotional awareness and sustained interaction with children.

These skills develop through practice and experience. A standardized written examination captures only a fraction of that reality.



Wajahat Qazi

Kashmir's Akaky

A Russian clerk and a Kashmiri wanderer expose how societies normalize ridicule and invisibility.

The universality of Russian literature, its accurate diagnosis of the human condition, the psychotic dark side of human nature, and the jostling between faith, reason, and rationality have no parallel.

While this is not a statement of a political nature or “side-taking,” the universality and brilliance of Russian literature have been occluded by the soft power dominance of Western print and visual media, or the dominance of the airwaves.

Indeed, while Dostoyevsky sits atop Russian classical literature and bestrides it like a colossus, there are others who, if not equal to this great Russian, certainly are brilliance incarnate.

One of these was Nikolai Gogol. An author of fantastic novels and short stories of great brilliance, one of his stories, “The Overcoat,” with a universal theme embedded in it, has a searing resonance for Kashmir.

The main character, or protagonist of the Gogol's “Overcoat,” Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin, is a “petty” clerk and copyist in the Russian government of the time. A point to note here is the meaning of the man's name: Akaky, in Russian, can mean “no evil” or “harmless,” and Bashmachkin means “shoe.”

Metaphorically, it means being always under someone's thumb.

Akaky, the character, is a self-abasing man who loves his work, copying, never complains about it, and is never given credit or recognition for it by his peers. Always wearing a long overcoat, which becomes tattered and torn through overuse, Akaky yearns for a new one. But he cannot afford it.

Saving and scrimping money, and in the meantime being taunted and mocked by his colleagues, Akaky buys a reasonably stylish new overcoat. An introverted figure, he finds himself the odd man out at parties and other social settings. He observes that while people are noticing him now, it is the overcoat that is the center of attention.

After a midnight party, he leaves and is accosted by robbers who steal the new overcoat. Distraught and aghast, Akaky is unable to find redress from the Russian officialdom.

Upon somebody's suggestion, Akaky makes a plea to a self-important official whose sense of self is derived from shouting at and humiliating his subordinates. This official asks Akaky trite and corny questions, and Akaky's lack of conventional social skills makes him stutter something that is not liked by the official.

The self-important official then berates and scolds



Akaky in the most humiliating manner.

After a little while, Akaky falls ill. In delirium, he first forgives the imperious official who had humiliated him, but then curses him.

After Akaky dies, in St. Petersburg, Russia, where Akaky lived, there is news of a ghost who is stealing people's overcoats. This is actually Akaky's spirit, which finally finds the Russian official.

Akaky takes the coat from him, or the official, scared witless, gives it to him, my memory is a tad hazy here.

In my interpretation, Gogol's brilliance lies in creating a character, a mere cog in the system, who is seeking validation, recognition, and self-esteem from his peers and society.

The character, Akaky, assumes that his hard work would do that, but it does not. He then believes that a material possession, like a brand-new overcoat, may divert attention to him.

But, to his chagrin, he discovers that it is actually the overcoat that is getting the attention, not Akaky himself.

What he cannot do, or is unable to do, in life, Akaky's ghost does in death. It snatches back what was taken away from Akaky by the self-important Russian official, metaphorically represented by the overcoat.

Akaky's poignant story, that of a man who meant no harm, was not evil, and merely wanted to live a decent life, recognized by his peers and society, comes to naught. His peers who mock and deride him, the robbers who steal his coat, and the imperious official who humiliates Akaky, sapping any remnant of dignity from him, are testimony to the evil that resides in human hearts, to arrogance and pride, and, of course, to the venality and hypocrisies of society.

Now, how can “The Overcoat” and Akaky's odyssey be connected to Kashmir?

Soon after my return from Australia, the worst of times and the best of times for me, I would notice a man in Kashmir's city centre, Lal Chowk, named after Moscow's Red Square, wearing a western-style suit and a hat, his upper body bedecked with transistors and radios, wandering through the city centre.

Whenever I saw him, his large eyes would widen, his large scraggly bearded face would beam. He would smile and say, “Good day, sir,” in neat English.

Then he would speak in English prose, and I would listen politely, unable to make sense of what he was saying. People around Lal Chowk would scoff, giggle, and mutter.

Then one day, the man was no longer to be seen in

Lal Chowk. My curiosity piqued, I asked around. I was told, to my horror, that the man had burnt to death, charred actually, during a cold winter night in Kashmir.

He had probably been abandoned by his family and lived alone. People called him the “English Mot,” English madman.

I later asked more about the man. I was told that he had been an engineer, a very able one, but that one day he had suddenly snapped and begun wandering. He would take rides in autorickshaws, tuk tuks, or local buses, talking to anyone who cared to listen about truth, the different ways of arriving at it, and so on.

But he would scrupulously and vehemently maintain that he was a Muslim, a good Muslim. The coats he wore gradually wore off. They became tattered and torn, but the man maintained his routine.

Then one fine morning, his charred body was discovered.

Now, if I may veer into the domain of speculation, I would aver that the “English Mot” of Kashmir was the Kashmiri equivalent of Gogol's Akaky, a harmless man who meant no evil.

The man from Kashmir all he probably wanted was recognition, his capacity for work and capabilities, and his self-worth recognized.

But society here, like probably elsewhere in the Third World, refused to give that.

On the contrary, Kashmir's Akaky was taunted, mocked, and humiliated. I was told that in the place where he lived, children would laugh at him and run after him.

While Akaky's ghost in Gogol's fictional rendering took his revenge, our “English Mot” died an anonymous, painful death. Not even his memory remains.

When I asked people about the man's name, no one knew. No one could recall it. The “English Mot” of Kashmir, seeking and craving recognition all his life, died an anonymous death.

What does this tell us about our society?

That fundamental insecurities, complex fears, and aspects of evil reside in many people's hearts. Held as a “hospitable, nice, polite people,” we, inferring from Akaky's and our “English Mot's” odyssey, appear to be insecure about ourselves, suffer from inferiority complexes, and project our fears and vulnerabilities onto those we deem more vulnerable than ourselves.

We call them mad and make them madder with our behaviour and attitudes, their simple-mindedness, their vulnerabilities, and their fragility becoming a grand spectacle to enjoy, even sadistically. This is the state of our society.

Can we be redeemed?

God knows better, but I will conclude with a hope and a prayer: “English Mot,” may your soul rest in peace.

And may we be inspired by your story, saga, and odyssey to straighten our souls, and character.

Ameen to that!

The author holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and combines scholarship with real-world engagement. He has worked in academia and media, including as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Why SKIMS Is Overburdened

Routine cases should be treated locally, freeing specialist hospitals to focus on complex and critical care.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

I lay in a remote district hospital in Kashmir this February, my body wracked by relentless food poisoning after a simple breakfast. Six days of intravenous fluids and tests followed. Dedicated doctors worked around the clock to stabilize me. Their equipment delivered results at minimal or no cost.

That local care showed the best of our public system.

But when my condition refused to improve, those same doctors made a decisive call at midnight: transfer me to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar.

The journey through dark roads brought me straight into SKIMS emergency ward. Staff moved with precision despite the late hour. I chose the paying ward for calmer surroundings.

Clean rooms and prompt treatment helped me recover and leave within a week. Paramedical teams monitored patients constantly, and the facilities held up well. Senior specialists reached our block late in

their rounds, a direct result of the physical distance from main wards and the constant flow of arrivals from every corner of the valley.

This personal experience reveals the deeper strain on Kashmir's healthcare.

SKIMS and other major hospitals in Srinagar absorb waves of patients daily. Even the most skilled doctors and support staff show visible exhaustion. Their expertise ranks among the finest in India. Overload reduces the time they can devote to each case.

A recent follow-up ultrasound at SMHS hospital drove the point home.

I saw a young doctor, trained in the United Kingdom, perched on a broken chair behind a worn table. He treated an endless line of people with humility and focus amid shabby conditions. Most professionals deliver this level of commitment. The system pushes their limits anyway.

Routine cases like severe food poisoning belong in district hospitals. Over-referral to Srinagar clogs the premier institutes. These centers exist for complex surgeries, advanced procedures, and rare conditions.

When peripheral facilities shift manageable patients to the capital, they exhaust specialists and delay care for those who truly need specialized attention. Strengthening local infrastructure would keep treatment closer to home and ease pressure on urban hospitals.

Families who wait too long or encounter broken equipment turn to private options.



WHEN PERIPHERAL FACILITIES SHIFT MANAGEABLE PATIENTS TO THE CAPITAL, they exhaust specialists and delay care for those who truly need specialized attention. Strengthening local infrastructure would keep treatment closer to home and ease pressure on urban hospitals.

Diagnostic centers have multiplied across the valley. Prices for the same test swing wildly between labs in the same area. Reports of hidden charges and aggressive billing surface regularly. Patients already burdened by illness face additional financial hits.

Public hospitals provide a necessary foundation, but the private sector fills gaps only when it operates with fairness and transparency.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration holds clear paths forward. It should set firm, region-specific price limits on common diagnostic tests in private labs. It must upgrade district and peripheral hospitals so

they manage everyday emergencies and limit Srinagar referrals to essential specialist cases.

Admin must end private practice for government doctors to keep their full attention on public duties, and launch verification drives to remove unqualified practitioners who operate with purchased credentials.

It should also shut down proxy chemist shops where license holders lend their names to others, allowing substandard medicines to circulate.

These steps would restore capacity in public facilities and protect patients from exploitation.

Doctors bring heart, knowledge, and skill to their work. They need infrastructure, reasonable workloads, and clear rules to deliver consistent results.

I recovered because of the commitment I encountered at every level. The SKIMS director, Dr. M. Ashraf Ganaie, a longtime friend, visited my room personally to ensure protocols ran smoothly. His attention mirrored the dedication of the full team from senior consultants to bedside nurses. Their collective effort carried me through.

I left the hospital convinced that stronger local healthcare, backed by smart regulation, is the key to easing the burden on Srinagar's hospitals and delivering more balanced care across the valley.

— The author is a former civil servant from the administrative service. He can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com.

Beyond Saheb and Meem-Saheb

As Jammu and Kashmir confronts unemployment, environmental stress and rising public expectations, its democracy needs a broader leadership pool than the political families that have dominated public life for decades.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

Jammu and Kashmir has spent much of its political history circling the same names.

Public life has revolved around two powerful centers of influence: the Abdullah family and the Mufti family. One became "saheb" in everyday political vocabulary, the other "meem-saheb."

These labels sound local and affectionate, but their deeper significance tells a different story: an entire region gradually narrowed its political imagination to a handful of surnames.

That focus of political attention may once have appeared natural, but today, it reveals a deeper problem.

Even within party structures, known names continue to outweigh merit, fresh thinking and new leadership.

Jammu and Kashmir in 2026 bears little resemblance to the Kashmir of emotional speeches, symbolic politics and inherited charisma. It is a society grappling with strained institutions, anxious young people, environmental pressures, rising aspirations and economic uncertainty.

Such challenges call for leadership that emerges through competence, vision and performance. Political systems built primarily around legacy struggle to meet that test.

The central problem extends beyond dynasty itself.

Dynastic politics becomes damaging when it limits the public's ability to imagine alternatives. Familiar surnames eventually stop competing with rivals and begin competing only with their own earlier versions. Politics turns cyclical rather than transformative. Elections become exercises in rearranging familiarity rather than discovering leadership capable of moving society forward.

This argument is not a case against



the Abdullahs or the Muftis.

Leaders such as Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti occupy an important place in the political history of Jammu and Kashmir. Historical significance, however, differs from perpetual dependence.

Healthy societies honour their past while building space for new voices. That distinction has become increasingly important in Kashmir's political evolution.

A deeper psychological dynamic also sustains the status quo.

Communities facing uncertainty often gravitate toward what they already know. Familiarity creates comfort, recognition simplifies political choices, and predictability can feel reassuring during periods of instability. Effective leadership, however, rests

JAMMU AND KASHMIR NEEDS A DIFFERENT POLITICAL CULTURE. Leadership should emerge through demonstrated ability rather than family lineage. Teachers, researchers, entrepreneurs, community organizers and young professionals should see a realistic path into public leadership without attaching themselves to a famous surname.

on performance rather than recognition. Familiarity and competence are different qualities.

A well-known politician can perform poorly, a leadership model that succeeded in one era can lose relevance in another, and a celebrated surname can lose administrative ef-

fectiveness.

Jammu and Kashmir appears caught in precisely this pattern: repetition without renewal, familiarity without sufficient scrutiny.

Evidence of that design appears throughout the region's political culture.

New leaders emerge, though few gain sustained traction. Fresh voices enter public debate, though they rarely acquire lasting influence. Academics, professionals, entrepreneurs, social workers and policy thinkers remain largely peripheral to mainstream politics. Legacy networks occupy so much political space that alternatives struggle to develop.

Constitutional democracy remains intact, but the psychological boundaries of political possibility continue to shrink.

Young Kashmiris absorb powerful lessons from this environment. Many grow up believing that serious political legitimacy belongs primarily to inherited networks.

Such perceptions do not arise because capable individuals are absent. They emerge because public recognition repeatedly outweighs reinvention. Democracy suffers when ambition becomes tied to lineage rather than achievement.

Democratic vitality depends on the circulation of leadership. New ideas challenge old assumptions, fresh energy disrupts stagnant structures, and diverse experiences strengthen public decision-making. Societies that continually return to the same centers of power eventually limit their own political growth.

Jammu and Kashmir faces challenges too complex to rely on recycled frameworks.

Unemployment now extends beyond economics into questions of confidence, purpose and social mobility. Environmental decline has become visible through shrinking wetlands, changing weather patterns and pressure on agricultural systems. Educational attainment continues to expand while opportunities remain uneven. Public confidence in institutions remains delicate.

These issues demand administrative creativity, technological understanding, intellectual seriousness and policy innovation. Nostalgia-driven politics provides little guidance for problems of this scale.

Jammu and Kashmir needs a different political culture. Leadership should emerge through demonstrated ability rather than family lineage. Teachers, researchers, entrepreneurs, community organizers and young professionals should see a realistic path into public leadership without attaching themselves to a famous sur-

name. Democracy flourishes when talent can rise from any section of society.

Another troubling trend has taken root in recent years: criticism without transition. Many citizens express frustration with established political structures, then return to them during decisive moments.

Frustration grows while alternatives fail to consolidate. Political renewal cannot occur when dissatisfaction repeatedly strengthens the very arrangements that produced it.

Political maturity involves a willingness to evaluate leaders through present performance rather than inherited memory.

Voters should ask direct questions: what has genuinely changed? Which ideas bring something new? What measurable improvements have followed years of leadership?

If familiar frameworks continue producing limited outcomes, why should those frameworks retain a near-monopoly on political attention?

These are pro-democracy questions, and their purpose is expansion instead of exclusion.

Jammu and Kashmir does not need revenge against familiar surnames. It needs freedom from excessive dependence on them.

Strong democracies place influential political families in open competition with others. They demand evidence rather than assumption, and replace automatic authority with continuous public evaluation.

That transition has become essential.

A society of millions cannot permanently orbit around two or three inherited centers of power. Political systems thrive when fresh leadership enters the conversation, challenges convention and earns public trust through action.

The defining question facing Jammu and Kashmir today is simple: Does it possess the confidence to imagine politics beyond familiarity, inherited comfort and recycled rhetoric?

The future belongs neither to the best-known names nor to the oldest networks. It belongs to those prepared to meet the demands of a changing society with ideas, competence and vision.

— The author is a teacher and researcher based in Gowhar Pora, Chadoora.

Future Champions Shine at District Athletics Meet



Observer News Service

Budgam: The Inter-Zonal District Level Athletics Meet for Boys (All Age Groups) commenced today at Sports Stadium Budgam with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit. The event was inaugurated by DYSSO Budgam, Shri Jai Pal Singh, in the presence of departmental officials and participating students.

Athletes from all 12 zones of District Budgam took part in various track and field events, displaying impressive

talent and determination. The competitions are being organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Budgam under the guidance of Director General YSS J&K, Smt. Anuradha Gupta (JKAS) to promote sports culture and identify emerging talent.

On the occasion, DYSSO Budgam encouraged participants to uphold the values of sportsmanship, discipline, and fair play. The event witnessed vibrant participation and will continue with more competitions in the coming days.

JKCPJ Foundation Hosts Let's Connect Season 2, Chapter 3 at Nishat Garden

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The JK Centre for Peace and Justice (JKCPJ) Foundation successfully organized Let's Connect Season 2, Chapter 3 at the scenic Nishat Garden, Srinagar. This chapter marked a significant milestone in the Let's Connect journey as it introduced the concept of Peer Support, creating a safe and welcoming space for participants to connect, share, and support one another.

Let's Connect is JKCPJ's monthly community engagement initiative aimed at fostering meaningful conversations, emotional well-being, creativity, and social connection among young people. The third chapter of the second season focused on building a peer support network where participants could openly engage with one another through structured activities and guided discussions.

The session was hosted by Sadiya Rayees and Fadil Reyaz, who facilitated the activities and discussions, ensuring an



inclusive and engaging environment for all attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, Nadir Ali, Director of JKCPJ Foundation, said, "At JKCPJ, we believe that meaningful change begins with meaningful conversations. Through the introduction of Peer Support within Let's Connect, we aim to create spaces where young people feel heard, understood,

and supported by one another. In a world where many silently struggle with emotional and social challenges, building communities of empathy and trust has become more important than ever. Today's chapter was not just an event, it was the beginning of a support system rooted in compassion, connection, and hope."

Participants appreciated the

initiative and actively engaged in the activities, highlighting the need for more community-driven spaces that prioritize emotional well-being, social connection, and mutual support.

JKCPJ remains committed to creating innovative platforms that encourage dialogue, promote mental well-being, and strengthen community bonds across Jammu and Kashmir.

SHO Among 4 Cops Suspended Over Alleged Compromise in POCSO Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Four police personnel, including a Station House Officer, have been suspended over allegations of dereliction of duty for allegedly facilitating a compromise in a POCSO case in Samba district, officials said.

According to the order issued by Samba Senior Superintendent of Police Anuj Kumar, the suspended personnel include the Ramgarh SHO, a probationary Sub-Inspector (PSI) and two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), they said.

The SSP has also ordered a departmental inquiry into the allegations against the police officials to ascertain the facts and determine responsibility in connection with the handling of the case registered under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Following the action, Inspector Ajay Singh Chib has been posted as the new Ramgarh SHO and a Special Police Officer (SPO) has been transferred to Goran Police Chowki.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Takes TET

matter and, more importantly, followed it up with concrete action. In the past as well, we have acted to protect the interests of our teachers," she had said.

The minister had also stated that the government had accorded sanction for filing a review petition and that the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs had directed its Standing Counsel to initiate the necessary legal proceedings before the Supreme Court.

Earlier this year, the School Education Department kept in abeyance its order designating the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE)/State School Standards Authority (SSA) as the nodal agency for conducting the Teacher Eligibility Test in the Union Territory.

The filing of the review petition is expected to bring temporary relief to concerned teachers as the matter awaits consideration by the Supreme Court.

No Safe Haven

against narco-terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor said there would be no leniency towards individuals who profit from drug abuse and destruction.

"We are ensuring that drug addicts who seek a path to recovery are provided all possible assistance and brought back to the mainstream with compassion and dignity. But compassion cannot be wasted on narco-terrorists who profit from others' ruin," he said.

Sinha described the 100-day Drug-Free J&K Campaign as the beginning of a much larger effort and said eliminating the menace of drugs would require sustained action over several years.

"It is a war of years, not a battle of weeks. Victory demands a unified, round-the-clock commitment. By mobilising a whole-of-society approach, we will ensure that J&K's soil is completely cleared of drug smugglers and drug peddlers," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the administration was working to embed anti-drug awareness at the community level by equipping local residents to identify early warning signs of addiction and intervene before lives are affected.

He also highlighted the role of teachers, Panchayat Mahila Samitis, religious leaders and civil society organisations in strengthening the campaign and safeguarding the future of the younger generation.

"Our teachers, Panchayat Mahila Samitis, religious leaders and civil society groups are the torchbearers of this movement, standing united to ensure the shadow of addiction never finds a foothold in Kishtwar and across Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Calling it a defining moment in the fight against narcotics, Sinha said people across Jammu and Kashmir had sent a clear message that narco-terrorists and drug traffickers would not be allowed to undermine the future of the region's youth.

"The people have spoken with one voice that narco-terrorists must be driven from this land," he added.

Anti-Terror Op Enters

of suspected terrorists in the region. Officials said the move aims to trap the suspects within the designated zones while search teams intensify their operations. (Agencies)

Iran Targets US

aggression occurred, the response would be different and heavier, and we acted accordingly," the IRGC said.

"We repeat: disrupting the security of the Strait of Hormuz will have a heavy price for the invading U.S. military."

The Guards also warned Washington that further military action could trigger broader consequences.

"The aggressive enemy should know that if such acts are repeated, the response will not be limited," the statement said.

"You will be responsible for the consequences of the complete closure of the Strait of Hormuz to the export of your oil and gas."

EXPLOSIONS ACROSS THE GULF

Residents in Kuwait reported hearing loud blasts, while videos circulating on social media appeared to show interceptor missiles and debris in the skies near Kuwait City.

Regional media outlets also reported projectiles crossing Bahraini airspace.

CENTCOM said American forces intercepted Iranian drones and carried out strikes against Iranian military infrastructure.

"Moments ago, CENTCOM forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that were launched toward the Strait of Hormuz," the command said in a statement on X.

The command said American forces remained prepared to respond to what it described as "unjustified Iranian aggression in self-defense."

Iran's Foreign Ministry accused Washington of undermining regional security.

"The United States lacks the will for stability and, through its actions endangers the security of the region," the ministry said.

TRUMP SEEKS DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH

Despite the latest military exchange, President Donald Trump expressed optimism that the conflict could be resolved.

"The situation with Iran seems to be going quite well," Trump told reporters on Friday.

He later said, "We're going to come out of Iran very quickly and it's going to be very strong one way or the other, whether it's a piece of paper or the very tough way."

Diplomatic efforts have continued in parallel with the fighting.

U.S. and Iranian negotiators have been discussing a possible extension of the ceasefire and a new round of talks on Iran's nuclear programme, although key differences remain unresolved.

Asked why progress had been slow, Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press" that "it's a very hard thing for them."

He also said Iran retained "21% to 22%" of its missile stockpile despite months of military operations aimed at degrading Tehran's capabilities.

LEBANON COMPLICATES TALKS

Efforts to secure a broader settlement have also been complicated by fighting in Lebanon.

Iran has insisted that any lasting agreement with Washington must address the conflict involving Hezbollah and Israel.

While the Trump administration has welcomed a ceasefire arrangement reached earlier this week between Israel and the Lebanese government, Hezbollah has rejected the deal.

On Saturday, Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon killed nine people, including three Lebanese soldiers, according to the Lebanese army and state media.

Israel's military said it was reviewing the incident and reiterated that its operations were directed at Hezbollah rather than the Lebanese armed forces.

The latest hostilities highlight the fragility of the Iran-U.S. ceasefire and the challenges facing diplomatic efforts to prevent a wider regional conflict.

SC: Accused Cannot

supply some documents, which formed part of the chargesheet but were not supplied to him.

Section 207 of the CrPC deals with the supply of a copy of the police report and other documents to the accused.

Dealing with the plea, the apex court said, "In our view, being part of the

chargesheet and being used against, the said documents ought to be supplied to the appellant (Singh)."

The bench said with a view to balancing the interests of the right to fair trial of the accused, which is also an important facet of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, with that of national security and sovereignty, it had asked the law officer appearing for the CBI to come up with an equitable proposal.

It noted that during the hearing, the law officer submitted that they would supply a typed copy of those documents with a condition that Singh may use them only for the purpose of court proceedings and that the documents would not be circulated in any manner whatsoever, particularly in electronic or print media or through social media platforms.

"In view of the aforesaid, the order passed by the high court is set aside, and the order of the trial court stands modified. We direct that the typed copy of the documents as referred in the application filed by the appellant under Section 207 of CrPC... be provided to the accused for the purpose of his defence within two months," the bench said.

The top court made clear that these documents should not be made public by way of electronic or print media, or any social platform or otherwise in any manner whatsoever.

"An undertaking in this regard be filed by the appellant before the trial court within one month," the bench said while disposing of the plea.

The CBI registered a case against Singh in September 2007, on a complaint that he allegedly revealed secret information by publication of his book titled 'India's External Intelligence - Secrets of Research and Analysis Wing'.

A chargesheet was filed for the alleged offences under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Indian Penal Code in April 2008, with a request before the trial court to keep the classified documents forming part of the chargesheet in a sealed cover.

Later, Singh filed an application under Section 207 of the CrPC before the trial court.

In December 2009, the trial court directed the CBI to supply copies of documents sought by Singh after moving an appropriate application for the de-sealing of those documents.

The trial court passed the direction subject to the condition that the documents so supplied would remain in the personal custody of the counsel representing Singh and that the same be not circulated in any manner.

The prosecution challenged the trial court's order before the high court.

The high court modified the order with a direction that Singh was permitted to inspect the documents lying with the trial court in order to enable him to effectively defend himself in the trial.

Beautification, Safety

complete the works within the stipulated timeframe before the arrival of Yatra convoys.

Authorities said the objective is not only to improve the appearance of the highway corridor but also to create a safer travel environment for pilgrims and other commuters using the route.

The Srinagar-Jammu Highway serves as the principal road link for pilgrims travelling to the twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan during the annual pilgrimage.

Besides road beautification, several departments are engaged in infrastructure upgrades, traffic management planning and logistical preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. (KNT)

HC Warns Against

had repeatedly resisted implementation of the order through successive rounds of litigation. It held that Section

36 CPC extends execution provisions applicable to decrees to court orders as well, including interim orders.

Rejecting the school's arguments, the Court said that pendency of a review petition does not automatically stay the operation of an order unless a specific stay is granted. It further held that enforcement of the interim salary order would not amount to granting final relief because the direction was provisional and subject to the outcome of the suit.

The court described the petition as an attempt to delay compliance with a binding judicial order and said repeated challenges to substantially settled issues could not be encouraged.

"If a party against whom a subsisting monetary direction has been issued is permitted to withhold compliance and yet contend that the successful litigant must wait until final disposal of the suit, the efficacy of the Court's interim jurisdiction would stand seriously undermined," the court said underlining that the purpose of interim relief is to afford immediate protection pending final adjudication.

"Such protection would become wholly illusory if the Court were rendered powerless to secure compliance with its own directions."

The Court said that it cannot ignore the manner in which the present proceedings have been pursued by the petitioners (school). Instead of complying with the judicial directions issued by the competent Courts, the petitioners have continued to resist implementation of the same through successive rounds of litigation.

The present petition substantially seeks to reopen issues which already stand concluded by orders passed by the appellate Court as well as by this Court.

"The conduct of the petitioners leaves little room for doubt that the present proceedings have been instituted primarily to avoid compliance with the subsisting judicial directions and to delay payment of the amount directed to be paid under the order dated 14.06.2022."

The Court dismissed the petition and directed the school to deposit Rs 25,000 as costs with the Registry within two weeks. It also permitted the executing court to adopt all lawful measures to enforce the salary payment order in case of continued non-compliance.

The High Court expressed concern over inaccurate judicial citations and the growing use of artificial intelligence tools in legal research. The Court directed that any citation, precedent, extract or legal proposition generated through AI platforms must be independently verified from authentic sources before being relied upon in judicial orders.

The Registrar Judicial has been directed to circulate the judgment among all judicial officers in the Union Territory for compliance and guidance.

Mufti's AIIMS

Conference MLA and Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq termed the move inappropriate and said monitoring government projects was the responsibility of elected governments and authorised officials.

"If such a precedent is set where any elected or unelected person starts visiting departments and reviewing projects, it would be very wrong. It appears an attempt is being made to convey that unelected individuals are more powerful than those elected by the people," Sadiq told reporters in Srinagar.

He argued that constitutional norms do not permit such interventions and warned that allowing such practices could create confusion regarding institutional responsibilities.

Sadiq also alleged that the issue was being politicised and linked the controversy to broader political developments in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Whenever major political developments take place, there are attempts to

create a negative atmosphere. If someone genuinely wants to resolve an issue, it is done through proper channels and not through social media," he said.

Referring to Mehbooba's public communication regarding AIIMS Awantipora, he claimed that the matter had already been taken up through official channels.

"When the letter was shared on social media, it became clear that politics was involved. The Chief Minister had already discussed the matter and she could have waited for the outcome," he added.

Joining the criticism, Health Minister Sakeena Itoo accused opposition leaders of behaving as though they were still in power despite electoral setbacks.

"Some people seem to be suffering from political amnesia. They still behave as if they are in power, even though they lost office in 2018 and have since been repeatedly rejected by the people," Itoo said.

The PDP, however, strongly defended Mehbooba's intervention and accused the government of prioritising political point-scoring over pressing healthcare concerns.

PDP leader and MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para said the focus should be on ensuring the early completion and operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora rather than criticising those raising the issue.

"J&K is in the midst of a health emergency. Cancer is taking lives every single day, yet those in power seem more concerned about who visits AIIMS than why it is still not fully functional," Para said.

The exchange has once again brought the spotlight on the status of AIIMS Awantipora, one of the Union Territory's most significant healthcare infrastructure projects, which is expected to substantially strengthen tertiary healthcare services in the region once fully operational.

HC Cancels Bail

lodging the FIR, and the accused's incarceration of over 18 months.

However, the High Court held that these considerations were not sufficient grounds for granting bail. The court observed that non-seizure of certain articles or absence of spermatozoa on the victim's clothing could not by themselves discredit the prosecutrix's testimony if it was otherwise reliable. The Court emphasized that a trial court, while deciding a bail application, cannot undertake a meticulous examination of evidence or assess witness credibility in detail.

The Court further noted that statements of other eyewitnesses cited by the prosecution were yet to be recorded and that there was no material suggesting any previous enmity that could indicate false implication of the accused.

Rejecting the argument that prolonged incarceration justified bail, the High Court observed that charges had been framed in April 2023 and two key witnesses, including the prosecutrix and her father, had already been examined.

It held that a delay of a few months in the trial of a serious offence such as rape could not automatically be treated as a violation of the accused's right to a speedy trial.

The court also underscored the gravity of offences against women, observing that granting bail at the initial stage of trial in such cases could have a chilling effect on women's sense of safety.

The Court found that the trial court had failed to consider the seriousness of the allegations and their societal impact.

Holding the bail order to be "illegal and perverse," the High Court cancelled the bail granted to the accused and directed him to surrender before the trial court within one month. The Court also granted liberty to the accused to seek fresh bail after statements of the remaining eyewitnesses are recorded.

Additionally, the trial court was directed to fix a schedule for recording the statements of the remaining eyewitnesses and ensure expeditious progress of the trial.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Muharram-ul-Haram Arrangements

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers and stakeholders to review preparedness and ensure the smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of religious rituals and processions across the Valley.

The meeting focused on assessing civic, infrastructural, logistical and administrative arrangements required during the holy month, with special emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and sustained engagement with community representatives.

During the meeting, MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, representing Anjumani Sharie Shian Darul Mustafa Budgam, highlighted several issues requiring attention in Shia-dominated areas to facilitate mourners. He stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply, macadamization and repair of roads, functioning street lighting, and adequate deployment of medical personnel at major religious venues.

Among the submissions, Muntazir said there was a request for the administration to revoke the long-standing ban on the Muthid-i-Jaloo Ashura (the united Ashura procession).

Additionally, the MLA sought legal relief for local youth, call-



ing for release of individuals currently detained in prisons outside the region.

During the deliberations, the legislator submitted a memorandum outlining these key demands aimed at ensuring smooth religious observances.

Several other representatives including Abid Hussain Ansari (JK Shia Association), Syed Muzaamil Rizvi (Yaad Gari Hussaini, Srinagar) and Showkat Ali Wani (Anjumani Sharie Shian Yousufabad Budgam) also projected a range of requirements, including enhanced sanitation and cleanliness measures, fumigation drives, availability of firewood, ration and LPG supplies, mitigation of the stray dog menace, deployment of water tankers, streamlined permissions for religious events, comprehensive traffic management plans, identification of parking spaces, and

provision of shuttle services between parking areas and procession routes.

Emphasizing the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to designate nodal officers and share their contact details with community representatives to ensure effective communication and prompt resolution of issues.

The Deputy Director Planning, Divisional Commissioner's Office, was designated as the Divisional-level Nodal Officer for coordination and monitoring of arrangements.

Garg instructed Deputy Commissioners to prepare detailed district-wise checklists of requirements and ensure that all short-term issues are addressed on priority. He further directed

that larger developmental concerns raised by stakeholders be incorporated into future planning frameworks.

To facilitate smooth movement of mourners and processions, the Divisional Commissioner directed the preparation of a comprehensive list of roads requiring repair and macadamization in Shia-dominated areas and instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely execution of necessary works.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) were directed to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply throughout the Muharram period. Additional water tankers shall also be deployed in areas witnessing higher demand.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate availability and timely distribution of essential supplies, including firewood, ration and LPG, in areas where demand is expected to increase during the observance.

Underscoring the importance of sanitation and public hygiene, Garg instructed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and other urban local bodies to undertake special cleanliness drives around Imambaras, congregation sites and procession routes. He emphasized both pre and post-procession sanitation measures, including intensified late-night waste collection and disposal operations.

The Health Department was directed to deploy sufficient medical teams, ambulances and emergency response units at key locations and augment manpower, particularly in Srinagar and Budgam districts, to provide timely medical assistance to mourners.

The Divisional Commissioner also called for comprehensive traffic management plans, identification of suitable parking areas, and deployment of shuttle services wherever required to facilitate smooth movement of devotees and minimize inconvenience to the general public.

To ensure the peaceful conduct of all religious events, Garg stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements through close coordination among Police, civil administration and security agencies.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to facilitating the observance of Muharram-ul-Haram, the Divisional Commissioner urged all departments to put in place the requisite arrangements well in advance and work in close coordination to ensure that all religious gatherings and processions are conducted smoothly, peacefully and with utmost convenience for devotees.

The meeting was attended by the DIG Central Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners, officers from KP-DCL, PHE, R&B, Health, FCS&CA, Fire & Emergency Services, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Police, security agencies and other concerned departments.

NC MLAs Unhappy, Omar led Govt Focusing on Publicity: MP Khatana

BANDIPORA: BJP Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana on Saturday alleged that the Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir has failed to address public grievances and is more focused on publicity than governance.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a workers' training programme here in North Kashmir, Khatana, according to KNO claimed that even legislators of the ruling National Conference (NC) are dissatisfied with the functioning of the government.

"The NC's own MLAs are disappointed with the way the government is functioning. The leadership has failed to represent the aspirations of the people and is more focused on publicity than governance," he alleged.

Khatana accused the government of neglecting several constituencies while concentrating developmental funds in select areas, including Ganderbal, represented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and the constituency of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary.

He also targeted the NC-Congress alliance, alleging that both parties were engaged in family-centric politics and had failed to address the concerns of ordinary citizens.

On the issue of restoration of statehood, the BJP leader said the NC was misleading people by suggesting that protests and political campaigns could secure the return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Statehood cannot be restored unless the Centre decides to do so. The NC is creating a false narrative despite knowing that the matter rests with the Union Government," he said. (Observer News Service)

Focus on Governance: Darakhshan Andrabi advises NC

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson and BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday criticised the National Conference's plan to hold a protest in Delhi for restoration of statehood, saying demonstrations would not resolve the issues faced by the people.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Deen Dayal Upadhyaya workers' training programme in Bandipora, Andrabi, according to KNO said the Omar Abdullah-led government should focus on governance and addressing public grievances instead of organising protests.

"Nothing has happened through protests, nor will anything happen through protests. The government must understand the pain and problems of the people and work sincerely to resolve them," she said.

Referring to the NC's proposed march in the national capital, Andrabi said if the government was serious about serving the people, it should concentrate on fulfilling its responsibilities and addressing issues affecting the public.

"The people are facing numerous problems and expect solutions. The government should focus on development, employment, infrastructure and public welfare instead of political drama," she said. Andrabi alleged that the present government was failing to address key public concerns and was diverting attention from pressing issues affecting ordinary citizens.

She said governance should be centred on accountability and service delivery, and the administration must respond effectively to the aspirations and concerns of the people. (Observer News Service)

Fish Mortality in Qazigund Panzath Spring Worries Locals

SRINAGAR: The Panzath Spring in the Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district—once known for its crystal-clear waters—has fallen victim to severe pollution, with the death of a large number of fish triggering concern among locals.

Residents told KNO that scores of fish were found dead in the spring on Saturday morning, leading the Fisheries Department to initiate preliminary treatment measures.

Abid Rasool Shah, a resident, said the sight of dead fish floating in the spring was disturbing. "A large number of fish died in the spring this morning. We witnessed it ourselves, and it is heartbreaking. Teams have arrived at the spot, and some treatment has already begun. We hope the fish species survive," he said.

Shah said the responsibility of protecting water bodies from pollution rests with everyone. "Our future generations will not forgive us if we continue to degrade these natural springs. What has happened to the fish needs to be studied thoroughly so that the real cause is established," he said, adding, "If we fail to protect our springs, streams, and other water bodies today, the damage may become irreversible tomorrow."

Locals alleged that sewage from several households is being discharged directly into the spring. They also said that waste, including leftover food and polythene, is frequently dumped into the water body, contributing to pollution.

They urged the government to provide a proper waste-disposal mechanism in the area. "There should be garbage collection points or pits for households. The government also needs to support and guide the population in managing waste effectively," another local said.

Assistant Director Fisheries, Anantnag, Shabir Ahmad Shabir, told KNO that this was the fourth such incident reported since October last year in the twin Anantnag and Kulgam districts.

He said pollution has been causing fungal infections in fish, particularly affecting their tails and dorsal fins, which eventually leads to deformities and death. "Initial treatment using potassium permanganate has already been carried out. However, protecting the spring from pollution is also the responsibility of the local population," Shabir said. (Observer News Service)

130th Urs of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani on June 7-8 at Kangan

SRINAGAR: The 130th annual Urs of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani (RA) will be observed on June 7 and 8 at Baba Nagri Wanganth in Kangan, with elaborate arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the two-day religious congregation.

Sajada Nasheen Mian Altaf Ahmad, speaking with KNO, said that all preparations for the annual Urs have been completed and adequate arrangements for accommodation, food and other facilities have been made for devotees.

Mian Altaf, also an MP, said the Urs will commence on June 7 and conclude on June 8 with a special Dua-e-Majlis. The night-long religious programme will feature Shab Khawani, recitation of the Holy Quran, Khidmat, remembrance gatherings and sermons by Islamic scholars.

"The devotees visit this sacred place with deep faith and devotion. It is our responsibility to serve them, and we are fully prepared to welcome all those arriving from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and outside the region," he said.

Thousands of devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country are expected to participate in the annual Urs, which is marked by Quran recitation, religious sermons, collective prayers and remembrance of the teachings and spiritual legacy of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani (RA). (Observer News Service)

CS Reviews Progress of Health Sector Reforms in J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Health Sector Reforms being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir over the past couple of years.

The meeting examined reforms aimed at strengthening tertiary and secondary healthcare services, expanding medical education, enhancing digital health infrastructure and improving access to specialized treatment facilities across the healthcare facilities of the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, was attended by Director, SKIMS; MD, NHM; CEO, SHA; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu representatives from AIIMS Jammu, SMVDIME and other senior officers associated with the healthcare sector.

During the review, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the significant strides made in establishing collaborative institutional frameworks among Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS, AIIMS Jammu and other healthcare institutions for strengthening specialty and super-specialty services, capacity building, academic collaboration, research initiatives and digital healthcare delivery.

While reviewing the progress achieved under the health sector reforms programme, the Chief Secretary emphasized that every tertiary care institution in Jammu and Kashmir should strive towards establishing and strengthening critical care, trauma care and emergency medicine services, observing

that these areas are among the most significant determinants of quality patient care and healthcare outcomes.

He further directed that the benefits of the reform process should not remain confined to the newly established Government Medical Colleges alone. He called for inclusion of District Hospitals and Sub-District Hospitals, particularly in those areas where no Government Medical College exists, so that healthcare upgradation reaches all regions of the Union Territory in a balanced and equitable manner. He observed that future interventions should be planned according to the strengths, requirements and service potential of each healthcare institution.

The Chief Secretary assured the department of full administrative and financial support for viable and impactful healthcare initiatives and encouraged the officers to proactively formulate innovative proposals aimed at improving patient care, medical education and healthcare delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the growing role of technology in healthcare, he directed the department to expand the ambit of Virtual Medical Boards to cover more specialties and institutions. He also called for the introduction of Grand Rounds, virtual academic sessions and online teaching platforms in peripheral healthcare institutions to facilitate continuous professional development, strengthen specialist support and improve clinical outcomes.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to establish a clearly defined Roles, Responsibilities and Accountability Framework across healthcare institutions

so that responsibilities at every level are well delineated and measurable. He stressed the need for instituting a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Mechanism supported by information technology platforms to facilitate real-time assessment of healthcare services, patient utilization patterns and institutional performance across the Union Territory.

Calling for a forward-looking approach, the Chief Secretary directed the Health & Medical Education Department to identify measurable milestones and targets for the next six months, one year and two years in the areas of healthcare services, medical education and research.

He also emphasized the need for making concerted efforts towards enhancement of MBBS, postgraduate and super-specialty seats across medical colleges to ensure optimal utilization of the infrastructure and human resources created under the health sector reforms programme.

Regarding the expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju revealed that proposals have been submitted for enhancement of 300 MBBS seats, 243 MD/MS seats, 64 DM/MCh super-specialty seats and additional DNB seats across various medical institutions. He added that several proposals have already undergone inspection and approval processes with the National Medical Commission and other regulatory bodies.

The Commissioner Secretary further apprised that Tele-MANAS and tele-psychiatry services have been made operational in major institutions, while de-addiction and mental health facilities have been significantly expanded.

Minister Sakeena Inaugurates Job Fair at Malvan Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated and presided over a mega Job Fair at Malvan, organized by the District Administration Kulgam under Mission YUVA with the objective of promoting employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and youth empowerment.

The job fair witnessed the participation companies from various sectors, providing a valuable platform for local youth to interact with employers, explore career prospects, and apply for suitable job opportunities.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the importance of creating sustainable employment avenues for young people and reiterated the Government's commitment towards youth welfare, skill development, and economic empowerment.

She encouraged the youth to actively avail the opportunities being provided under various government schemes and programmes aimed at en-



hancing employability and fostering entrepreneurship.

The Minister also interacted with representatives of participating companies, officials, and job seekers, and appreciated the efforts of the District Administration Kulgam in organizing the event and connecting local youth with prospective employers.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, highlighted the objectives of the programme and emphasized the need to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district.

He stressed the importance of promoting a culture of innovation, enterprise, and skill development among the youth to enable them to become job creators rather than job seekers.

During the event, detailed awareness was im-

parted regarding various schemes and initiatives being implemented under Mission YUVA and other government programmes focused on skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, financial assistance, and livelihood generation. Officials informed participants about eligibility criteria, application procedures, and benefits available under these schemes.

Besides, students and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) set up stalls showcasing their products, innovations, and entrepreneurial ventures during the fair.

The programme was attended by senior officers of the district administration, representatives of participating companies, Mission YUVA officials, members of SHGs, students, and a large number of youth from across the district.

Census 2027 to Shape Future Development Policies across India, says Director Sharma

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Census Operations and Chief Principal Census Officer for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma on Saturday said that Census 2027 will play a crucial role in shaping future development policies and welfare schemes across the country, urging people to actively participate in the ongoing enumeration process and provide accurate information.

Addressing media here, Sharma, as per KNO said the house listing phase of the census is currently underway and will continue till June 30. He said the exercise is being conducted through a fully digital and paperless system, reflecting the country's growing digital governance framework.

The director said Baramulla district has 25 census charges, including 18 rural

and seven urban charges, where enumerators and supervisors are visiting households to collect information through mobile-based applications.

"The last census was conducted in 2011. Updated population figures are essential for planning developmental projects, welfare initiatives and resource allocation. Accurate data helps people get their rightful share in government schemes," he said.

Appealing for public cooperation, Sharma said the survey consists of 33 basic questions and urged residents to respond truthfully and accurately.

He also cautioned citizens against fraudsters attempting to misuse the census exercise for extracting personal information.

"The Census does not seek bank account details, credit card numbers, PAN information or any financial credentials. People

should verify the identity cards of enumerators before sharing information and remain vigilant against fraud attempts," he said.

Sharma advised people to immediately report any suspicious activity to the police or the census helpline 1855 for legal action against those trying to deceive citizens in the name of the census.

Reassuring the public on data privacy, he said all information collected during the census is completely safe, secure and protected under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.

"The data collected is 100 per cent secure, non-shareable and protected by law. Under Section 15 of the Census Act, the information cannot be disclosed or used as evidence by courts, enforcement agencies or any other authority. There is no need for people to worry about the confidentiality of their data," Sharma said.

World Cup 2026

Key Dates, Must-Watch Matches and Major Storylines

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR – The countdown is over.

The FIFA World Cup 2026, the biggest edition of football's showpiece event, gets underway on June 11 across the United States, Canada and Mexico, bringing together 48 teams, 104 matches and many of the sport's biggest stars.

The tournament, which runs until July 19, will be the first World Cup jointly hosted by three countries and the first to feature 48 teams. The expanded format includes 12 groups of four teams, with the top two teams from each group and the eight best third-placed teams advancing to the knockout rounds.

Opening Match

The tournament begins on June 11 when hosts Mexico take on South Africa at the iconic Estadio Azteca in Mexico City. Mexico will become the first nation to host World Cup matches in three different editions of the tournament.

Other Host Nations Begin

Campaigns

On June 12, Canada face Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the United States begin their campaign against Paraguay.

Historic Debuts

Several nations will make history during the group stage.

Messi and Ronaldo Return

The tournament will feature two of football's greatest icons for what could be their final World Cup appearances.

Defending champions Argentina begin their title defence against Algeria on June 16, with Lionel Messi set to play in his sixth World Cup.

Cristiano Ronaldo is also expected to make his sixth World Cup appearance when Portugal face the Democratic Republic of the Congo on June 17.

Iran Under the Spotlight

Few teams arrive under greater scrutiny than Iran. Team Melli secured qualification



comfortably but have endured an extraordinary build-up following months of conflict involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

With all three of Iran's group-stage matches scheduled to take place in the United States, questions

over logistics, travel and security have surrounded the squad.

Coach Amir Ghalenoei and his staff have spent months attempting to shield players from off-field distractions as Iran seeks to advance beyond the group stage.

Iran open their campaign against New Zealand before facing Belgium and Egypt in Group G.

Best Group-Stage Matches

Several heavyweight clashes are expected to dominate the opening phase:

- Brazil vs Morocco – June 13
- Netherlands vs Japan – June 14
- Iran vs New Zealand – June 15
- France vs Senegal – June 16
- England vs Croatia – June 17
- Germany vs Ivory Coast – June 20
- Argentina vs Austria – June 22
- Norway vs France – June 26
- Uruguay vs Spain – June 26
- Colombia vs Portugal – June 27

England and Scotland

England begin their campaign against Croatia on June 17 before taking on Ghana and Panama in Group L. Scotland, meanwhile, start against Morocco as they look to reach the knockout stage.

Key Tournament Dates

June 11–27: Group Stage
June 28–July 3: Round of 32

July 4–7: Round of 16
July 9–11: Quarter-finals
July 14–15: Semi-finals
July 18: Third-place play-off
July 19: World Cup Final

The Final

The tournament concludes on July 19 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, where the next world champion will be crowned after 39 days of football across North America.

Stars to Watch

The competition will showcase established superstars and emerging talents alike, including: Lionel Messi (Argentina), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Kylian Mbappe (France), Harry Kane (England), Lamine Yamal (Spain), Arda Guler (Turkey).

As 48 nations battle for football's biggest prize, the World Cup promises a month of drama, history and unforgettable moments stretching from Mexico City to New York.

Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Baby

AP

HEBRON (WEST BANK): Israeli troops killed a 7-month-old Palestinian baby boy after firing at his parents' vehicle in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Sam Fahd Abu Haikal was killed Friday evening, and his parents were wounded while driving in the Tel Rumeida area south of Hebron City, according to the ministry.

The official Palestinian news agency WAFA said the baby was critically wounded after being struck in the face by the same bullet that injured his mother. He later died of his injuries. His father, Fahd Abu Haikal, a lecturer at Bethlehem University, was shot in the hand. They were travelling from Bethlehem to visit family in Hebron when soldiers opened fire, the agency



reported.

Israel's military has scaled up military operations in the West Bank since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack that killed some 1,200 people and took 251 people hostage, which triggered the war in Gaza. Israel's retaliatory military campaign has so far killed more than 72,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The United Nations said last month that more than 1,000 Palestinians have

been killed in the West Bank and east Jerusalem since the war began, at least 240 of them children.

The Israeli military said Friday soldiers shot at a vehicle that was perceived to be accelerating toward them in the Hebron area. It said the soldiers responded with single shots, wounding three Palestinians who were evacuated for medical treatment. An initial inquiry found that the wounded were uninvolved civilians and the situation is under review.

At Al-Ahly Hospital in Hebron, the baby's father told Associated Press reporters that a bullet struck the car's windshield before piercing his right hand, then his son and wife who were in the back seat. Another bullet struck the vehicle's hood, according to AP reporters who saw the car.

NEET-UG 2026

NTA Dismisses Claims of Re-exam Paper 'Leak'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday dismissed as "false" and "fraudulent" claims circulating on social media about alleged leak or sale of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination question paper and warned of strict action against those spreading such content.

In a statement on X, the agency said messages claiming a "leak", advance access or "sale" of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination paper were aimed at misleading students and parents.

"The National Testing Agency (NTA) has noted certain messages circulating on social media and

messaging platforms claiming a 'leak', advance access or 'sale' of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination question paper," the NTA said in a post on X.

"These claims are false, fraudulent and intended to mislead," the NTA said, adding that such content was being circulated by "organised cheating rackets" seeking to exploit the anxiety of candidates and their families by selling fake question papers.

"Such content is the work of organised cheating rackets that prey on the anxiety of students and their families. Their objective is to extort money by selling fake 'papers', and every such claim circulating is a fabrication," the agency added.

"The integrity of the examination process is fully intact, and every safeguard is in place to ensure a fair and secure examination for all candidates," the agency said.

The NTA said it was actively identifying and reporting the offending channels, accounts and content to the platforms and cyber-crime authorities for immediate takedown and action.

The agency further said it was filing a formal complaint with law-enforcement and cyber-crime authorities, warning that creating, circulating or forwarding such fraudulent content and attempting to defraud students constituted a serious punishable offence.

Newspapers' Body Calls for Protection of Journalists

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Newspaper Editors' Conference (AINEC) on Saturday expressed concern over alleged increasing attacks on journalists, "restrictions" on freedom of expression, and the "mounting economic pressures" confronting media organisations.

In a statement, the AINEC also claimed that the existing advertisement policies of the central and state governments as well as those of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) tend to favour larger publications, and urged the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consider the concerns of small and medium newspapers.

AINEC held its annual general meeting on Saturday here, with editors and

representatives from across the country deliberating on issues concerning the safety of journalists, freedom of the press, and challenges faced by the small and medium newspapers.

"The members expressed deep concern over increasing attacks on journalists, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the mounting economic pressures confronting media organisations," the outfit said in the statement.

The conference unanimously adopted a resolution urging the central and state governments to give adequate protection, support, and assistance to journalists and media professionals so that they may discharge their duties "without fear, intimidation, or interference."

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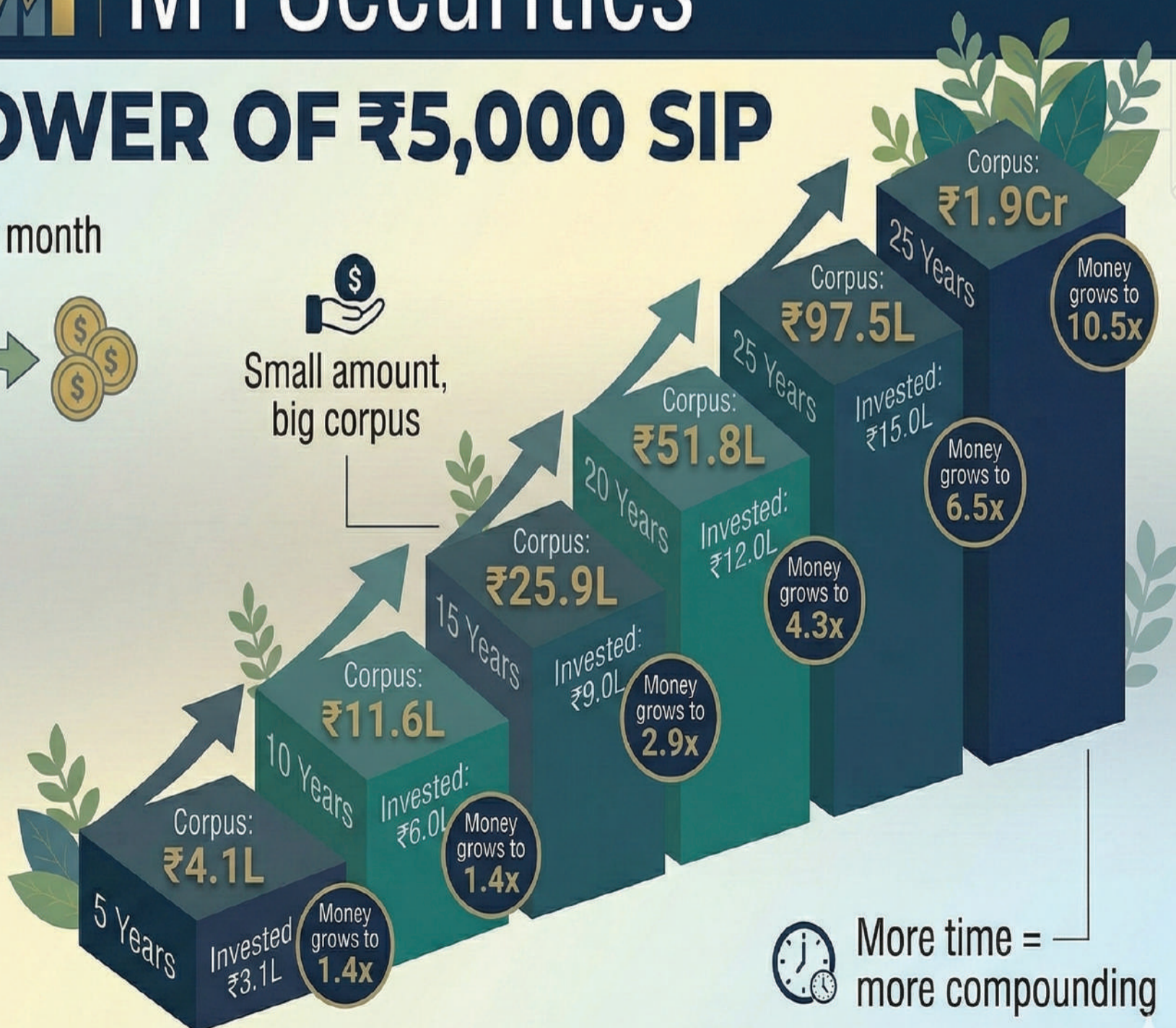
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
5	3.0L
10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus



More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.