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At A Sacred Kashmir Shrine, Faith Collides With A Mounting Waste Crisis

A legal petition accuses caretakers of Baba Reshi of failing pilgrims, forests and streams, opening a rare test of accountability inside one of the valley's oldest religious institutions.

Ansar Hussain Dar

Srinagar: At first light, pilgrims begin climbing to the Baba Reshi shrine, passing beneath towering chinar trees and alongside clear mountain streams before stopping to pray at one of Kashmir's most revered shrines.

Then the rubbish comes into view.

Plastic bottles lie in the

water, food wrappers blanket the pathways, and overflowing bins spill onto the shrine grounds, turning a sacred landscape into the center of a growing fight over waste.

That contrast now forms the basis of a big legal challenge.

The Centre for Environmental Law has submitted a detailed representation to the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, calling for disciplinary action



against the shrine's administrator and demanding an independent inquiry into how public funds meant for sanitation were spent.

Nadeem Qadri, the environmental lawyer who filed the petition, described the gap between reverence and neglect in blunt terms.

"A shrine this sacred deserves better than an overflowing bin at its gate," Qadri said.

"Pilgrims come here seeking something pure. The least the institution owes them is a clean path to walk on."

The petition draws on public complaints and media reports to argue that solid waste, plastic refuse and sewage handling at Baba Reshi have fallen well short of what thousands of daily visitors require.

Families travel from distant districts to | [More on P6](#)

Yatra Rush Continues, 3.24 Lakh Visit Cave Shrine

Over 22,000 Offer Prayers on Wednesday

Nearly One Lakh Pilgrims Have Left Jammu Base Camp



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued to witness a steady influx of pilgrims on Wednesday, with 22,599 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine, taking the total number of pilgrims who have completed the pilgrimage to 3,24,525 in the first 13 days of the Yatra.

According to official figures, those who offered prayers on Wednesday included 16,156 men, 5,665 women, 346 children, 86 sadhus, 13 sadhvis, 10 transgender devotees and 323 security personnel.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 6,251 pilgrims, including 50 foreign devotees, left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu early Wednesday under multi-layered security arrangements for the twin base camps at Baltal and Nunwan.

Officials said 2,985 pilgrims opted for the shorter Baltal route, while 3,266 proceeded towards the Nunwan base camp via the traditional Pahalgam route.

The convoy comprised 230 vehicles, including 137 buses, 34 medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 59 light motor vehicles (LMVs).

The latest | [More on P6](#)

Ensure Flawless Arrangements For Every Pilgrim: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reviewed the arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Yatra at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu, directing officials to ensure seamless facilities for pilgrims as the annual pilgrimage crossed the three lakh mark within 12 days. During his visit, Sinha interacted with officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, security forces, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the civil administration, and assessed the arrangements made | [More on P6](#)

AI Has Fundamentally Reshaped Job Market: LG

Calls For Rapid Reskilling, Ethical AI Use & Transparency In The Digital Age

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said artificial intelligence (AI) has fundamentally reshaped the job market and is defining the economic landscape of the present era, while stressing that the technology should enhance human capabilities rather than replace them.

Delivering the keynote address on "AI: Effects and Side Effects" at the Dr Suresh Awasthi Memorial Lecture Series, organised by the Dr Suresh Awasthi Smriti Nyas to mark the scholar's 20th death anniversary, Sinha called for responsible and ethical adoption of AI, rapid reskilling of the workforce and greater transparency in the age of artificial intelligence.

"There are moments in



history when human civilisation enters a new age. Today we stand on the threshold of a similar new era, and AI has already reached our homes, schools, hospitals, industries, farms and government systems," Sinha said.

He said AI has transformed the way societies educate and hire people, fundamentally



WE MUST BUILD A FUTURE WHERE science becomes the means of progress and humanity determines its direction."

reshaping the employment landscape. According to the Lieutenant Governor, the technology has become part of everyday life, benefiting even people in remote villages by improving healthcare, farming and education.

Sinha said India has long upheld a tradition where science and ethics complement

each other, and the same approach should guide the adoption of AI.

"Our duty is not only to adopt it but also to guide it in the right direction. When technology is used for human welfare, it democratises opportunity and brings possibilities to those who were previously deprived," he said.

Stressing that the debate should not centre on humans versus machines, Sinha said AI should be viewed as a force multiplier.

"AI represents our best path forward, not as a replacement for human potential, but as a force multiplier. The future belongs to a symbiotic partnership where technology handles routine tasks, allowing the human workforce to focus on creativity, innovation and problem- | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir's Racing Star Atiqa Wins Pole In Italy



Press Trust Of India

Italy: India's 11-year-old racing prodigy Atiqa Mir gave another compelling example of her precocious talent by out-qualifying two Mercedes F1 junior drivers for pole position in the Champions of the Future Academy Program Round 3 here.

Despite no testing on a rather technical Leopard Circuit, Atiqa, the first Indian to be backed by Formula 1 Academy, set sizzling pace in qualifying of the karting series.

She beat established Mercedes | [More on P6](#)

India-UK Free Trade Deal Comes Into Force

» Duty-Free Access Opens For 99% Of Indian Exports

» \$140 Million Worth Of Goods Shipped On Day One

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India and the United Kingdom on Wednesday operationalised their landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), opening duty-free access for nearly 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UK and reducing tariffs on a wide range of British goods, including whisky and premium cars.

Officially known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the pact is being described as one of the most significant trade agreements signed by the two countries. It is expected to boost bilateral trade, expand investment and strengthen economic ties at a time of



growing uncertainty in the global trading system.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said India exported goods worth USD 140 million to the UK at zero duty on the very first day of the agreement's implementation.

More than 50 export

consignments, valued at over USD 140 million, were flagged off from over 20 ports, airports, Inland Container Depots (ICDs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and manufacturing units across the country.

The consignments included electronics, pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, textiles and engineering products, and were dispatched from major gateways such as Mundra, Nhava Sheva and Chennai ports, as well as air cargo terminals in Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

Addressing industry representatives, Agrawal described the agreement as one of India's most ambitious trade pacts, negotiated | [More on P6](#)

Statehood Protest

Permission Or Not, NC Will Head To Delhi: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the National Conference (NC) will go ahead with its planned protest in New Delhi over the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, asserting that the party will leave for the national capital on July 19 even if permission to hold a demonstration at Jantar Mantar is denied.

Speaking to reporters after paying tributes to his uncle and senior NC leader Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, who passed away on Tuesday, Omar said there would be no change in the party's programme despite the bereavement.



"Our protest at Jantar Mantar remains unchanged," Omar said, adding that the party would continue to wait for permission while preparing an alternative plan.

"We know how to remain patient. We will wait, but we will also keep | [More on P6](#)

BJP Slams Soz Over Art 370 Call

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday termed Saifuddin Soz's suggestion for raising demand for restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as "anti-national", and asked the Congress to either clarify if its leader's remark was the "official line" of the party or take action against him.

The BJP's response came after Soz said the ruling National Conference should not confine its protest to Jantar Mantar for only the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) but also raise the demand for the reinstatement of special status under Article 370 for the erstwhile state.

The real issue | [More on P6](#)

SC Flags 'Frustration' Over CBSE Digital Marking System

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed concern over students' "frustration" with the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) digital evaluation system and sought the assistance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking reforms in the on-screen marking process.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed that there appeared to be systemic issues in the digital evaluation mechanism and asked the Centre to apprise



the court of the steps being taken to address them.

"Look at the amount of frustration of young children," the Bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, remarked during

the hearing.

Justice Bagchi told the Solicitor General that the court was seeking the government's assistance "not in an adversarial way" as there appeared to be "creeping problems" in the digital evaluation process.

Responding to the court, Mehta said that while individual discrepancies in marksheets highlighted in the petition had largely been resolved, the government was taking the larger systemic concerns seriously.

He informed the Bench that a one-member commission headed by S. Radha Chauhan had been | [More on P6](#)

'Controversial J&K Book'

Jammu University Bans Authors, Blacklists Publishers

Observer News Service

Jammu: The University of Jammu has banned three authors and blacklisted two publishers linked to the controversial book Personalities and Legends of J&K, directing all its departments to withdraw their publications from libraries and digital repositories.

The move comes in the wake of allegations that the book glorified separatists and anti-national elements.

In an official circular, the University said the action was taken in compliance with Government Order No. 257-JK(Edu) of 2026,

issued by the School Education Department on July 4, which banned the authors and publishers and ordered the withdrawal of all printed material authored or published by them across the Union Territory.

The circular, addressed to all rectors, directors, heads of teaching departments and the in-charge librarian of the Dhanvantri Library, names Hilal Ahmad, Santosh Meena and Dr Sushant Giri as the banned authors. Oberoi Book Service, Jammu, and Anurag Prakashan, Delhi, have been blacklisted as publishers.

The University has directed all departments | [More on P6](#)

HC Quashes 2 PSA Detention Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed the preventive detention of two detainees under the Jammu and K Public Safety Act (PSA) and ordered their immediate release from custody.

A bench of Justice Rahul Bharti quashed detention orders against Seerat-ul-Hassan Dhar of Srinagar and Adnan Rasool Ganie of Shopian.

In Dhar's case, the court observed that the authorities had acted with a "preconceived intention" to keep him behind bars and described the detention as a "sheer abuse of process of law." | [More on P6](#)



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2

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my 10th Marks Card as Sahilafzal while my correct spelling is Sahil Afzal. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard h e/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sahil Afzal
S/o Mohammad Afzal Dar

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nab Faker, S/D/W/o Gaffar Faker, R/o Gonipora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3280 4863 1154 as "Ghulam Nabi Shah". My correct and actual name is "Nab Faker". Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name Nab Faker for all legal and official purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to Apply for a Renewal of FERTILIZER licence under the name M/S Mehraj din peer s/o Abdul Hameed peer R/O mamooosa pattan if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the chief agriculture office baramulla with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained
Mehraj Din Peer
R/O mamooosa pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Younis Ahmad Bhat S/o Late Nazir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Abdullahabad, Narkara, Budgam, am applying for the change of name of the electricity service connection in the records of the Power Development Department (PDD). The details of the existing connection are as follows:
Existing Registered Consumer Name: Mohd Younis Bhat
Service Connection No. / Consumer ID: 0206010030086
Category / Load: Domestic (R/e A) / 2 KW
Premises Address: Abdullahabad, Narkara, Budgam
I have submitted an application for transferring the connection to my name (Younis Ahmad Bhat) before the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), PDD Sub-Division Budgam. If any person has any objection to the proposed name transfer, they should file their objection in writing along with supporting proof in the office of the AEE, PDD Sub-Division Budgam within 7 days of the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.
Younis Ahmad Bhat
R/o Abdullahabad, Narkara, Budgam
Contact No: +91-990619785

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the school record the mother's name & father's cast of my children (HARIS SHABIR) has been mentioned as AFROZA BEGUM instead of ROZI BEGUM & father cast is SHABIR AHMAD SHIEKH instead of SHABIR AHMAD SHEIKH . Now I am applying for its rectroin if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file same to the GOVT HIGH SCHOOL WATERGAM within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....SHABIR AHMAD SHEIKH
F/O HARIS SHABIR

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned as IFTIKHAR MUSTAFA in my Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration No.B202601052610000110 while my correct name is IFTIKHAR MUSTAFA WANI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the BDO OFFICE WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained ...
Name....IFTIKHAR MUSTAFA WANI

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered SHABIR AHMAD RATHER Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID No.0212040018564 wants to be registered on correct name SHAHID NABI RATHER R/O PACHAR CHNADOOSA . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....SHAHID NABI RATHER
R/O ..PACHAR CHANDOOOSA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khurshid Ahmad Padder, S/o Gh. Hussain Padder, R/o Palpora, District Shopian, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2528 1736 5848 as "Khurshed Ah Padder". My correct and actual name is "Khurshid Ahmad Padder". Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name Khurshid Ahmad Padder for all legal and official purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Abdul Hamid Sheikh S/o Ab Rehman Sheikh R/o Sheikhpora Tehsil Kreeri seeking their in the Dependent certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above ,in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned Abdul Rehman Sheikh S/o Khazir Mohammad Sheikh Passed away on 16-11-2025. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	Marital Status
1	Abdul Hamid Sheikh	Son	57	Govt Employee	Married
2	Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh	Son	55	-	-
3	Heleema Begum	Daughter	58	H/W	-

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

Naib Tehsildar

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub .. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sahiba Jan D/o Ghulam Mohammad Kumar R/o Minj Gram Boniyar Tehsil Boniyar District Baramulla with verified date of birth 25/09/2014 occurred at SDH Pattan 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

I, Shabir Ahmad Wani, F/o Dua Shabir, R/o Bongam, District Shopian, hereby notify that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6639 5911 7806 as "Duha". The correct and actual name of my ward is "Dua Shabir". Henceforth, my ward shall be known and recognized by the name Dua Shabir for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Lateef Paswal, F/o Owais Ahmad Paswal, R/o Devpora, District Shopian, hereby notify that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8026 6504 8220 as "Mohammad Owais Paswal". The correct and actual name of my ward is "Owais Ahmad Paswal". Henceforth, my ward shall be known and recognized by the name Owais Ahmad Paswal for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Rather, F/o Khubaib Manzoor, R/o Zarkan, Tehsil Shopian, District Shopian, hereby notify that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5202 7609 3465 as "Majid Manzoor Rather". The correct and actual name of my ward is "Khubaib Manzoor". Henceforth, my ward shall be known and recognized by the name Khubaib Manzoor for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shakoor Ahmad Sheikh, F/o Hooriya Shakoor, R/o Baongam, Tehsil Shopian, District Shopian, hereby notify that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6742 5971 0367 as "Huraya". The correct and actual name of my ward is "Hooriya Shakoor". Henceforth, my ward shall be known and recognized by the name Hooriya Shakoor for all legal and official purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Musrat Yousuf, W/o Shiraz Ahmad Ganie, R/o Aloora, Tehsil Harmain, District Shopian, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8016 5337 2662 as "Masrat Yousf". My correct and actual name is "Musrat Yousuf". Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name Musrat Yousuf for all legal and official purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khurshid Ahmad Lone, F/o Salman Khurshid, R/o Vehil Chattawatan, Tehsil Shopian, District Shopian, hereby notify that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8973 6054 3258 as "Salmon Khurshed". The correct and actual name of my ward is "Salman Khurshid". Henceforth, my ward shall be known and recognized by the name Salman Khurshid for all legal and official purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

Office of the Principal/Chairman Bangil Educational Institute

Utikoo Tangmarg Kashmir

Recognized vide Goivt Order No Rec0002378 dated 13 aug

2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the general public that the following members proposed co Management Committee of Bangil Educational Institute, Utikoo, Bangil:

- Reyaz Ahmad Qadri S/O Ghulam Mohiuddin Qadri R/O: Utikoo Sheikhpora (Administrator) 9906493550
- Abdul Rashid Wani S/O: Ghulam Qadir Wani R/O: Utikoo Bangil (Chairman) 9797100785
- Ghulam Mohammad Wani S/O: Fatah Mohammad Wani R/O: Utikoo Bangil (Secretary) 7006079926
- Ghulam Mohammad Malik S/o Habibullah Malik, R/O: Utikoo Bangil (Accountant) 8493061222
- Ateeqa Begum W/O: Late Peer Abdul Rashid R/O: Utikoo (Organiser) 7006579808
- Peer Nazir Ahmad, S/O: Late Ghulam Mohammad Peer, R/O: Rawanpora Kunzer (Vice-Principal) 9596015674
- Shameema Begum W/O: Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, R/O: Utikoo Bangil (Member) 9149960971

If any person, organization, or institution has any objection regarding the character, conduct, or involvement of any of the above-mentioned members in any unlawful or criminal activity, they may submit their objection in writing, along with supporting evidence, to the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any objection received after the expiry of the stipulated period shall not be entertained.

Principal

bmng

Bangil Educational Institute

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asghar Ali Khan, S/o Sehrab Khan, R/o Turkpora, District Bandipora, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3185 4952 6551 as "Asghar Ali Gojar Turk". My correct and actual name is "Asghar Ali Khan". Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name Asghar Ali Khan for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, M. Rafiq Wani, S/o Ab Raman Wani, R/o Diaroo, Tehsil Keegam, District Shopian, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6881 8750 7644 as "Rafiq Ahmad Wani". My correct and actual name is "M. Rafiq Wani". Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name M. Rafiq Wani for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shahid Ali, F/o Hayder Bin Shahid, R/o Dugpora, District Shopian, hereby notify that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6355 2724 2267 as "Shayaan Shahid". The correct and actual name of my ward is "Hayder Bin Shahid". Henceforth, my ward shall be known and recognized by the name Hayder Bin Shahid for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar death BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to death of Mukhti Begum w/o Ghulam Ahmad Lone R/o Mamooosa with verified date of Death 19/02/2013 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he/she may contact to this office within 07 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREER

Subject: Application of MOHAMMAD AKRAM DEADER S/O KHAN MOHAMMAS DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of ABDUL QAYOOM DEADER , ZUBAIR AHMAD DEADER ,OWAIS AKRAM DEADER son and IMRA AKRAM daughter

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and DEADER community, having annual income is 155692 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1...MOHAMMAD AKRAM DEADER self 50 years daily wager
2.... MAQSOODA BEGUM wife 67 years House wife
3...ABDUL QAYOOM DEADER son 30 years student
4..ZUBAIR AHMAD DEADER son 25 years student
5...IMRA AKRAM daughter 21 Years //
6...OWAIS AHMAD DEADER son 17 years//
.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application for registration of the Hotel "The Vista" Located at Sonamarg, Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I/we, Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Mir S/o Late Gh. Mohammad Wani R/o Kangan has /have applied in the Department of Tourism, Kashmir the registration certificate of hotel titled as " The Vista", located at Sonamarg Ganderbal in accordance with J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act; Whereas, I/we have submitted the requisite documents including building permission, Sale Deed, NOC from SDA, NOC fire, CTO JKPC, NOC PHE, NOC PDD, Intikhab Jamabandi, domicile certificate, ID proof and PAN Card etc in the Tourism Department; Now therefore, in view of above, before considering transfer and inclusion of partners in the Registration certificate of the aforementioned Hotel and Issuance of registration certificate in My favor, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of Deputy Director Tourism, Registration or via (email ID: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID:0204040015421 registered in the name of Nazir Ahmad Puchwal to be transferred in favour of

Mohd Shafi Mir, S/o Mohd Hussain Mir R/o Alipora New Botakadal Lalbazar

If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mubeena

Altar to (new name) Mubeena Altaf . In future i will be known as (new name)

Mubeena Altaf.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may

contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days.

After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/O Hardupanzu Budgam-193411 (J&K), have applied for upgradation of my contractor card issued vide No. PWDJNK-CONT-2024-698999 Dated 01/04/2024 to Class B. If any person has any objection in this regard, he may submit his 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.
Ph. 7051815052

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I Hamid Hussain S/O Nasrullah Khan R/O Halmatpora Kupwara, J&K, have applied for upgradation of my class B contractor card issued vide No. SE (R&B) SB/2944/ BEE of 2018-19 to Class A. If any person has any objection in this regard, he may submit his 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.
9797123903

ab

Subject: - Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

Public Notice

The registrar Births and Deaths Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pattan has submitted case file pertaining to birth of Maseeha Rafiq S/o Mohd Rafiq Wani R/o Shipora Distt Baramulla having verified the date of birth as 28-02-2020 and the event has been shown to be occurred at SDH Pattan. In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aijaz Ahmad Hajam, F/o Aisha Aijaz, R/o Gutiyar Khawajabagh, Tehsil Baramulla, District Baramulla, hereby notify that my daughter's name has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8561-5170-4431 as "Ayesha Jan". Her correct and actual name is "Aisha Aijaz". Henceforth, she shall be known and recognized by the name Aisha Aijaz for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Laleeya Akhter, D/o Ab Salam Wani, R/o Matipora, Tehsil Singhpora, District Baramulla, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5494-0734-2808 as "Lali Bano". My correct and actual name is "Laleeya Akhter". Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name Laleeya Akhter for all purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank Account details as Bashir Ahmad Malla S/o Ghulam Ahmad Malla R/o Lachkari Mohalla while my correct name as per adhaar card is Bashir Ahmad Razaki S/O Ghulam Ahmad Razaki R/o Banigam Mirkabad P.S Harwan Brein 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 office of the Branch Manager JK Bank Dalgate Srinagar within seven days. After that n objection shall be entertained.

pd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Wasif Jan, F/o Mehmad Wasif Jan R/o Hyder Colony, Dagga Kadal, Awanta bawan Soura, Srinagar, hereby declare that due to an inadvertent error, the name of my son were wrongly recorded in the school records of Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute.

The details are as follows:
Incorrect Name: Mehmet Wasif Jan
Correct Name: Mehmad Wasif Jan

If any person has any objection to the above-mentioned corrections, they may inform the school authority of Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i FAYAZ AHMAD KUTTAY S/O BASHIR AHMAD KUTTAY R/O KARGAM PALAPORA BUDGAM holder of DEE class contractor issued by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic Circle Budgam , DEE to (C) . If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Cheif Engineer R & B Circle Srinagar South, within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.
FAYAZ AHMAD KUTTAY
S/O BASHIR AHMAD KUTTAY
R/O KARGAM PALAPORA BUDGAM
CELL: 7780870932

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the electricity connection of Kohnsen Guest House, situated at Zero Bridge, Rajbagh, Srinagar, bearing Consumer ID: 0202010005433, presently recorded in the name of Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Bhat (Managing Partner), is proposed to be transferred to the name of Mr. Shabir Ahmad Bhat. If any person, institution, or organization has any objection to the proposed change of the consumer name, they may submit their objection, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the concerned office of the Power Development Department (KPDCL), Srinagar, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection to the proposed transfer, and the change of the electricity consumer name may be processed accordingly.

Shabir Ahmad Bhat
S/o: Late Assad Ullah Bhat
R/o: Zero Bridge, Rajbagh, Sgr

inf

SMC Seeks Coaching Support for Sanitation Workers' Children



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has reached out to coaching institutions across the city to explore a collaborative framework for extending scholarship-based coaching and academic support to meritorious children of its sanitation workers.

Chairing an interaction with representatives of coaching institutions, the Commissioner, SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, called upon the city's educational community to partner with the Corporation in creating meaningful educational opportunities for children of sanitation workers, who remain at the frontline of maintaining Srinagar's cleanliness, sanitation and public health.

The proposed programme envisages voluntary participation by coaching institutions, which may earmark a limited number of seats for deserving students

and extend educational scholarships and other academic support, including study material, test series, mentoring and career guidance.

The Commissioner said the initiative was part of the Corporation's broader efforts to strengthen the welfare of its sanitation workforce, with an emphasis on education as a means of long-term empowerment and inter-generational social mobility.

"Those who work tirelessly to keep Srinagar clean make an invaluable contribution to the city every day. Supporting the education and aspirations of their children is one of the most meaningful ways in which the larger community can acknowledge that contribution," the Commissioner said.

The SMC proposes to put in place a transparent mechanism for identifying eligible students based on merit and objective criteria and facilitate their placement with participating coaching institutions.

Foot-Over Bridge Coming Up Near Children's Hospital Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant relief for patients and their families, the Srinagar district administration has initiated the construction of a much-awaited foot-over bridge at the 500-bed Children's Hospital Bemina. It also announced plans to build an accommodation facility for attendants, addressing two long-pending issues at the premier pediatric healthcare institution.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who visited the hospital on Wednesday, said the foot-over bridge has been planned after the administration assessed the difficulties faced daily by patients, attendants and hospital staff. "The bridge will connect different hospital blocks and will be equipped with staircases as well as an escalator to ensure easier movement, particularly for critically ill children and their caregivers," the DC said, as reported by KNO.

The development comes against the backdrop of repeated concerns raised by patients and attendants over the absence of a safe crossing outside the hospital. Earlier, families had complained that they were forced to cross the busy road amid heavy traffic due to the lack of a zebra crossing or foot-over bridge, exposing children and attendants to the risk of accidents.

Attendants had also pointed out that ambulances often faced delays in reaching the hospital because they were required to take a U-turn nearly two kilometres ahead before entering the hospital premises, causing inconvenience during medical emergencies.

The Deputy Commissioner said the bridge project is expected to substantially improve accessibility and make movement within and around the hospital safer and more convenient for thousands of people who



visit the facility from different parts of the Kashmir Valley.

In another major initiative, the DC announced that the district administration will construct a dedicated accommodation facility (Sarai) for attendants through the District Mineral Fund (DMF).

The proposed facility, he said, will include around 15 rooms, two large dormitories, a dining hall, toilets and washrooms, allowing attendants accompanying children from far-flung districts to stay close to the hospital at an affordable cost during prolonged treatment.

The absence of such a facility has long been a concern, with many attendants forced to spend nights in hospital corridors, open spaces or rented accommodation due to the lack of affordable lodging near the hospital.

Labroo said administrative approval for the project will be secured shortly, following which construction work will begin.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of

other developmental works in the district. He said construction of the new Tehsil office is progressing satisfactorily, while work on the SDM office and SDM West office will be allotted soon.

Responding to questions regarding drinking water shortages in several parts of Srinagar, Labroo said multiple projects under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme are being executed to strengthen the city's water supply infrastructure. "Works related to source augmentation, improvement of distribution networks and enhancement of water quality are nearing completion in areas including Nishat, Batamalo, Soura and Rajbagh," he said.

Acknowledging that some localities continue to face water scarcity, he said water tankers will remain in service until the ongoing projects are completed.

To further strengthen the emergency water supply, the district administration has approved the procurement of four additional water tankers through the District Mineral Fund, the DC added.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

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

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
01 Safar
1448

PRAYERS
FAJR 3: 49
ZUHR 12:37
ASR 5: 35
Magrib 7: 46
ISHA 9: 24

Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un
"Surely we belong to Allah, and to Him we shall return."

With profound grief and sorrow, the Shah e Hamdan Furniture Market Association expresses its heartfelt condolences on the sad and untimely demise of our beloved colleague and brother. His passing is an irreparable loss to the entire furniture market fraternity.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and share in their grief during this difficult time. We pray to Almighty Allah to bless the departed soul with the highest place in Jannat ul Firdous and grant the family patience, strength and courage to bear this immense loss.

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES
Mr. Qayoom Sahab, President
Mr. Aijaz Rasool, Vice President
Mr. Aijaz Ahmad, General Secretary
Mr. Rayees Ahmad, Advisor
And all Members of the Shah e Hamdan Furniture Market Association

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No. IIND SRINAGAR.**
Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058
GIST_OF_E-NIT_No:- 14_S&D IIND OF 2026-27
DATED:- 14 - 07 - 2026

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e- tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work in clid. Deptt. materials (Amount in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of tractor	Con- Time completion	of Cost of Tender Docu- ment in the shape of Treasury Challan (Rs.)	Head of Account
1.	Construction of Drain near the H/o Manzoor Ahmad mir at Mohsin. Abad Bemina	Rs.773	Rs.15460-	CEE/DEE	20 Days	Rs.250/-	Capex 2026-27
2.	Construction of cement concrete drain from H/O Gh. Mohammad Rather, Manzoor Ahmad rather to Land of Altaf Hussain Rather at Mehboob colony Khumani chowk Bemina.	Rs.24.84	Rs.49680-	BEE/CEE	25 Days	Rs.750/-	Capex 2026-27
3.	Construction of cement concrete drain including manholes near graveyard from H/O Mohammad Ashraf Gujri, Abdul khaliq chek & others at Baghyas chattbal srinagar.	Rs.28.98	Rs.57960-	AAYBEE	30 Days	Rs.870/-	Capex 2026-27

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

Sl. No.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14.07.2026
01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14.07.2026
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	14.07.2026 from 04.00 P.M to 25.07.2026 up to 4.00 P.M
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	14.07.2026 from 04.30 P.M
04.	Bid Submission end Date	25.07.2026 up to 4.00 P.M
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	27.07.2026 at 11.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Daresht Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with Sl. No. of NIT/ Name of the work (without overwriting). Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR/BG (Earnest Money) (without Over writing). Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card. Scanned copy of JKPWDOMS Registration card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS PORTAL, Cell No./ e-mail ID and correspondence address. NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by the bidder. BOQ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I. In case the bids are found unbalanced / abnormally low bid price, the Successful bidder has to produce/ deposit Performance Security/additional performance security in shape of FDR/CDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids, as per the circular instructions of the Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025. The Performance Security /Additional performance security shall be released after the successful completion of Defective Liability (DLP) period of the work on the recommendation of AEE concerned

II. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee / security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 10% of advertised cost put to bid starting at 1% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid Price.

III. Where the Bid Price is 20% or more below the advertised cost put to bid the Additional Performance Grantee percentage shall be increment ed by 0.28% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 20% of project cost put to bid in addition to 0.1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

IV. Additional Performance Security shall be treated as part of Performance Security.

V. In case of tie bids the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the L1 based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to be present

VI. The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.

VII. Bidders are advised to read the NIT carefully before participate in the Bidding process.

VIII. Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e. between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date.

IX. The payment of work on account of work done shall be made under rules subject to availability of funds under the prescribed head of account.

X. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject or cancel any bid / tender / NIT or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

XI. In terms of Government order Circular No.01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08.07.2025 that "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatory disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment 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"

XIII. Additional Terms & Conditions in terms of Circular Instructions issued under No. 7760278-HUD-Plan/106/2026-01 Dated:- 06.06.2026 shall also be applicable which are as under.

INDICATIVE TIME LINE FOR EXECUTION OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Sr.No.	Estimated Cost	Execution Period
1.	Up to 2.00 lakh	1 month
2.	2.00 lakh – 10.00 lakh	Up to 2 months
3.	10.00 lakh – 25.00 lakh	2–3 months
4.	Above 25.00 lakh – 1.00 crore	3–4 months
5.	Above 1.00 crore – 5.00 crore	4–8 months
6.	Above 5.00 crore – 20.00 crore	8–12 months
7.	Above 20.00 crore – 100.00 crore	12–18 months
8.	Above 100.00 crore	18–24 months

Building Projects

Sr.No.	Project Type	Execution Period
1.	Small office building / health centre	6–9 months
2.	School building	6–9 months
3.	District office complex	6–12 months
4.	Hospital building	6–12 months
5.	Multi-storey office complex	6–12 months
6.	Large institutional campus	6–18 months

Additional Conditions.

a. Additional time may be allowed for scattered works, congested sites, difficult terrain, or specialized services if justified ground.

b. Start of work: generally, start within 7 days of the notice to proceed.

c. Milestones are prescribed during execution (¼, ½, and ¾) progress stages.

d. Defect Liability Period: minimum 3 years.

e. Liquidated damages: 1% of contract value per week of delay, subject to a maximum of 10%.

f. Time of treated as an essential condition of the contract.

g. Extension of time (EOT) may be granted where justified by hindrances or Departmental delays.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice for Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal (EOI)
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of President of India Invites EOI (Expression of Interest) for setting up of Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal at Awantipora Railway station under schedule-2 as per Master Circular 2026 on 'Rail Based Logistics through development of Gati-Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals (GCTs) and 'Cargo Related Facilities (CRF)' issued vide Railway Board's letter no. 2021/TC(FM)/18/23 dated 14.02.2026. Eligible and interested parties may submit their interest.

For more details & Other information kindly visit Northern Railway's website: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in or contact 9596732950.

Last date of submission of EOI: Upto 15:30 Hrs on 29.07.2026

No.: NR-FZRoCOML(GDS)/9/2026-CCTC/JAT/NR Date: 14.07.2026 2434/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.
Email: xen-ed1@jk.gov.in Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079
e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 024/EDI, dt: 15.07.2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, for the works as specified in clause 2 of BDS (Bid Data Sheet).

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost
1	Installation of 01 No High Mast Lights near Gandtal-Dara Bridge Gandtal	97200.00

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

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 15-07-2026; 16:00 PM
B	Clarification start date	15-07-2026; 16:00 Hours
C	Clarification End date	03-08-07-2026; 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	15-07-2026; 16:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	05.08.2026; 04:00 Hours
F	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
G	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	06-08-2026; 02:00 Hours
H	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-I, Sgr.
J	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two Hundred only).
H	EMD	Rs.2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only)

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The Last of Kashmir's Doctor-Legislators

Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal spent years proving that a stethoscope and a legislative seat could sit in the same coat pocket.



Prof. M. Aslam



“I spent decades watching him work, and the through-line was always governance at the grassroots level, the unglamorous machinery of local institutions that most senior politicians stop paying attention to once they reach ministerial rank. Kamal never stopped paying attention.”

I spent decades watching him work, and the through-line was always governance at the grassroots level, the unglamorous machinery of local institutions that most senior politicians stop paying attention to once they reach ministerial rank.

Kamal never stopped paying attention. He pushed for stronger local governance the way other men push for higher office, because he seemed to believe the state's health depended on it more than his own career did.

And he said so plainly, fearlessly, whenever he thought the state's interests were on the line, even when silence would have cost him nothing.

What stays with me, turning all of this over now, is how rarely that combination survives contact with real political life.

Most people who enter public office in Kashmir, or anywhere, eventually let the office consume the rest of them. Kamal held the line for thirty years.

He treated his patients in the morning and answered to his constituents in the afternoon, and neither role seemed to diminish the other.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's "favourite" son built a career out of refusing to pick a lane, and the valley is smaller for having lost the last man willing to run it that way.

The author is former Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, New Delhi. He is a Member of the Collegium of Eminent Social Scientists constituted by ICSSR; Fellow, EDI, World Bank; Distinguished Fellow, AGRASRI, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; and Patron, Hope Foundation, Vadodara. He can be reached at profaslam10@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

Kashmir's Pressure Point

Fresh health data from Jammu and Kashmir points to a troubling shift that demands far more attention than it receives.

Only 36 percent of women and 31 percent of men have normal blood pressure, while nearly 57 percent of the population falls into the pre-hypertensive category, according to the latest National Family Health Survey findings.

That means a majority of adults already stand one step away from hypertension, placing cardiovascular disease on course to become one of the valley's defining public health challenges.

Those numbers tell a larger story about how Kashmir has changed.

Public debate still treats hypertension as a disease of old age, although doctors increasingly diagnose elevated blood pressure among adults in their thirties and forties.

Office jobs have replaced physically demanding work for thousands of people. Daily commuting relies far more on vehicles than walking. Smartphones consume late evenings, sleep grows shorter, physical activity declines during long winters, and excess body weight follows.

Recent national research identifies higher body mass index as one of the strongest predictors of hypertension in India, especially among younger adults.

Food habits have shifted just as rapidly.

Noon chai remains part of Kashmiri life, although it now shares the table with processed snacks, restaurant meals and app-delivered food loaded with hidden sodium.

Recent Indian studies show that average salt consumption remains well above the World Health Organization's recommended limit of five grams a day, pushing up the risk of hypertension, stroke, heart disease and kidney disease.

Public health experts estimate that excessive salt contributes to roughly 175,000 deaths annually in India, making dietary change one of the country's most effective preventive interventions.

Clinical care alone cannot solve this problem because hypertension develops way before patients enter a hospital. Blood pressure often rises without obvious symptoms, allowing damage to build inside arteries, the heart and the kidneys over many years.

Screening therefore becomes as important as treatment. Primary health centres should measure blood pressure during routine visits, schools should build lifelong habits around nutrition and physical activity, employers should encourage movement during the workday, and food manufacturers should gradually reduce sodium in widely consumed products.

Kashmir has demonstrated that determined public health campaigns can transform health outcomes when governments, clinicians and communities work toward a common objective.

Hypertension presents the next major test.

Fresh evidence already identifies the people at risk, the behaviours driving the problem and the interventions most likely to succeed.

Waiting until patients enter cardiac wards will raise healthcare costs while shortening lives.

I still remember the sound of his voice on the rotary dial phone in 1988, saying yes before I had finished my question.

I had just returned to Kashmir from CIRDAP, newly appointed as Joint Director at IMPA, unsure whether anyone in the political establishment would even return my calls as the situation in the valley rapidly deteriorated.

Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal did more than return my calls. He showed up in person, with courage, compassion and conviction.

Any programme the institute ran, any moment we needed encouragement or a blessing from the political leadership, he was there before I had to ask twice.

That first impression never wore off over the decades that followed, and it is the one I keep returning to now that he has died in Srinagar, on a Tuesday evening, after a short illness.

He was, by the time I met him, already a man who had built his career on refusing to choose between two callings.

Long before politics, Kamal worked as a general physician in Tangmarg, in north Kashmir, the region his mother came from.

That clinic became the foundation of everything he did afterward, because he never actually left it.

His political life started in 1983, when he won a seat on the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council, his first taste of elected office.

Four years later, in 1987, he moved into direct electoral politics, winning the Tangmarg/Gulmarg Assembly constituency on a National Conference ticket.

He returned to that seat for a second consecutive term in 1996, at a time when standing for office in the valley meant accepting real personal danger.

He accepted it twice.

What made Kamal genuinely unusual, even among a generation of leaders who came up through hard circumstances, was what he did with the years in between elections.

As a minister, he stayed readily available for any development work the state needed, driven by what those around him understood as real devotion to Jammu and Kashmir rather than ambition for its own sake.

Meanwhile, in Tangmarg, he kept the clinic running.

Patients still walked in during his years in office. He treated them the same way he always had, and the goodwill that built up around him, the affection people felt walking out of his consulting room, became a political asset no campaign manager could have engineered.

Kamal was a rare exception, a man who balanced medicine and politics instead of trading one for the other.

The Minister Who Bought a Ticket

A health official who ran a free clinic out of his front room, and refused, on principle, to let power buy him a shortcut.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

I met Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal on September 4, 1997, my first day as Managing Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation.

I drove to his home in Tangmarg before I had even unpacked, because a project of that size needed his blessing more than it needed my credentials.

He gave both without hesitation.

That man died this month, and Jammu and Kashmir has lost something harder to name than a politician: a man who treated public office as a form of custody rather than ownership.

The Abdullah name holds weight in Kashmir the way few family names do anywhere. Kamal was the son of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the leader known as Sher-e-Kashmir. He was the brother of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the uncle of the sitting Chief Minister, Omar Abdul-

lah. He served as Cabinet Minister and later as Health Minister, positions that in most political families become inheritances rather than jobs.

Kamal treated his differently.

He spent decades inside a lineage built for command and somehow came out the other side as one of the least commanding men I have known in government.

The Gulmarg Gondola opened on January 31, 1998, a milestone for tourism in a region that badly needed one. What left the deepest impression on me was not the ribbon-cutting but the eighteen months before it, when Kamal had every reason to treat the project as his family's and chose not to.

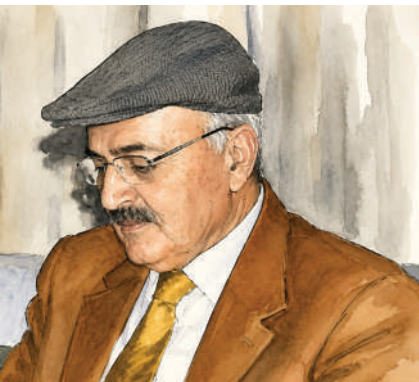
During my tenure, he neither sought an employee transfer nor pressed a name for a contract, and he kept away from every administrative decision I made.

Instead he told me, more than once, to handle every matter on merit alone.

Ministers who say that are common, but ministers who mean it are not.

A few weeks after the Gondola opened, I went back to Tangmarg to invite him for a ride. I found his home converted into a clinic, dozens of patients from the surrounding villages waiting their turn.

He was still the Health Minister of the state, still returned to Tangmarg every week to treat



“The Gulmarg Gondola opened on January 31, 1998, a milestone for tourism in a region that badly needed one. What left the deepest impression on me was not the ribbon-cutting but the eighteen months before it, when Kamal had every reason to treat the project as his family's and chose not to.

the poor without charge, and still handed out medicine to those who could not afford it.

The people there did not think of him as a minister who happened to practice medicine. He was their doctor who happened to hold a ministry.

The moment I remember most came later, unannounced, at Kongdoori, the upper terminal of the Gondola's first phase.

I looked up and saw Dr Kamal stepping out of a cabin with several companions, and before I reached him, my staff told me something that startled me more than his visit itself: he had already gone to the counter and bought tickets for his entire party.

I told him it hadn't been necessary. Nearly thirty years later, I still remember his answer.

Financial discipline, he said, was the whole point of the project succeeding, and Dr. Farooq Abdullah had made it plain that nobody, regardless of position, rode free.

I later found out that Omar Abdullah, not yet active in politics then, had bought tickets on his own visits too.

Small gestures like these tend to get filed away as charming anecdotes. I think that undersells them badly.

What Kamal understood, and what too few officials in Kashmir or anywhere else seem to grasp, is that public trust in an institution starts

at the top or it doesn't start at all.

A corporation cannot ask ordinary citizens to respect its rules while its ministers treat those same rules as optional.

The financial discipline Kamal modelled in those early days helped make the Cable Car Corporation one of the rare public enterprises in the state that has managed to stay solvent on its own terms, still standing on that footing decades later.

Power in Kashmir has a way of rewarding those who use it loosely. Kamal never did.

He remained accessible in a system built for distance, honest in a position built for compromise, and modest inside a family whose name alone could have opened any door without a ticket.

I remember him now not primarily as a Cabinet Minister or as the brother and uncle of two chief ministers, but as the man who walked to a counter and paid, because he believed the office he held belonged to the people of Kashmir before it belonged to him.

That belief, more than any title he held, is what should outlast him.

The author is an advocate practising before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and can be reached at frooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

The Teacher Who Still Lives in Kashmir's Memory

Fifty years after I left his classroom, a visit to my old teacher revealed what Kashmir's schools once built before technology, ambition, and credentials took center stage.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

I lately found myself driving toward a town that had once been the village of my childhood, chasing a face I had last seen as a schoolboy.

My friend Fayaz sat beside me, equally eager and uncertain.

More than fifty years had passed since we had studied under Masterji Ali Mohammad Pandit, the teacher who had done far more than teach us mathematics and Urdu.

Time had changed the landscape around us. Roads had widened, houses had multiplied, and the village had grown into a busy town.

One thing drew us there with complete certainty: we wanted to see whether the man who had influenced our earliest years still remembered us, and whether we still understood what he had given us.

People often measure teachers through examination results, promotions, or awards. My memory works differently.

Whenever I think about Masterji, I see a man cycling nearly thirty-five kilometres to school, wearing the same spotless white half-sleeved Terylene shirt, arriving with books tucked under his arm and a lesson already prepared in his mind.

His monthly salary stood somewhere between forty and fifty rupees. Looking back, that figure says less about poverty than about commitment.

Money explained his pay, but his work explained his life.

Another teacher worked beside him, Sagar Sahib, whose honesty

and discipline matched Masterji's own.

Students spoke about him with admiration because he seemed able to predict where many of us would end up. Time proved many of those judgments correct.

Looking back now, I realize those predictions grew from careful observation rather than magic. Teachers then knew their students with remarkable precision because they knew the families, the streets, and the lives surrounding the classroom.

Our school taught through Urdu, though Masterji refused to let language become a boundary.

Geometry became my first introduction to English mathematical vocabulary. He wrote "Given," then translated it as "Diya Hua," "To Prove" became "Saabit Karna," "Construction" became "Banawat," and "Proof" became "Daleel."

Those English terms never appeared in our textbook. They remained fixed in our minds because he believed school should prepare children for the world waiting beyond the village.

Years later, I understood how unusual that approach was. His classroom gave form to ideas that official education reforms would embrace much later.

Masterji's lessons rarely stopped with textbooks. Honesty, punctuality, humility, and integrity appeared in daily practice rather than moral lectures.

We prayed at the nearby mosque, and somehow he always knew which boys had attended. Attendance sheets played no part in that exercise. His eyes did the counting. Anyone missing from the congregation usually met his questions the following morning.

Children accepted that discipline because affection stood behind it, while parents respected it because teachers occupied a place of extraordinary trust within the community. Finding his home took longer than expected.

We stopped several people for directions before one interaction produced an unexpected surprise.



MODERN SCHOOLS POSSESS LARGER BUILDINGS, DIGITAL CLASSROOMS, AND INSTANT ACCESS TO INFORMATION. Those achievements hold value, but my afternoon with Masterji persuaded me that another element once stood at the center of education: a bond strong enough to survive fifty years without a single photograph.

The man guiding us turned out to be Masterji's youngest son.

Minutes later, we entered a modest drawing room lined with books. Nothing about the room felt staged. Books still surrounded him, exactly where I expected them to be.

Masterji rested on a mattress when we entered. Age had slowed

his body, though his eyes remained curious. He looked carefully at my face, searching his memory. I smiled and asked whether he recognized me.

He first mentioned my elder brother, who had also studied under him. Recognition came almost instantly after I introduced myself as

the younger brother.

He remembered that I had remained among the stronger students in class. Then his memory unfolded with astonishing ease.

Questions followed about my brothers, sisters, relatives, and family friends.

Fayaz received similar attention. Masterji recalled the names of his sisters with complete confidence. Many relatives had faded from my own memory over five decades. They remained alive in his.

That emotional exchange explained something modern education often struggles to recreate.

Teachers then belonged to the community rather than simply working inside it. They knew homes as well as classrooms. Families treated them with extraordinary respect because learning reached far beyond school hours.

Education grew through relationships built over years rather than transactions completed within a timetable.

Masterji taught me until eighth standard. My final class under him came in 1974 before schools, colleges, careers, and adulthood scattered us in different directions.

Half a century later, student and teacher sat together once more, speaking almost as though the interval had lasted only weeks.

His age had reached the late nineties, though his mind remained astonishingly sharp. Memory continued to serve him with remarkable generosity.

One childhood incident surfaced almost immediately.

I reminded him about the day I noticed a few two-rupee notes visible through the transparent pocket of his shirt. Innocence prompted me to tell him everyone could see the money. He laughed then, exactly as he laughed now, and replied, "Do you want to steal them?"

Half a century disappeared inside that shared laughter. Small moments often survive longer than big speeches.

Two hours passed with remarkable ease. Stories filled the room, while classrooms, friends and

childhood returned.

Before we left, Masterji entertained us with one final tale from decades earlier.

While cycling home through Nagam after midnight, he believed he had encountered a jinn. Fayaz and I listened exactly as we once had in school, completely absorbed in his storytelling. Age vanished once again. Teacher and students found their common places.

Leaving proved harder than entering. Gratitude demanded something beyond words. I bent forward and kissed Masterji on the forehead.

That simple gesture expressed feelings impossible to compress into words. His eyes answered with affection that needed no explanation.

One detail from that afternoon still surprises people whenever I recount the visit.

We never took a single selfie.

Nobody reached for a phone, or suggested a photograph. Memory had already done the work way before cameras entered our lives.

Images fade inside albums and phones, but human influence follows a different path.

Driving home, I kept thinking about teachers like Masterji. They cycled long distances, accepted modest salaries, and treated education as a lifelong responsibility rather than a profession measured through paperwork or technology.

Modern schools possess larger buildings, digital classrooms, and instant access to information.

Those achievements hold value, but my afternoon with Masterji persuaded me that another element once stood at the center of education: a bond strong enough to survive fifty years without a single photograph.

Kashmir still carries many memories of remarkable teachers. Mine simply has a name, a bicycle, a room full of books, and a place in my heart that time has never touched.

— The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir.

The Weight of Being Childless

Infertility affects men and women alike, but women often bear the blame. Ruksana's story reveals the emotional cost of that unequal burden.



Gowher Bhat

Ruksana left her marital home before sunrise, carrying a small bag and five years of pain.

There was neither argument nor shouting, and no dramatic farewell.

She walked away because her life had become too hard to bear. And infertility was only part of it.

The constant blame, endless work, and judgment from others made every day unbearable. She comes from Vailoo, Kokernag, where orchards and paddy fields stretch toward the horizon, and tradition shapes every step of a woman's life.

She married at thirty-two, believing that love and patience would create a strong foundation. She expected motherhood to arrive naturally.

It did not. The first year passed with gentle advice. "People told me to wait," she remembered.

By the second year, questions emerged. And by the third, judgment had hardened.

Hospital visits, blood tests,

scans, and consultations followed.

Doctors explained that infertility can affect men and women equally, sometimes both, but at home, only one person carried the blame.

"In that house," Ruksana said, "I was the problem."

Her name faded under labels: useless, fruitless.

Words that once shocked became routine, spoken during meals or whispered just loudly enough to cut.

Relatives arrived and asked, "Five years and still nothing?"

Each question weighed like a trial. Infertility became a reflection of her value as a woman rather than a medical condition.

Amid the blame and bitterness, she managed the household, cooked, cleaned, and did the laundry. She also worked in the orchards, harvested paddy, and cut grass for the livestock. Her hands carried everyone else's burdens, and her body was expected to provide for all.

"Since I could not give them a child," Ruksana recalled, "I had to make up for it with work. Rest was not allowed."

Her husband said little beyond telling her to be patient, and in that house, patience itself became a form of punishment.

Infertility affects men and women nearly equally. In India, around 10 to 15 percent of couples experience difficulty conceiving. Male infertility remains rarely discussed, leaving women to bear the visible burden. They are monitored, blamed, and judged while men escape scrutiny.



Ruksana discovered that life is more than the judgments of others. She found purpose, strength, and courage in the work of her hands, the growth of plants, and the care of land that asked nothing in return.

Ruksana's mind began to break under the pressure.

She could not sleep, lost her appetite, and her weight dropped. She spoke less and cried in secret, shutting herself away to hide the pain.

"I felt like I was disappearing

even to myself," she said.

At night, questions filled her mind: why was she the only one blamed, why was he never questioned, and was marriage only about having children?

She had devoted five years to this life. She cared for her

husband when he was sick, nursed his parents, worked in fields, and upheld every expectation.

"When I needed understanding," she said, "no one stood by me."

One evening, after prolonged

humiliation, she reached a breaking point.

She harmed herself in distress.

"I was not trying to die," she said, "I just wanted the pain to stop."

She lost consciousness and was rushed for medical attention. Her husband apologized. For a short while, she believed things might change.

But change did not last.

The same stinging words returned, followed by the same sickening treatment.

The final moment came during a family gathering, when one relative said aloud, "What is the use of keeping her in this house?"

No one objected.

That night, Ruksana packed a bag. "I am not a machine made to produce children. I am a human being," she said, and left before dawn.

Returning to her parents' home brought safety. People noticed. Some expressed sympathy. Others suggested her life was over. She stayed indoors at first, weighed down by shame. Depression settled in, and every day felt heavier than the last.

Recovery began in the orchards and fields of her family.

Her father asked her to help, and reluctantly, she agreed. She watered plants, tied branches, and cut grass for cows.

The earth, as she explains it, did not ask her questions or judge her.

The physical work, the sun, the seasons, and the growth under her hands became therapy. Mental health experts

recognize that meaningful engagement with work and nature can heal trauma, offering structure, purpose, and strength.

"When something grows under your care," Ruksana said, "it reminds you that you are not useless."

Slowly, she rose earlier, chose the orchards over isolation, and rebuilt herself.

Ruksana also stitched clothes at home for a small income and attended counseling whenever possible.

The dark days still come, but they no longer define her. "I am not fully healed," she said, "but I am no longer broken."

Marriage, love, and life still hold many questions, but what matters most is saving herself. Standing in her family orchard, she smiled softly. "These trees do not know my past," she said. "They only know how I care for them."

Ruksana discovered that life is more than the judgments of others. She found purpose, strength, and courage in the work of her hands, the growth of plants, and the care of land that asked nothing in return.

She learned that motherhood does not define her value, that love cannot be measured by children, and that her own life is worth claiming.

"If a marriage cannot survive without children," she said, "then we must ask what marriage is truly meant to be."

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J&K Targets 3.64 Lakh 'Lakhpati Didis' by 2029

Kupwara Leads UT; Govt Plans Mission-Mode Push for Women-Led Enterprises

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has stepped up efforts to transform women Self-Help Group (SHG) members into successful entrepreneurs, setting a target of creating 3.64 lakh "Lakhpati Didis"

by 2029 through convergence of government schemes, skill development, financial inclusion and enterprise support. Chairing a meeting of the Union Territory-Level Steering Committee on the Lakhpati Didi Initiative under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM-UMEED), Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Secretary Mohammad Aijaz Asad directed all stakeholder departments to adopt a mission-mode approach to ensure the

initiative achieves measurable outcomes. He said the government is accelerating implementation of the flagship programme with a renewed focus on enabling rural women to establish sustainable micro-enterprises and achieve annual household incomes exceeding Rs 1 lakh. Asad said 2.40 lakh women in Jammu and Kashmir have already attained Lakhpati Didi status, while an additional 1.24 lakh women need to be covered to

meet the Union Territory's target of 3.64 lakh beneficiaries by 2029. Calling convergence the cornerstone of the initiative, the Secretary asked all departments to integrate their flagship schemes with JKRLM and prioritise eligible SHG households. He stressed the preparation of household-level enterprise plans, timely institutional credit, continuous handholding and market linkages to ensure sustainable livelihoods. He directed line departments to

prepare a convergence blueprint identifying beneficiaries in sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, livestock, dairy, poultry, fisheries and other allied activities. Emphasising the importance of skill development, Asad called for partnerships with reputed national institutions and specialised training agencies, while also advocating exposure visits to states with successful livelihood models. He also asked the Mission to engage leading private apparel brands and manufacturers to

explore outsourcing opportunities for women-led enterprises, saying such collaborations could create sustainable employment and improve household incomes. The Secretary stressed that capacity-building should focus on practical, market-oriented skills and directed departments including Agriculture and Horticulture to provide hands-on training in scientific farming, apple cultivation, vegetable farming, protected cultivation and other high-value activities.

He also called for expanding livelihood opportunities beyond traditional sectors by involving institutions working in handicrafts, handloom, apparel manufacturing, food processing and digital services. Officials informed the meeting that the Digital Aajeevika Register (DAR) is being used to identify beneficiary households and monitor progress, while the Enterprise Planning Digital Tool (EPDT) is helping prepare customised business plans and assess investment needs.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

At A Sacred Kashmir

seek blessings here, while travellers heading toward Gulmarg often stop at the shrine along the way. That constant movement of people produces a volume of waste the current systems appear unable to absorb, according to the filing. A caretaker at the shrine, who has tended its grounds for more than a decade, acknowledged the strain. "We do what we can with what we are given," he said, gesturing toward a cluster of bins near the courtyard. "More hands, more resources, that's what this place needs during the busy months." The condition of the grounds holds its own weight for devotees. Ghulam Nabi, a visitor who had travelled from Baramulla with his family, said the litter troubled him during what should have been a moment of meditation. "You come here to feel close to something greater," he said. "Instead you are stepping around plastic bottles. It takes something away from the experience." The legal filing frames these conditions as more than an aesthetic concern. Lawyers cite Articles 21, 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution of India, along with the Jammu and Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material Act of 2007, the Solid Waste Management Rules of 2026, the Plastic Waste Management Rules and the Water Act of 1974. Untreated sewage reaching nearby water bodies, the petition states, would raise separate concerns under pollution law altogether. It also invokes directions from the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on the scientific management of municipal solid waste, arguing that shrine authorities remain bound by the same standards as any public body. A senior waqf official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the matter remains under review, said the board takes the allegations seriously. "We manage dozens of religious sites with limited staff," the official said. "This petition gives us a chance to look honestly at where the system has broken down." Beyond the immediate site, the stakes extend into the wider Tangmarg and Gulmarg corridor, where religious tourism and the broader economy depend on the same forests and streams the petition seeks to protect. Unmanaged waste, lawyers argue, places pressure on those ecosystems while eroding public health protections meant to serve both residents and visitors. The petition's demands go beyond cleanup. It asks for a district-level inquiry committee drawing on the district administration, the Pollution Control Committee, the Forest Department, the Forest Protection Force, rural sanitation authorities and the Waqf Board's own audit wing. "That body would trace how sanctioned funds were spent, verify completed projects and determine whether financial irregularities occurred," the petition said. Suspension of the administrator, pending inquiry, is among the immediate steps requested. Copies of the filing have already reached the state legislature's environment committee, the Baramulla district magistrate, the Gulmarg Development Authority, forest officials, the Tangmarg municipal committee and local police. Photographs submitted alongside the petition document the violations it describes. What happens next will test how far accountability can reach inside institutions built on faith. Baba Reshi has survived centuries of pilgrims, seasons and change. Whether it can now absorb the weight of its own popularity, without losing what drew people there in the first place, remains an open question, one the Waqf Board can no longer set aside.

Yatra Rush

batch included 4,439 men, 1,614 women, 13 children, 78 sadhus, 53 sadhvis, one child sadhu, three transgender pilgrims and 50 foreign male devotees. The Baltal-bound convoy departed at 2:42 am, while the Pahalgam-bound convoy left at 3:27 am amid elaborate security arrangements. With the latest batch, the total number of pilgrims who have departed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu since the commencement of departures on July 2 has reached 99,287, inching closer to the one-lakh mark. Meanwhile, Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Praveer Ranjan, visited Jammu to review the security arrangements for the ongoing pilgrimage. Accompanied by senior officers, the CISF chief undertook a comprehensive review of security measures, medical response systems, fire safety preparedness, pilgrim facilities, logistics and coordination among various agencies to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Yatra. During his visit, Ranjan inspected the Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp, the Joint Police Control Room (JPCR), the CCTV Control Room and the Tawi River Front. He also interacted with deployed personnel and pilgrims and

assessed the security arrangements on the ground. The CISF Director General stressed the need for maintaining operational readiness, continuous vigilance and seamless coordination among all stakeholder agencies throughout the pilgrimage. He later chaired a high-level security review meeting attended by senior officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Jammu and Kashmir Police, Intelligence Bureau, the Indian Army and other agencies associated with the Yatra. Commending the dedication, professionalism and coordination displayed by the security forces, Ranjan expressed confidence in their continued efforts to ensure the smooth, safe and incident-free conduct of the Amarnath Yatra.

Ensure Flawless

 for pilgrims' stay, registration, transportation and security. Commending the officials for their efforts, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to treat every pilgrim "as a divine guest" and ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage. "With the holy pilgrimage already crossing the three lakh mark in just 12 days, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for pilgrims is our top priority," Sinha said. He directed officials to ensure flawless registration, comfortable lodging and smooth travel arrangements for devotees undertaking the pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine. The Lieutenant Governor also asked the administration to showcase Jammu's tourism and cultural heritage by organising sightseeing tours to key spiritual and tourist destinations across the Jammu division. He stressed promoting local handicraft and handloom products among visiting pilgrims. "It is our goal that whenever Baba Amarnath pilgrims return home, they should carry a piece of Jammu with them in the form of beautiful local handmade products and unforgettable memories. Together, we resolve to make this year's Yatra truly historic," he said. Sinha also reviewed the deployment of Food Safety Officers at community kitchens, facilities at reception and lodgement centres, on-the-spot registration of pilgrims, and transportation and security arrangements. He instructed officials to optimise manpower deployment to effectively manage the increasing influx of pilgrims and directed them to remain vigilant by closely monitoring weather forecasts issued by the Meteorological Department. During the review meeting, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar informed the Lieutenant Governor that legal action had been initiated against individuals involved in fraudulent practices related to the pilgrimage. Sinha directed that strict administrative and legal action be taken against any official found involved in misconduct. The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with pilgrims at the Yatri Niwas and wished them a safe, peaceful and blessed pilgrimage. He was accompanied by senior officials from the civil administration, police and security forces.

AI Has Fundamentally

 solving," he said. The Lieutenant Governor said every technological revolution closes some opportunities while creating many more, making rapid reskilling an urgent priority across sectors. He also warned of emerging challenges such as AI-generated deepfakes and misinformation, saying they threaten to blur the line between fact and fiction. "For innovation to succeed, it must walk hand in hand with public trust. Citizens have a fundamental right to know where their information comes from. In the AI era, transparency is a necessity," he said. Calling upon the younger generation to embrace critical thinking and scientific temper, Sinha urged students to focus on solving real-world problems while making ethical decisions. He said schools and universities should strive to develop scientific knowledge alongside values, creativity, communication skills, empathy and responsibility. "We must build a future where science becomes the means of progress and humanity determines its direction," he said. Earlier, Sinha paid tributes to noted political scientist Dr Suresh Awasthi, describing him as a distinguished scholar and visionary whose ideals continue to inspire independent thinking and nation building. The virtual event was attended by Padma Bhushan Ram Bahadur Rai, president of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, University of Jammu Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai, members of the Dr Suresh Awasthi Smriti Nyas, academicians, literary personalities and students.

Kashmir's Racing

 F1 junior drivers like Niccolò Perico of Italy and Devin Titz of Germany for pole position besides setting an event record, earning the plaudits from one and all in the paddock.

Atiqa's special performance in qualifying came after she swept Round 2 of the COTFA series in Greece last month. Post the stellar pole position, Atiqa secured P2 and P3 in the Heats after engrossing battles. In the final, Atiqa started P2 and passed Niccolò for the lead. However, due to an engine mis-fire, she couldn't hold on to the lead and lost places finally before recovering to finish P6. The results don't reflect Atiqa's sensational speed but she did make a mark with the audacious move for the lead on Lap 1 against Niccolò after outpacing him in qualifying. On Day 2, Atiqa was hit by engine trouble and qualified 27th. The organisers were quick to change her engine but the damage was done by then. A recovery drive followed and she charged through the field in every heat to start the final 18th on the grid. In the Final, Atiqa passed as many as nine karts in only one and a half laps before a fellow driver forced her out of the race with a collision from the side. The errant driver was duly penalised. Reflecting on a rollercoaster weekend, Atiqa said: "A bittersweet weekend for me, but I was able to show my pace against the world's best and beat them. I feel confident in the kart every time I am on the track but the engine and equipment let me down this weekend. "It could have easily been another couple of podiums but they weren't meant to be. Motorsports can be harsh sometimes. I am happy with my performance and couldn't have done anything more" Atiqa's father Asif Mir, who is India's first national karting champion, said her daughter did all she could considering the sequence of events. "Atiqa had a stellar weekend and set the event record at Viterbo. The results don't show the true picture. The DNF in Final was heart-breaking but she is a strong girl and will recover soon," he said. Atiqa will next be seen racing in Sweden later this month.

Permission Or Not

 our alternate plan ready," he said. The Chief Minister said he had instructed party leaders to travel to New Delhi on July 19 regardless of whether the Delhi administration grants permission for the protest. "I have told my colleagues that we will definitely go to Delhi on July 19. If we are not given permission to hold the protest at Jantar Mantar, we will sit together there and decide our next course of action. But we will certainly go to Delhi," he said. Omar said the late Sheikh Mustafa Kamal himself would not have wanted the party to alter its plans. Recalling the final days of his uncle, he said Kamal's health deteriorated on July 11 and doctors had indicated his condition was critical. "Even at that time, Dr Farooq Abdullah instructed us that whatever happened, we had to continue with our Jammu programme on July 12. If we did not cancel that programme, there is no question of cancelling the July 20 protest," he said. Describing Kamal's death as a personal loss for both the Abdullah family and the National Conference, Omar said the veteran leader had dedicated his life to public service. "For our family, this is a very difficult time. Apart from being my father's younger brother, Mustafa Kamal dedicated his life to serving the poor," he said. The Chief Minister recalled that Kamal continued to run a free medical clinic in Tangmarg even while serving as the state's Health Minister and later represented Tangmarg, Pattan and Hazratbal in the legislature. "Seeing so many people gathered here today shows how many lives Mustafa Sahib touched. We are deeply grateful for his lifelong service," he said. Meanwhile, the NC's July 20 protest appears unlikely to receive the backing of major Kashmir-based opposition parties. Sources said the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is unlikely to participate in the demonstration despite receiving an invitation from the NC. The invitation was discussed during a recent party meeting, though the PDP has not formally announced its decision. The Peoples Conference (PC) is also expected to stay away from the protest, with party sources indicating that its leadership is not inclined to join the programme. The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) has also not committed to participating. MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshed said the final decision rests with party president and MP Engineer Rashid. "The final call will be taken by AIP supremo. We have conveyed our stance to him, and he will take the final decision," Khurshed said. He added that the AIP had advised the NC when it formed the government in October 2024 not to take oath until the Centre restored Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. The National Conference has announced the protest to press the Centre for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which was downgraded to a Union Territory following

the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

India-UK Free

 through over 800 technical sessions across 14 formal rounds over three years. Calling it a "win-win agreement", he said the Department of Commerce would work with export promotion councils to help industries understand and maximise the benefits of the pact. Under the agreement, nearly 99 per cent of Indian exports will enjoy duty-free access to the UK market. Key beneficiary sectors include textiles, leather, footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, chemicals, plastics, processed food, mechanical and electrical machinery and base metals, which previously faced import duties ranging from 2 to 16 per cent. The agreement also provides Indian suppliers with legal access to the UK's government procurement market worth around GBP 90 billion (USD 122 billion). India has offered reciprocal access to selected central government procurement opportunities valued at about USD 114 billion, while retaining safeguards for domestic micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain said India's MSME reservation policy remains fully protected under the agreement. He clarified that the procurement commitments do not apply to state governments, many strategic sectors or contracts below specified financial thresholds. The agreement also preserves India's right to invoke compulsory licensing under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules for public interest, ensuring policy flexibility on intellectual property rights. Speaking on the occasion, British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron described the FTA as the "new gold standard" for modern trade agreements. "The UK-India FTA is pro-worker, pro-innovation and pro-growth. It is a force multiplier and a template for future trade agreements," she said. Cameron said the agreement sends a strong message in favour of a rules-based global trading order and would benefit consumers and businesses in both countries through cheaper, quicker and easier trade. She said import duties on Scotch whisky had been reduced from 150 per cent to 75 per cent from Wednesday, making the product significantly more affordable for Indian consumers. Tariffs on premium British-built cars will also begin falling from over 110 per cent to 10 per cent under the agreement. "From today, our economies, our businesses and, most importantly, our people will start seeing the benefits of this trade deal," Cameron said. To mark the implementation of the agreement, a special consignment of British products, including cosmetics, food items and alcoholic beverages benefiting from lower tariffs, arrived at the British Deputy High Commission in Mumbai aboard a British Airways flight. The agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade by more than GBP 25 billion annually over the long term while contributing nearly GBP 5 billion every year to the economies of both countries. India and the UK currently have bilateral trade worth over USD 55 billion. The UK is India's sixth-largest investor, with cumulative investments of around USD 36 billion, while Indian companies have invested nearly USD 20 billion in Britain and employ about one lakh people there. Officials said India and the UK are continuing discussions on Britain's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), scheduled to take effect in 2027. India has conveyed that it would seek appropriate adjustments if the proposed carbon tax adversely affects Indian exports. The agreement also includes chapters on labour, environment, gender and small businesses. However, officials clarified that these provisions are non-binding and do not provide for dispute settlement, ensuring that India's policy space remains unaffected.

BJP Slams Soz

 for the people of J-K is internal autonomy, and they should fight for the restoration of Article 370, the former Union minister said. "Our young generation should have this in mind that we, a Muslim-majority state, acceded to India, which had a Hindu majority. Sheikh (Mohammad Abdullah) Sahab then deemed it appropriate that at that time there were eight crore Muslims in this India," he told reporters in Srinagar. "Now there are 23-24 crore Muslims; that's why we made the right decision to remain in India. But, our internal autonomy must definitely be restored on our own terms," he added. Reacting sharply, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi described Soz's remarks as "anti-national" and asked the Congress to clarify if its leader's view was the official stand of the party. "How could it be that Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi returns from his

characteristic mysterious sojourn abroad without an anti-India statement emerging? No sooner had he set foot on India's soil than a highly condemnable, anti-national and offensive statement came from Saifuddin Soz, a very senior leader of the Congress," the BJP Rajya Sabha MP told reporters here. Trivedi noted that Soz remarked that J-K does not require only statehood but also restoration of Article 370. "He went beyond and stated: 'Our main target is sovereignty in India.' And not only this, he also said: 'Since we are a Muslim majority state, we will be with India on our own terms'," the BJP leader said, and asked the Congress if it was the "official line" of the party. "We want a categorical answer from Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge... If the Congress party does not explicitly condemn this and take action against Saifuddin Soz, it will be assumed that his statement advocating breaking the country represents the official position of the Congress," Trivedi added. Reacting to Soz's remarks, another BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that the Congress wants not just statehood for J-K but also the restoration of Article 370, under which, he claimed, the Indian Constitution will not fully apply. "The INC is not the Indian National Congress, it is the Islamabad National Congress. The Congress is not speaking only about statehood. It is actually talking about a separate identity for Jammu and Kashmir, and it is echoing Pakistan's line," he said. Poonawalla alleged that Soz, who had "batted for Afzal Guru and Burhan Wani in the past", is once again trying to play into Pakistan's hands. "Saifuddin Soz has proven it. He has batted for Afzal Guru and Burhan Wani in the past. He says forget statehood, we want Article 370 to be restored. "Restoring Article 370 means the Constitution should not apply. It means the Dalits, the tribal community and the backward classes should not get reservation," Poonawalla said.

SC Flags 'Frustration'

 constituted to examine the evaluation system and recommend necessary reforms. "We are not taking this adversely," the Solicitor General said, adding that the committee has already looking into the grievances raised by students. The court directed the Solicitor General to submit a status report on the measures being taken by the CBSE and listed the matter for further hearing next week. The PIL, filed by Rakesh Binjola through advocate Laxmikant Matadan Shukla, seeks directions to the Centre and the CBSE to frame regulations for conducting board examination evaluations through a transparent and robust on-screen marking (OSM) system. The petition also seeks the constitution of a high-powered committee to oversee and implement reforms in the evaluation process. The plea further requests the court to direct authorities to grant relaxation in minimum qualifying marks for students who have already secured provisional admissions or cleared entrance examinations, along with exemption from the 75 per cent or other minimum Class 12 marks requirement prescribed for admission to various professional courses. The CBSE's on-screen marking system involves teachers evaluating scanned copies of physical answer sheets digitally instead of checking paper scripts manually.

Jammu University

 not to procure books or any other printed material from the listed authors and publishers in future. They have also been instructed to identify and remove such publications from offices, departmental libraries and digital repositories. To prevent similar incidents, the University has asked all academic units to establish a robust screening mechanism through the concerned Departmental Advisory Committees (DACs). The committees will scrutinise books, journals, magazines and other publications to ensure that material containing anti-national, separatist or objectionable content is neither purchased nor made available in any academic or administrative unit. As part of the exercise, the University has ordered a comprehensive audit of all libraries, offices and digital repositories to certify that no such material remains on campus. Departments have been directed to submit compliance reports after completing the verification process. University sources said a committee would also be constituted to frame a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for procuring books and academic material. The proposed SoP will include a stringent screening process and periodic random scrutiny of publications by a panel of academicians before they are added to University collections. The University's decision comes amid an ongoing investigation by the Jammu and Kashmir Police into the publication of Personalities and Legends of J&K. The Counter Intelligence (CID) wing has so

Kashmir Set for Hottest Days of Season before Wet Spell Returns

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A prolonged spell of hot, dry weather is expected to grip Kashmir over the next three days, with Srinagar likely to record the season's highest temperature of 36-37 degrees Celsius.

An official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) told KNO that the heat wave will be followed by widespread rainfall from the night of July 18.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar stated that J&K's summer capital Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 32.0°C on Wednesday, 1.9°C above normal, while the minimum settled at 19.0°C, 0.3°C above normal. Jammu recorded 34.7°C, 0.7°C above normal.

It said weather is likely to remain generally hot and humid with the possibility of brief spells of rain or thundershowers at a few places between July 15 and 17.

Independent weather forecaster Kashmir Weather Forecast said a prolonged spell of dry, hot and stable weather is expected to persist across the Valley until July 18, with daytime temperatures across the plains likely to remain 5-8°C above the seasonal average, significantly increasing heat stress.

It said Srinagar could witness its highest temperature of the season, with the mercury likely to rise to 36-37°C, while similar conditions are expected across other plain areas of Kashmir.

For the Jammu region, the forecaster

said no significant rise in daytime temperatures is expected as monsoon-like conditions are likely to continue.

The MeT department has forecast partly cloudy skies with light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places on July 18 and 19, with the possibility of brief intense heavy showers at isolated places in the Jammu division during the late night of July 18 and the morning of July 19.

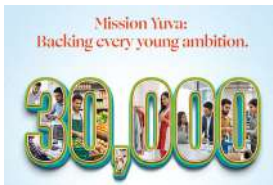
Between July 20 and 23, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with light to moderate rain or thundershowers at most places, with peak rainfall activity on July 21 and 22. Heavy rain or brief intense showers are also likely at a few districts in both the Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

J&K Bank Powers Mission YUVA with Over 30000 Youth Loan Sanctions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its unwavering commitment to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's flagship employment initiative, J&K Bank has crossed the landmark milestone of 30000 loan sanctions under Mission YUVA, taking the cumulative number of sanctioned cases to 30,063. The Bank has also disbursed loans in more than 26580 cases, reflecting sustained efforts to convert entrepreneurial aspirations into viable enterprises on the ground.

The milestone underscores the Bank's proactive role in implementing Mission YUVA by extending timely financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs and enabling



livelihood generation across the Union Territory.

Congratulating the staff on the achievement, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Crossing the milestone of 30,000 sanctions under Mission YUVA is a proud moment for the Bank and a testament to the dedication, commitment and tireless efforts of our teams across the network. I congratulate every member of the J&K Bank family for their wholehearted contribution towards this flagship mission."

J&K Bank Signs Corporate Salary Package MoU with IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its commitment to strengthening institutional partnerships while expanding its Corporate Salary Package (CSP) portfolio, J&K Bank entered into an agreement with IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd. at the Bank's Zonal Office Srinagar.

In a function presided over by the Bank's Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar on behalf of J&K Bank and Managing Director, IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd., Irfan Ahmad on behalf of the company. The Bank's Cluster Head Zahoor Ahmad Qanoongo, AGM Javid

Rashid, Branch Head Reyaz Ahmad Bhat and Director, IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd. Arshid Ahmad also attended the signing ceremony besides other senior officials from both the organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri said, "Our relationship with IA MultiVentures has been built on mutual trust and confidence over the years. This agreement further strengthens that partnership while reaffirming the Bank's commitment to delivering best-in-class banking solutions tailored to the evolving financial needs of institutional customers and their employees. We remain focused on deepening such collaborations that create enduring value for all stakeholders."

Baramulla Admin Imposes Curbs on Hussaini Majlis in Pattan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The district administration in Baramulla imposed prohibitory restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), preventing the holding of a Hussaini Majlis and procession scheduled at Budibugh in Pattan on the occasion of 29th Muharram.

According to an order issued by the District Magistrate, Baramulla, the restrictions were imposed following a report from the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Budgam, citing the prevailing security situation and apprehensions of a possible breach of peace during the proposed religious gathering.

The order states that a Muharram procession was proposed to be taken out in Budibugh on July 15. It says the police expressed concern over the sensitivity of the event and "escalating tensions between two groups in the area", warning that there was a strong likelihood of disturbance to law and order. Acting on the police report, the district administration prohibited the procession and imposed restrictions in the area from 8:30 PM on July 14 until 10:00 PM on July 15.

The restrictions ban the assembly of four or more persons,

prohibit any procession in the village, restrict the carrying of firearms or weapons, and disallow the use of loudspeakers without prior permission from the District Magistrate.

The move resulted in the cancellation of a half-day Hussaini Majlis that was scheduled to be held at Imam Bargah Babul Abbas in Budibugh. Reports said senior Shia cleric Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari had also been placed under house arrest to stop him from leading the Majlis.

In a statement posted on social media, Ansari questioned the basis of the district administration's decision, saying the residents of Budibugh had themselves submitted a written representation to the Station House Officer (SHO), Pattan, expressing that they had no objection to the holding of the Majlis.

"What makes this decision particularly difficult to understand is that just yesterday, the residents of Budibugh themselves submitted a written representation to the Budgam Police, clearly stating that they had no objection whatsoever to the holding of the Majlis. In these circumstances, the administration's claim of an anticipated law and order problem appears to be without any objective basis," he said.

CEL Seeks Audit, Inquiry into Sanitation, Finances at Baba Reshi Shrine

SRINAGAR: A day it was highlighted by KNO that sanitation and environmental concerns at Baba Reshi shrine, the Centre for Environmental Law (CEL) has sought an independent inquiry into the shrine administration's functioning, including an audit of funds utilised for sanitation and environmental management.

Amicus Curiae and Chief Executive Director of CEL, Advocate Nadeem Qadri, in a detailed representation submitted to the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, alleged violations of environmental laws, poor waste management practices and possible irregularities in the utilisation of funds meant for maintenance and cleanliness of the shrine.

The representation cited alleged non-compliance with the directions of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regarding scientific management of municipal solid waste, besides provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling and Disposal) Act, 2007, Solid Waste Management Rules, Plastic Waste Management Rules and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

CEL Director Qadri alleged that the shrine premises have witnessed issues related to the accumulation of solid waste, improper litter disposal, inadequate sanitation infrastructure, poor plastic waste management and alleged discharge of untreated sewage and wastewater into nearby water bodies.

As per KNO, the representation stated that such conditions pose risks to public health and the environment while affecting the religious and tourism importance of the Babareshi shrine.

Seeking intervention from the Waqf Board, the CEL urged authorities to initiate an inquiry into the allegations and take necessary action against those found responsible. It also sought the suspension of the shrine administrator or, if warranted, disciplinary proceedings, pending the outcome of the inquiry.

The organisation called for the restoration of scientific waste management systems, improved sanitation facilities, proper sewage treatment measures, and the preparation of a comprehensive environmental management plan for the shrine. (Observer News Service)



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR
NEAR PETROL PUMP BAGHI ALI MARDAN KHAN, SRINAGAR -190011

Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in
Tele/FAX: 0194-2427478

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s M.J. Steel I/E Khunmoh, Srinagar under No. 01/003/09203/PMT/MSME dated 06.03.2018 for the activity of "Steel Roof Trusses", as proprietorship concern of Mr, Ghulam Mohammad Joo S/o Mohammad Jaffar Joo R/o Pandrathen, Srinagar.

Now, the promoter of the unit has approached this office for transfer of lease hold rights from Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Joo S/o Mohammad Jaffar Joo R/o Pandrathen, Srinagar to 1) Musab Mustafa Farooq S/o Farooq Ahmad Baba R/o Bagali-shoor Nowshera, Srinagar (2) Mamoon Mujtaba Farooq S/o Farooq Ahmad Baba R/o Flat No. CI-74, Seventh Floor Cresta S-Block -C Vasant Kunj South West Delhi (3) Rouf Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o Nowshera Srinagar and (4) Idrees Hassan S/o Altaf Husain R/o Brein Nishat Srinagar. The incoming promoter intends to establishment of a new unit for the activity of "Manufacturing EPE Foam (Expanded Poly ethylene Foam) Sheets HPDE Pipes and Fittings, PVC water tanks" under new name and style M/s B&B Polymers I/E Khunmoh, Srinagar, as well as de-registration of existing unit namely M/s M.J. Steel I/E Khunmoh, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned change of constitution by way of retirement of partner in favour of the unit, shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

General Manager
District Industries Centre
Srinagar

DIPK-3311-26
DT: 15/07/2026



KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ED-2ND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR
NEAR SILK FACTORY RAJBAGH SRINAGAR | EMAIL: XENED-2@JK.GOV.IN
e-NIT No: ED-II/09 of 2026-27 | Dated : 14-07-2026

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways, or Registered Event Management Agencies

1	Name of the Work	Street Light Illumination of Bakshi Stadium-LD Hospital-Lal Mandi road stretch from Naaz Crossing and Bakshi Stadium crossing using 9 mtr Octagonal Poles on Central Parapet/Central Verge – under Capex Budget 2026-27 - Scheme Code "PDDSS2526100093" - Phase II works from Naaz Crossing upto Ganikhan/LD Chowk
2.	Position of Funds	CAPEX Budget 2026-27
3.	Estimated Cost	17.18 Lacs
4.	Authorization of Work	Accorded by Superintending Engineer, KPDC, O&M Circle-I nd , Srinagar vide Order No. SE-II/O&M/68 of 2026, Dated : 06/07/26

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below :

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 17-07-2026; 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	17/07/26, 10:00 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	20/07/26, 04:30 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	20/07/26, 5:00 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	07/08/26, 02:30 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening Date & Time	10/08/26, 02:30 PM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-2 nd , Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document (e-challan/TR)	Rs.1000/- (Rupees one Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of EMD/Performance Security Deposit	EMD for Rs 34360/- (Rupees Thirty four thousand three hundred and sixty) to be furnished and uploaded by all bidders for tender participation and Performance Security Deposit for an amount equal to 5% of the value of contract (to be furnished by L1 only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be Credited to M.H.0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted. Further, No Bidder shall be exempted from depositing Cost of e-Bid document even if agency/bidder is MSME.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee for tender participation by all bidders, pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on EMD/Performance Security deposited with the Department. No Bidder shall be exempted from depositing of Earnest Money even if agency/bidder is MSME. The e-Bids of the bidders not submitting the certified copies of above mentioned documents at S.No. (1) and (2) in scanned form shall liable to be rejected.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the lowest tenderer instantly after opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The same must be submitted to this office within 03 days positively for award of contract.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBD is required to be uploaded.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' - (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original Performance Security and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover.

It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer. Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No : ED-II/
Dated :

DIPK-NB-1093-26
DT: 15/07/2026

Executive Engineer
KPDC, ED-2nd, Rajbagh

IN THE COURT OF
JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS CHARAR I SHARIEF
CNR JKBG0800002942025
File No 31/ 2025
Manzoor Ahmad Thokar
S/o Abdul Gani Thokar
R/o Kakawring CG, Dhar Tehsil Charar I Sharief District Budgam (J&K)
(Complainant)

Versus
Khalid Rashid
S/o Abdul Rashid Khirka
R/o Nafulteng, Charar-I-Sharief Tehsil Charar I Sharief District Budgam (J&K)
(Accused Person)

In the matter of:- Complaint in terms of Section 138 read with Section 142 of Negotiable Instruments Act.
Present: Aiman Amin
JO CODE: JK00324
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED

Whereas a complaint under Section 138 N.I. Act has been presented in this Court on 29.12.2025 stating that the accused person namely Khalid Rashid S/o Abdul Rashid Khirka R/o Nafulteng Charar-I-Sharief Tehsil Charar-I-Sharief District Budgam (J&K) has committed the offence under Section 138 N.I. Act and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of this court that the said accused person has concealed himself in order to avoid the service of warrants.

Proclamation is hereby made that the accused person namely Khalid Rashid S/o Abdul Rashid Khirka R/o Nafulteng Charar-I-Sharief Tehsil Charar-I-Sharief District Budgam (J&K) is required to appear before me i.e., at Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Charar I Sharief to answer the said complaint on 20 / 07 / 2026.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 20th day of June, 2026.

Announced:- 20.06.2026

DIPK-3310-26
DT: 15/07/2026

JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS
CHARAR-I-SHARIEF

US Revives Hormuz Blockade as Iran War Enters New Phase

Agencies

DUBAI- The United States on Wednesday launched a fresh air-strikes on Iran and reinstated a naval blockade targeting vessels linked to Iranian ports through the Strait of Hormuz, marking a sharp escalation in hostilities after President Donald Trump declared last week's ceasefire with Tehran over.

Bahrain based US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces carried out precision strikes against Iranian coastal defence systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites on Greater Tunb Island, a strategically located island near the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's health ministry said at least thirty people have died in the US strikes and a large number have been wounded.

The operation came hours after Iran launched strikes targeting US military bases in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan.

The renewed military action also coincided with Washington's decision to restore a maritime blockade aimed at restricting vessels linked to Iranian ports, effectively reviving a strategy that had previously been suspended during a brief period of de-escalation.

The move places the Strait of Hormuz -- through which nearly a fifth of the world's seaborne crude oil passes -- back at the centre of one of the world's most sensitive geopolitical flashpoints.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) responded by warning that it could expand the confrontation beyond Hormuz.

"Regional energy exports are either shared by all, or denied to all," the IRGC said in a statement carried by Iranian state media, threatening to close "all other export corridors that benefit the



US and its allies."

Security analysts have warned that Tehran could also seek to disrupt shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, another critical global energy route.

Speaking to Fox News, Trump indicated that further military operations were under consideration unless Tehran returned to negotiations.

"Next week it gets really bad for them because next week comes the power plants. Next week comes the bridges," Trump said.

The White House did not clarify whether the remarks referred to civilian infrastructure.

International humanitarian law places strict restrictions on attacks against civilian infrastructure unless it is being used for military purposes.

Trump also softened his earlier proposal that countries should pay Washington for protecting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, saying Gulf allies had already invested substantially in the United States, though the White House did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to travel to the United States later this week amid the escalating conflict, although officials have not confirmed whether he will meet Trump.

The renewed blockade reflects Washington's attempt to revive its "maximum pressure" strategy after previous military and economic measures failed to secure concessions from Tehran on its nuclear programme, regional policies and defence capabilities.

Despite earlier rounds of sanctions and maritime restrictions, Iran continued to maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz while expanding alternative trade routes and strengthening economic partnerships with friendly countries.

The latest confrontation has once again raised concerns over the security of one of the world's busiest energy corridors, with any prolonged disruption expected to affect global oil prices, shipping costs and international trade.

Within Iran, the renewed blockade has generated concern over its potential economic impact, particularly on trade and energy exports.

Opposition MPs Visit Wangchuk as Fast Enters Day 18

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Activist Sonam Wangchuk entered the 18th day of his hunger strike on Wednesday, as MPs cutting across party lines visited Jantar Mantar and founder Abhijeet Dipke accused the government of being "cruel" for refusing to meet him. The Ladakhi activist is under round-the-clock medical supervision.

The BJP's protest over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination entered its 26th day. The outfit also announced a one-day mass hunger strike on Thursday ahead of its "Chalo Sansad" march on July 20.

According to the medical bulletin issued by the BJP, Wangchuk remains "very weak" and is under 24-hour medical vigilance.

His weight has fallen to 57.15 kg, a drop of 400 grams in the last 24 hours, and 8.9 kg since he began his hunger strike.

His blood pressure was recorded at 105/76, blood sugar at 80 mg/dL, oxygen saturation at 97 per cent, while hydration was described as fair.



Doctors said he is conscious and mentally alert but requires continuous monitoring.

"Day 18 of Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. The man who chose to put his own life on the line to seek justice for students who died by suicide has received nothing but silence from the government. The government is not just unaccountable; it is also cruel," Dipke said in a post on X.

The Cockroach Janata Party founder said the questions that deserved answers were why Prime Minister Narendra Modi

was refusing to engage in dialogue and why Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had still not been held accountable.

"Instead of asking why opposition leaders haven't supported BJP, or why every BJP team member isn't on a hunger strike alongside Sonam sir, ask the questions that actually matter. Why is the Prime Minister refusing to engage in a dialogue? Why is the Education Minister still not being held accountable?" he said.

Support for the agitation gathered momentum as the day

wore on, with Bhim Army chief and Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad, Samajwadi Party MPs Mohibbullah Naqvi and Ajendra Singh Lodhi, Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen, Congress Lok Sabha MP Prashant Yadaorao Padole, and CPI Rajya Sabha MP Sandosh Kumar visiting the protest site.

According to the BJP, the MPs assured the protesters that their issues will be raised strongly in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, as well as at the all-party meeting on July 19.

Addressing the gathering, Chandrashekhar Azad extended support to the Parliament march and called upon students and youth across the country to join the movement.

"How long can this dictatorship continue? Why are the prime minister, home minister, and education minister refusing to listen? Is this government waiting for Sonam Wangchuk to die? I salute his courage. If anything happens to him, the government will be responsible," Azad said.

UK to Impose Midnight Curfew on Social Media Use by Teens

Press Trust of India

LONDON: The UK government on Wednesday unveiled plans to bring in a midnight curfew for 16- and 17-year-olds accessing social media as part of measures to protect teenagers from the most addictive aspects of such online platforms.

The restrictions, which will have an opt-out option, follow a blanket ban on social media use for under-16s announced last month that is set to take effect by Spring 2027.

Restrictions on certain functionalities such as livestreaming and stranger communication will be kept on by default for 16- and 17-year-olds, and forced breaks in infinite scrolling for under-18s are also in the works.

"Parents want to keep their kids safe and happy, but the online world has made that harder than ever," said British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"I've heard first-hand from



families crying out for change and we will do right by them. That's why we're going further than any country in the world by banning social media for under-16s and putting wider protections in place to give kids their childhood back.

"This is a line in the sand. Tech giants had their chance and failed, but we're stepping in to protect children, back parents and set a new normal for future generations," he said.

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technol-

ogy (DSIT) said so-called AI "romantic companion" chatbots -- designed to simulate sexual relationships or roleplay with users -- will have to enforce a minimum age of 18. Similar intimate functionalities will be restricted for under-18s on AI chatbots more widely.

The UK government claims that taken together, these measures will mean a much more comprehensive model than just a blanket ban on social media.

"Tech companies have had countless opportunities to keep children safe, yet they have failed to act. That is why we are taking power away from the tech giants and putting it back in parents' hands," said UK Technology Secretary Liz Kendall.

"My driving force has always been to give every child, from every background, the best possible start in life. That is what these regulations will deliver," she said.



MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month

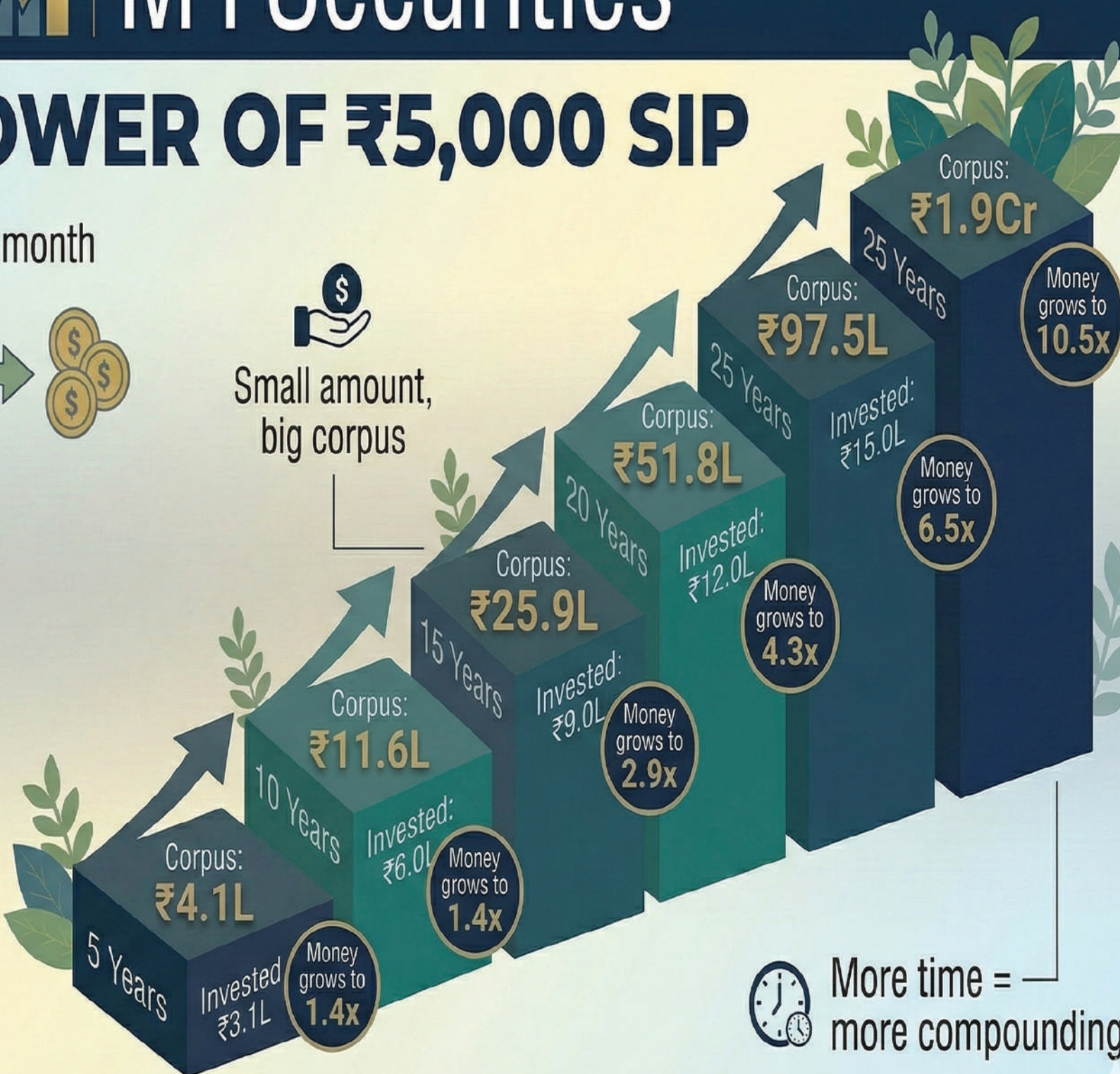


Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

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





Duration (Years)	Corpus	Invested	Money grows to
5 Years	₹4.1L	₹3.1L	1.4x
10 Years	₹11.6L	₹6.0L	2.9x
15 Years	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
20 Years	₹51.8L	₹12.0L	6.5x
25 Years	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x

More time = more compounding



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

MI Securities - AMFI Registered Mutual Fund Distributor | ARN: 47504 | Contact: 9419006271