

Western Himalaya Warming Faster Than East, Faces Sharp Snow Loss: Study

Fazal Ansari

Srinagar—The western Himalaya, including Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, is warming faster than the central and eastern parts of the mountain range and could lose substantially more seasonal snow by the end of the century if greenhouse gas emissions remain high, a new study has found. The study, published in



the Journal of Earth System Science, analyzed 120 years of temperature observations from 1901 to 2020 and projections from eight global climate models through 2100. Researchers divided the

Indian Himalayan region into western, central and eastern sectors and found that the western Himalaya was the most vulnerable under all emission scenarios examined. "The western Himalaya

consistently emerges as the most sensitive stretch—it warms the most and loses the most snow under every pathway we tested," said Pratyusha Mukhopadhyay of the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra,

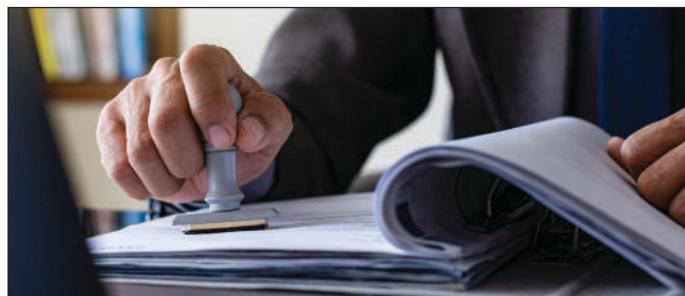
who led the study. Under a high-emissions scenario, winter temperatures in the western Himalaya could rise by 7.18 degrees Celsius by 2081-2100 compared with the 1901-1930 | [More on P6](#)

JKPCC Identifies 27 New Wetlands Over One Hectare

The JKPCC has informed the National Green Tribunal that 27 new wetlands with an area of over one hectare have been identified. The green body is hearing the matter based on media reports about the shrinking Kashmiri

wetlands and threats to the region's ecosystem, besides the findings by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) this year regarding the alarming rate at which the region's water bodies (518 of 687 lakes) have disappeared. | [More on P6](#)

J&K Collectors Get Powers to Grant Citizenship



Press Trust of India

New Delhi- The Union home ministry on Wednesday authorised district collectors in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura (except tribal areas), and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to grant naturalised citizenship to "fit and proper" applicants ordinarily residing in these regions. The government notified the Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules 2026 on Wednesday, granting district collectors in these states and UTs the authority to process citizenship-seeking applications for "registration or naturalisation".

"The Collector, on being satisfied with the suitability of the applicant that he is a fit and proper person to be registered or naturalised, as the case may be,

shall grant him the citizenship of India," the notified rules said.

The district collectors in these states will replace the "Empowered Committees" and "Designated Officers" that previously held these powers.

In the gazette notification, the Home Ministry has authorised district collectors in these areas to "receive, scrutinise, and dispose" of such applications in accordance with the laid-down parameters.

The new rules apply to citizenship-seeking applicants ordinarily residing in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura, as well as the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In Assam and Tripura, the rules specifically exclude tribal areas.

The new rules designate the district collector as the "competent authority" | [More on P6](#)

'Last' No More: LG Calls Border Villages India's 'First Villages'

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday turned the old idea of India's border settlements on its head, declaring that villages along the frontier are not the country's "last villages" but its "first villages"—the frontline of India's identity, security and development.

Addressing residents of six strategic villages—Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gujjar Chak, Gajnal, Bobiya and Kadiyala—in Kathua district under the Vibrant Villages Programme-Phase 2, Sinha said the story of India's development should begin from its borders.

"When the story of India's development is written, its first chapter should begin in villages like these, where India's border breathes and the tricolour flutters," he said.



The LG said that after decades of neglect and isolation, border villages were being brought into the mainstream of development. He noted that all 216 border villages of Kathua are now connected by roads and fully electrified, while telecommunication and

television connectivity have reached every household.

Highlighting wider changes, Sinha said poverty had declined, migration to cities had halved, rural incomes had risen by 30 per cent and unemployment had been reduced significantly. More than

2,000 individual and community bunkers have also been constructed to protect border families.

He credited women-led self-help groups for strengthening rural economies, saying over 1,300 SHGs have been formed under the | [More on P6](#)

SOPORE FAKE COP RACKET

Second Accused Nabbed



Observer News Service

Sopore: Police have arrested the second accused in a case involving the alleged impersonation of police officials and extortion, completing the arrests in FIR No. 194/2026.

The first accused was arrested on August 7 for allegedly posing as a police official and extorting money from a complainant. Police had since been searching for his alleged accomplice.

With the | [More on P6](#)

US Ambassador Rafts in Ladakh on Maiden Visit

Press Trust of India

Leh- US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, on his maiden tour of Ladakh, undertook a river-rafting activity on Thursday at the confluence of the Zaskar and Indus rivers at Sangam, officials said here.

His Ladakh itinerary focused on experiencing the Union Territory's distinctive landscape and rich cultural heritage.

The US envoy arrived in

Srinagar earlier on Wednesday and called on Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his residence. During a joint media briefing, the US envoy described Jammu and Kashmir as an important part of India and praised the region for its natural beauty.

Gor also said that the US would reconsider its travel advisories concerning Jammu and Kashmir in view of measures taken | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Leaders Divided Over US Envoy's Remarks

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor's remarks that Jammu and Kashmir is an important part of India and the protest registered by Pakistan over the comment have drawn mixed reactions from the political | [More on P6](#)

Shah Faesal's Central Deputation Extended

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central deputation of IAS officer Shah Faesal has been extended by another two years, allowing him to continue as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Culture until September 18, 2028, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

According to an Office Memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on August 19, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the Ministry of Culture's proposal to extend Faesal's central deputation under the Central Staffing Scheme. Faesal, an AGMUT-2010-batch IAS officer, has | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir's Legal Aid Push Goes Door to Door

The initiative combines legal-aid outreach with a grassroots response to drug abuse, asking volunteers to identify vulnerable households and connect them with support.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Tabassum Qadir opened the session in Khonmoh with a question that cut straight to the point: what good is a legal right if nobody knows it exists?

As Civil Judge Senior Division and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Srinagar and Budgam, she presided over a one-day training

programme built to answer that question with action rather than policy language.

Dozens of paralegal volunteers filled the room, gathered under a programme designed to prepare them for two initiatives running in parallel: the Mega Drive for Implementation of NALSA Schemes at the Grassroots Level and the DAWN Scheme, a local response to drug

abuse in Kashmiri communities.

Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District Judge and Chairman of DLSA Srinagar, set the direction for the program, while the Block Development Officer, Mohammad Muqit Wani, overseeing Khonmoh and Harwan, joined the justice at the front of the room.

Qadir told the volunteers | [More on P6](#)



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Srinagar | Friday | 21-08-2026

2

nights, which can affect wellbeing and emotional regulation, as well as indirect effects to parents' mental health, caregiving stress, and family conflict, all of which increase during heatwaves and extreme weather events that are becoming more common."

The findings support the need to integrate mental health into climate-adaptation efforts and to develop targeted interventions for children and young people, the researchers said.

"Children and young people are especially vulnerable because of their physiological and behavioural susceptibility to heat, because they're still developing and have a lower likelihood of adopting protective behaviours during extreme heat events," co-author Corey Bradshaw, professor of global ecology from Flinders University's college of science and engineering, said.

NODAL OFFICER
Principal HSS Zainapora

برخاس وعام کو بذریعہ اشتراک مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھ سے کلکی ایگریمنٹس ذریعہ پرمیٹر
020601000746 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی سلام الحسنائی کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو
میرے نام پر یعنی عبدالاحد الحسنائی کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایک کیو ٹیکسٹ پیغام پر ڈی ڈی بڈ کام کے دفتر میں پیش
کریں۔ یہ عائد کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
عبدالاحد الحسنائی والد عبدالسلام الحسنائی

سائن کاغذ پر بڈ کام -

MBC

ACB Traps SMC Building Inspector While Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested a junior building inspector of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of 10,000, officials said.

Gazala Akhter, posted as Junior Building Inspector in SMC Ward No. 28, Srinagar, was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe from a complainant, they said.

According to the ACB, the complainant alleged that Akhter had demanded illegal gratification in connection with the construction of two structures, despite the required building permission having already been obtained from the competent authority.

The official allegedly obstructed the ongoing construction and adopted delaying tactics to put pressure on the complainant to pay the bribe, the agency said.

Following the complaint, the ACB conducted a discreet verification, which prima facie substantiated the allegations. An FIR under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was subsequently registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar.

A trap team was constituted during the investigation and Akhter was apprehended while demanding and accepting 10,000 from the complainant, officials said.

The bribe money was recovered from her possession in the presence of independent witnesses, following which she was taken into custody.

Further investigation into the case is underway, the ACB said.

SMC Orders Ward Officers to Identify Violations, Deviations

AGENCIES

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has directed ward officers across the city to identify and examine illegal constructions and building deviations in their respective wards without any delay, following the arrest of a junior building inspector in a bribery case.

The directive has been issued to all ward officers, asking them to furnish details of illegal constructions and deviations and take a close look at such cases within their respective jurisdictions.

The move comes after the

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau apprehended SMC Junior Building Inspector Gazala Akhter in Mominabad, Batamaloo, while allegedly demanding and accepting 10,000 from a complainant in connection with construction of two structures.

The latest direction puts the focus on the functioning of the SMC's building enforcement mechanism and the monitoring of construction activity across its wards.

Ward officers have been asked to examine illegal constructions and deviations without delay, indicating a renewed push by the civic body to assess violations on the ground. [KNT]

SKUAST-K, Mission YUVA, IIM Jammu Sign Tripartite MoU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jammu & Kashmir government's Mission YUVA and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, formalising a joint framework to mentor, incubate, and scale youth-led neo-innovative enterprises.

The agreement was signed in the presence of SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the Registrar of SKUAST-K, Joint Director of Mission YUVA Waseem Raja, Chief Executive Officer of SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIE) Centre Naveed Hamid, alongside representatives from IIM Jammu's

Mission YUVA vertical.

Marking an immediate translation of the pact into action, the SKIIE Centre signed two separate incubation agreements with M/s Noorsa Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and M/s FarmHealth Innovations Private Limited. The two ventures, selected under the Mission YUVA Neo-Innovative Enterprises Scheme, will receive dedicated incubation space, advanced laboratory access, and comprehensive infrastructure support at SKUAST-K.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the partnership strengthens SKUAST-K's role as a launchpad for youth innovation in Jammu & Kashmir and will pave the way to connect dynamic young minds with the university's vast incubation ecosystem.

Prof Misra Reviews Key Institutional Initiatives During NIT Visit

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, on Thursday visited various administrative and academic sections of the Institute and interacted with faculty and staff members.

During his interactions, he took feedback from the staff regarding the functioning of their respective sections and emphasised the importance of coordination, efficiency and timely disposal of work.

The Director also visited the Counselling Cell, where the ongoing undergraduate (UG) admission process is being conducted. He reviewed the arrangements made for students and their parents and interacted with the officials involved in the admission process.

Prof. Misra appreciated the arrangements put in place by Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Bashir Ahmad Mir and his team for ensuring a smooth and systematic admission process. He also appreciated the efforts of the officials and staff engaged in admission-related duties and stressed the importance of providing all possible assistance to students and parents visiting the institute.

The Director also reviewed the ongoing work on the Mega Hostel project. He took an update on the progress of the construction and related works and directed the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of the remaining work.

CQAI, CUTM Begin Strategic Quantum Collaboration in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development for India's emerging quantum technology ecosystem, Dr. Prasanta Kumar Mohanty, Vice Chancellor of Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Andhra Pradesh, visited the Chinar Quantum AI (CQAI) India HQ in Srinagar on Thursday marking the first-ever visit of the university's Vice Chancellor to CQAI and representing a significant new connection between the quantum ecosystems of Andhra Pradesh and J&K.

CUTM Vice Chancellor was received along with Dr. Laxmikanta Sutar, Asst. Prof., CUTM-AP and Coordinator, Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) by Dr. Rukhsan Ul Haq, CEO and Chief Scientist, CQAI. The high-level leadership meeting marks the beginning of a Quantum Confluence between CQAI and CUTM with full-fledged strategic and technical discussions, scheduled over the next two days at CQAI's India HQ, Srinagar.

A major focus of the forthcoming discussions will be quantum software, reflecting the growing importance of software capabilities in building a scalable and application-driven quantum ecosystem. The engagements will explore opportunities around quantum software development, research, specialised



projects and the creation of capabilities that can support India's growing quantum technology requirements.

The visit also represents a larger strategic convergence between Kashmir Valley and the Amaravati Quantum Valley. Rather than functioning as isolated regional centres, the two ecosystems are seeking to build bridges through knowledge exchange, talent development, research, software capabilities and technology applications.

The Kashmir-Amaravati engagement is in alignment with the broader objectives of India's National Quantum Mission, with the shared vision of contributing towards a sovereign, quantum-ready and globally competitive India. By connecting the expertise and emerging capabilities of the two valleys, the collaboration seeks to create a wider national network for quantum research, innovation and workforce development.

CUTM Vice Chancellor's visit to

Srinagar carries particular significance as it brings senior academic leadership from Andhra Pradesh directly into Kashmir's growing quantum innovation ecosystem for the first time. His participation, alongside Dr. Laxmikanta Sutar, Coordinator of the AQV, reflects the institutional importance being attached to developing stronger links between Amaravati and Kashmir.

The discussions over the coming days are expected to place quantum software at the centre of the technical engagement while also examining broader opportunities in quantum research, workforce development, post-quantum cryptography and industry-oriented applications.

The high-level programme will continue at the CQAI India HQ, Srinagar, from August 21 to 23, with the next two days dedicated to detailed strategic and technical discussions between the participating institutions to strengthen the collaboration to next level.

KU's EMMRC Begins Orientation Prog on MOOCs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMMRC), University of Kashmir (KU), on Thursday commenced a two-day orientation programme on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the Main Campus to familiarise academics with digital learning platforms and promote their integration, visibility and enrolment in higher education.

Titled "Promoting MOOCs in Higher Education: Integration, Visibility and Enrolment," the programme brought together faculty members from universities and colleges across Kashmir to strengthen teachers' capacity to develop and engage with digital learning resources while expanding access to quality education beyond conventional classrooms.

In her message, Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan stressed the need to embrace digital transformation, saying MOOCs were important for widening access to quality education and connecting learners beyond geographical and institutional boundaries. She said teachers and institutions must remain prepared to adapt to technology and AI.

Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Sharief-uddin Pirzada said MOOCs offered an opportunity to take education to everyone and develop digitally equipped, globally competitive human resources.

Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal highlighted EMMRC's role in strengthening digital education and urged faculty members to make greater use of its expertise and resources. Registrar, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Wilayat Hussain Razvi, spoke about the Ministry of Education's digital initiatives and the changing role of teachers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded as Serish Hilal in the school records of Woodlands House School, Shiwpora, Srinagar. The correct name of my daughter is Sehrish Hilal.

Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same to the school authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmed
F/O Sehrish Hilal
R/o Dalgate buchwara
Mobile number 9906755496

iko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public and all concerned that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Fazin Ahmad S/o Mohammad Ishaq" in the school records of Govt. Girls High School, Kunzer.

My correct name is "Mohammad Faizan S/o Mohd Ishaq."

Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may file the same before the concerned authority (Govt. Girls High School, Kunzer) within the prescribed period, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Applicant: Mohammad Faizan
S/o: Mohd Ishaq

zk

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 08/2026-27 Date:- 20.08.2026

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRIy., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due date
1.	94265453	Supply of basic Tool Kits	05 set.	21.09.2026

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

2902/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FORM NO. 14

[See Regulation 33(2)]

By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication,

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE
RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT,
1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND
SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/932/2024

30-07-2026

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS M/S GLOBUS AGENCY

To

(CD 1) M/S GLOBUS AGENCY
SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP
CONCERN SITUATED AT
MANIGAM BYEPASS LAR
GANDERPAL JAMMU AND
KASHMIR THROUGH ITS SOLE
PROPRIETOR SH RIZWAN AFZAL
SON OF SH MOHD AFZAL SHEIKH
Baramulla,JAMMU AND KASHMIR-191201

(CD 2) SH RIZWAN AFZAL
SON OF SH MOHD AFZAL SHEIKH
RESIDENT OF HARIPORA
KANGAN GANDERBAL
JAMMU AND KASHMIR 191201

ALSO AT : RESHIPORA BONIZAL
HARIPORA GANDERBAL JAMMU
AND KASHMIR

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1) in OA/1419/2022 an amount of Rs 8296487 (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Ninety Six Thousands Four Hundred Eighty Seven Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 15.50 % Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 27/05/2022 till realization and costs of Rs 134000 (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Four Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 05/11/2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 30/07/2026

SD/ RECOVERY OFFICER

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGRAH (DRT I)

Note : Strike out whichever is not applicable..

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
7 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 26
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5: 18
Magrib	7: 17
ISHA	8: 42

Form No 3
[See Regulation -13 (1) (a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/469/2026

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure)Rules,1993

Exh. No: 34955

STATE BANK OF INDIA VS KHAN WALI LOHAR

To.

(1) KHAN WALI LOHAR
S/O: MUZAMIL LOHAR MIR
R/O:VARNOH LOALAB TEHSIL SOGAM
DISTRICT KUPWARA
JAMMU AND KASHMMIR-193223

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/ 469/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 01.07.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 3441904/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 15.09.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 08.07.2026

**Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue
summons**

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Government at the Door

Kashmir has spent years measuring development through what people can see: wider roads, new buildings, public spaces, fly-overs and fresh announcements. Srinagar has seen plenty of that investment.

The more important question is how easily an ordinary family can reach the services created in its name.

Urban poverty remains one of Srinagar's least discussed realities. A family can live close to a government office and still struggle to understand which scheme applies, where to apply, which papers to submit or whom to approach.

A legal right can exist clearly in law while the person entitled to it remains unaware of its value.

This is where the recent legal-aid initiative points in a useful direction. Judges, administrators and trained volunteers have chosen to take public services closer to households instead of waiting for households to find the system themselves.

The idea sounds simple because it is simple in letter and spirit.

A trained volunteer visits a neighbourhood, speaks with families, identifies people eligible for welfare support and explains what they can do next. That small act can turn an official scheme into something a family can actually use.

Such contact can rebuild public trust.

People form their view of government through daily experiences. A pension received on time, a legal problem explained clearly or a welfare application completed properly can say more about public service than another official announcement.

The initiative gains further value by connecting legal aid with the problem of drug abuse.

Families dealing with addiction often face financial pressure, social strain and confusion about available support. A volunteer who knows the neighbourhood can spot such problems sooner and connect families with institutions that can help.

This approach should become a regular part of public administration in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir.

Volunteers can work in low-income neighbourhoods, peripheral settlements and communities that rarely visit government offices. Their work can identify households struggling with pensions, disability benefits, education support, legal disputes, addiction and other social pressures.

Such fieldwork gives the administration something equally important: a clearer picture of how public schemes work in real homes.

Officials can learn where applications stall, where information fails to reach people and where families face practical obstacles.

Kashmir's development story has focused heavily on infrastructure. The next chapter should pay greater attention to access.

A road can connect two places, while a trained person can connect a household to the state.

That is the real test of public service.

A Living Lab Unused

A new education policy promises hands-on science, but Jammu and Kashmir's zoology departments still teach biodiversity from photographs of animals students could study outside their own windows.



By Dr. Wahied Khawar Balwan

Jammu and Kashmir contains some of the most biologically diverse terrain in India, stretching from subtropical foothills near Jammu to alpine meadows above Gulmarg and high-altitude cold deserts near Kargil.

Snow leopards, Himalayan black bears, musk deer, and dozens of migratory bird species move through this terrain within a single academic year.

Most zoology students at government colleges in the region still encounter them only through printed diagrams and decades-old specimens preserved in formalin jars.

This disparity between the classroom and the landscape outside it explains why the National Education Policy of 2020 counts so much here, and why its success or failure will show up first in places like Doda, Kupwara, and Poonch rather than in Delhi's planning documents.

The policy calls for multidisciplinary, experiential education built around fieldwork, research, and practical skill development rather than memorisation. Zoology departments in Jammu and Kashmir have an unusual advantage in meeting that call.

Their campuses lie inside living laboratories. A college in Doda can send students to document bird populations along the Chenab within walking distance of the lecture hall. A department in Baramulla can study wetland ecology at Wular Lake without arranging transport beyond the district.

Few regions in the country can turn a biodiversity survey into a same-day field exercise the way Jammu and Kashmir can, and that geographic advantage should have already made the region a national model for the type of hands-on science NEP 2020 describes.

Policy ambition keeps outrunning classroom capacity, and progress has stalled as a result.

Laboratories in many government colleges lack functioning microscopes, updated equipment, and dedicated field budgets. Teachers who want to run a wetland survey or a genetic diversity project often pay travel costs personally or abandon the plan altogether. Faculty development programmes that would introduce instructors to bioinformatics, GIS mapping, or modern molecular techniques remain scarce outside the university headquarters in Srinagar



and Jammu.

Students graduate with strong theoretical grounding in taxonomy and physiology and comparatively little practical exposure to the tools that define contemporary biological research.

The stakes involved extend well beyond examination scores and how well a student performs on paper.

Jammu and Kashmir is at a point where climate change, wildlife conflict, and public health connect more visibly than almost anywhere else in the country.

Rising temperatures are shifting the flowering and migration schedules that farmers and shepherds have relied on for generations. Human-wildlife conflict incidents involving leopards and bears near Srinagar's outskirts and in south Kashmir's orchards have grown more frequent as habitat shrinks and animals search for food closer to settlements.

Zoonotic disease risk, the one that jumps from animal populations to human ones, rises alongside that closer contact.

A One Health approach, treating human, animal, and environmental health as connected systems, describes daily reality in villages bordering forest land rather than an academic abstraction.

Locally trained zoologists are the people best positioned to study these problems close up, document them with

the specificity that policymakers need, and propose management strategies grounded in local ecology rather than borrowed models.

That capability depends entirely on whether colleges can move students out of lecture halls and into the field on a regular basis, and whether departments can build genuine research skill rather than teaching research as a chapter to be memorised for an exam.

Some of what NEP 2020 asks for costs little beyond organisation.

A biodiversity inventory of a college campus, tracking insects, birds, reptiles, and small mammals over an academic year, needs commitment more than money. Partnerships with the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department, forest research stations, and conservation groups already active in the region could give students supervised access to fieldwork without colleges building infrastructure from scratch.

What genuinely costs money, functioning laboratories, transport budgets for remote fieldwork, faculty training in modern techniques, needs sustained state investment rather than one-time grants tied to policy launch dates.

The alternative is a known outcome in Indian higher education: a forward-looking policy document sitting along

side classrooms that changed little in practice.

Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford that outcome twice over.

The region's biodiversity is already under measurable pressure from climate shifts and habitat loss, and the scientists trained to study and protect it are being produced by a system still catching up with the problems surrounding it.

Zoology departments in Jammu and Kashmir hold something most Indian universities would envy: mountains, wetlands, forests, and rivers that double as classrooms without a bus fare.

Turning that landscape into the education NEP 2020 promises will decide whether the next generation of Kashmiri and Jammu-based scientists understands, protects, and studies the region's wildlife with real skill, or simply memorises its Latin names for an exam and forgets them the following semester.

The mountains stay precisely where they are, semester after semester, and the only real question is whether the classrooms built to study them finally catch up.

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The Question at the Door

A question I once dismissed as an old Kashmiri habit has followed me as medicine has begun to rediscover how deeply food, hydration and inherited knowledge influence health.



Dr. Akhtar Purvez

Some memories from my early years as a physician in Kashmir have dissolved into one another.

The hospital wards, clinic rooms, prescriptions and long succession of patients whose faces I can no longer summon have grown hazy with time. One small ritual, however, remains vivid.

A patient would be ready to leave after an examination, a prescription and a few instructions, then stop at the door. "Parhaiz kath chhum?"

What should I avoid eating?

The question followed almost any illness: fever, infection, injury, stomach trouble, headache. It hardly seemed to matter.

Patients appeared to believe that recovery came with a list of foods to keep away from, alongside the medicine I had prescribed.

I was young then, armed with the confidence that medical education gives before experience begins rearranging it. Anatomy, physiology, pathology and pharmacology had taught me to understand disease through mechanisms and treatment through medicines.

Nutrition had a place in medicine, certainly, though I rarely saw it as part of the central prescription. So I often had little to say.

Eventually, I found an answer that worked almost universally: aanchaar. Pickles.

Kashmiri households commonly kept pickles on the table, and advising patients to avoid them sounded sufficiently sensible. The instruction gave the consultation a satisfying conclusion.

The patient left with medicine in one hand and a dietary restriction in the other, while I called the next person into the room.

Years later, I began to see something amusing in my younger days.

Long before medical school, I had encountered another system for thinking about food. My grandfather kept a diary recording the properties of different foods.

In the Kashmiri understanding of my childhood, foods possessed qualities described as hot or cold, dry or moist.

I loved those classifications.

I would sit beside him and ask about walnuts, meat, rice, watermelon and other foods that populated our kitchen. He would think for a moment and tell me where they belonged.

Sometimes I wrote the answer into his diary myself.

I can still picture those pages and the seriousness with which I approached my small role in keeping them current. I was not studying nutrition. I was a child spending time with his grandfather, asking questions because children enjoy discovering that the ordinary things surrounding them can have names, categories and hidden properties.

The system belonged naturally to the Kashmir of my childhood.

Winters brought four or five feet of

snow, sometimes more than once during a season. Meat, walnuts, almonds and other substantial foods seemed suited to those months. Summer brought fresh vegetables and fruits filled with water, including watermelon.

The vocabulary was different from the one I would later learn in medical school. Nobody spoke at our table about calories, macronutrients, insulin responses or metabolic pathways. The language concerned heat, cold, dryness and moisture.

Other household rules came with similar certainty.

Fish and yogurt or milk were considered an unsuitable combination. Fruit generally followed a meal rather than preceded it.

The explanation given to us children was practical: eating fruit first might fill the stomach and leave less room for the food that followed.

Then there was water.

My grandfather prescribed it for almost everything. A cold? Drink water. Fever or headache? Drink more. Diarrhea? More water. A cut finger, a fall, even a broken leg somehow brought the same advice.

We grandchildren teased him relentlessly. To us, he seemed to believe that a glass of water contained an answer to nearly any human ailment.

Decades later, after establishing my medical practice in Virginia, I came upon a 2007 review by Friedrich Manz titled "Hydration and Disease," published in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition.

The paper examined hydration in relation to a wide range of conditions, including kidney stones, urinary tract

infections, constipation, hypertension, venous thromboembolism, fatal coronary heart disease, stroke and gallstone disease, among others.

The evidence varied by condition, and the paper hardly transformed water into a universal treatment. Still, I thought immediately of my grandfather.

Not that water had become the universal remedy we grandchildren had accused him of believing it to be. What interested me was simply that, decades after we had laughed at the apparent simplicity of his advice, scientists were seriously examining hydration in conditions that seemed, at first glance, to have remarkably little to do with water.

I accepted many of my grandfather's other customs in the same unexamined way children accept the architecture of a household. Then I went to medical school, acquired another architecture, and for many years rarely thought about his diary.

I have no interest in turning my grandfather's diary into a book of hidden scientific revelations. Traditional practices can contain useful observations, coincidence, custom and belief, sometimes all at once.

The language of hot and cold food cannot substitute for nutritional science, and an inherited rule gains no scientific authority merely because modern research happens to investigate a related question.

What interests me is the act of observation itself.

People had noticed that seasons influenced appetite. They had wondered why certain foods seemed more suitable during winter and others during

summer. They had watched illness and recovery closely enough to connect food with the condition of the body.

Observations became household habits, habits became rules, and rules survived long after their original explanations had faded.

Then those questions followed patients into my clinic: "Parhaiz kath chhum?"

The word parhaiz suggested restraint, the idea that recovery might sometimes mean staying away from something familiar.

At the time, I was mainly interested in prescribing treatment. I felt my work was largely done there. Over the decades, that distinction has become harder to hold. Medicine, too, has moved closer to this understanding.

Nutrition now lies much closer to the centre of clinical care. Research has established substantial links between diet and obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and fatty liver disease.

Insulin resistance has become part of ordinary medical conversation. Hospitals use specialized clinical nutrition teams to assess patients, provide nutritional support and account for the body's nutritional demands during illness, surgery and recovery.

The prescription pad remains essential, but it only represents one part of the treatment plan. Even the old question about fruit has acquired a more interesting scientific dimension.

Research into meal sequencing suggests that eating fiber, protein and fat before rapidly absorbed carbohydrates can influence the glucose response.

That finding does not prove my

grandparents understood glucose metabolism, but it does make me cautious about dismissing a household practice merely because the explanation attached to it came from another age.

My grandfather's diary returns to me most often as an image rather than an argument: an old notebook, a child asking about another food, a page receiving another entry.

I think, too, of the young doctor I became years later, facing a question he considered peripheral and reaching reliably for aanchaar.

There is some humour in that memory, and perhaps a little humility too.

Medicine has taught me many things since those days. One of them is how often certainty belongs to a particular moment in knowledge.

My grandfather is no longer with me, nor is his notebook in front of me. I cannot turn its pages and ask him where another food belongs. Many of the patients from those early years have long since disappeared from my life as well.

But occasionally, when I read another study about nutrition or metabolism, I find myself back in those early clinic days in Kashmir: the prescription written, the instructions finished, the patient almost at the door.

Then the familiar voice: "Doctor saeb, parhaiz kath chhum?"

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The Kashmiri Soldier Who Survived Bose's Final Flight

Colonel Habib-ur-Rahman stood next to Subhas Chandra Bose when the plane went down at Taihoku in 1945, and two years later, the same soldier led the assault that tore Bhimber away from the Dogra kingdom, stitching Kashmir's fate to the memory of Netaji forever.

“**WHATEVER THE TRUE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AT TAIHOKU, RAHMAN'S NAME SITS PERMANENTLY INSIDE THAT ARGUMENT,** the soldier from Kashmir whose account of a Bengali revolutionary's death became a battleground for historians decades after both men had grown old, or should have.



Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

A Mitsubishi Ki-21 bomber sat loaded on the runway at Taihoku airfield on the afternoon of August 18, 1945. Aboard it sat Subhas Chandra Bose, bound for Dairen in Manchuria, hoping the Soviet Union might shelter his fight against the British once Japan's surrender closed off every other door.

Beside him sat a young colonel named Habib-ur-Rahman Khan, his chief of staff, a soldier raised in a village called Panjeri, tucked into the hills of the Bhimber region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Minutes after takeoff, witnesses heard a sound like a cannon shot.

The port engine had failed. The bomber pitched, broke apart, and burst into flame on the ground below.

Rahman lived. Bose did not, at least

“**A soldier born in a small Kashmiri village stood beside one of India's most magnetic revolutionaries during the final hours anyone can reliably document, then returned home to fight for the very ground that raised him.**

according to the version of events that most historians accept.

But what happened in the hours between that crash and Bose's death has fuelled one of the loudest arguments in modern Indian history, and Rahman sat right in the middle of it, the last companion able to describe what he saw.

Start with the man himself, because his story stands on its own, before it becomes part of Bose's legend.

Habib-ur-Rahman was born on December 22, 1913, into a Chib Rajput family in Panjeri of Pakistan-ruled Kashmir. His father, Raja Manzoor Ahmad Khan, held standing in the local community, and his maternal grandfather had once served as wazir in the court of Maharaja Pratap Singh, ruler of Jammu and Kashmir.

Young Rahman studied first at the village primary school, then moved through several institutions before finishing his education in Jammu.

He picked up Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Urdu, and English along the way, and he joined the Boy Scouts as a teenager. His path toward a military career opened when he won admission to the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College in Dehradun, the training ground that produced many of the subcontinent's future officers.

British service came first.

Rahman joined the army in 1936, six years before the Japanese capture of Singapore reshuffled the loyalties of thousands of Indian soldiers overnight. Taken prisoner during the war, he made the decision that would define his life: he joined the Indian National Army under Bose's command in 1942.

Bose noticed him quickly. By the time the INA reached its final campaigns, Rahman held the position of chief of staff in Singapore, close enough to Bose's daily decisions to become one of his most trusted officers.

When the British recaptured the ground the INA had fought over, they put Rahman on trial.

He stood at the Red Fort in Delhi starting November 5, 1945, alongside three other senior INA officers — Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sahgal, and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon — charged with waging war against the King Emperor.

The trial turned into a political spectacle that helped galvanize the independence movement across the country, and it placed Rahman's name permanently beside Bose's in the historical record.

But the trial came after the crash, and the crash is where Rahman's testimony still generates argument nearly eighty years later.

According to the account Rahman gave repeatedly over the following decades, the bomber nosed toward the ground moments after the explosion, and luggage stacked in the cabin, the



plane carried no proper seats, pinned him where he sat.

When he came to, flames had taken hold of the front section, and the wreckage blocked any path except through the fire. Bose moved toward that opening.

Rahman later said he urged him forward, telling him in Hindi to get clear. Bose's cotton uniform, soaked in aviation fuel, caught fire as he climbed out. Soldiers pulled him from the wreckage and rushed him to Nanmon Military Hospital, where doctors treated third-degree burns across much of his body.

Rahman stayed at his side through the evening. Bose reportedly told him he expected to die soon, and he did, sometime between seven and nine that night, Tokyo time.

The account has held up under repeated official scrutiny and repeated public doubt in almost equal measure.

A committee led by Shah Nawaz Khan investigated the crash in 1956 and endorsed Rahman's version. A second panel, the Khosla Commission, reached the same conclusion in 1970.

British intelligence had already reached a similar finding years earlier: a 1946 report from a British officer named John Figgess, who cross-examined Japanese survivors and the doctor who treated Bose, concluded with confidence that Bose died in the Taihoku hospital that night.

Sugata Bose, Netaji's grandnephew and a Harvard historian, later pointed to the testimony of six of the seven crash survivors as decisive evidence.

Doubt never fully faded, though.

A third inquiry, the Mukherjee Commission, concluded in 2006 that no plane crash occurred at Taihoku during that window at all, and suggested Bose's death might have been staged with Japanese cooperation to help him disappear into the Soviet Union.

Researchers pointed to missing flight records, contradictions between witnesses over seating arrangements and the sequence of events, and the strange detail that Rahman escaped with only minor burns while his clothing remained largely intact.

The Indian government rejected the commission's findings and stood by the earlier conclusions.

Bose's family pushed back hard against the 2006 report as well, arguing it had misquoted Rahman's own testimony and invented claims about missing Taiwanese newspaper coverage that never held up under examination.

Whatever the true sequence of events at Taihoku, Rahman's name sits permanently inside that argument, the soldier from Kashmir whose account of a Bengali revolutionary's death became a battleground for historians decades after both men had grown old, or should have.

Two years after the crash, Rahman found himself back near the hills of his childhood, this time with a rifle instead of a witness statement.

Partition split the subcontinent in August 1947, and within weeks, fighting broke out over the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Rahman, convinced that the Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh intended harm toward the Muslim population of the state, joined forces with Major General Mohammad Zaman Kiani, his old INA commander, in a campaign to pull the region away from the Maharaja's control.

Kiani set up a headquarters in Gujrat, in Pakistani Punjab, and put Rahman in charge as his chief of staff.

From there, the two men organized raids into Kashmir's border districts and directed local fighters through the Poonch region.

Rahman led the push into Bhimber and Kotli personally, and the fighting there stretched on before Dogra defenses finally gave way.

He is remembered in the region today as Fateh-e-Bhimber, the Liberator of Bhimber, a title that still appears on the college named after him in the town he helped capture.

Former INA officers ended up commanding roughly half of the twelve operational sectors that emerged from that campaign, a striking legacy for a wartime army that had disbanded barely two years earlier.

Men who had once marched together under Bose's flag in Southeast Asia found themselves leading a very different kind of fight, this time over ground much closer to home.

Rahman settled permanently in Pakistan once the fighting eased, building a long career in public service.

He worked as Deputy Commissioner of Bannu, then as chief administrator of the Northern Areas, now Gilgit-Baltistan, and later as an additional defense secretary for the Pakistani government.

He sat on the Azad Kashmir Council and received the country's Sitara-e-Pakistan and Nishan-e-Imtiaz honours, along with military decorations tied to his wartime service.

Rahman died on December 26, 1978, and was buried in Panjeri, the same village where his story began sixty-five years earlier.

Set his life beside Bose's larger project, and the pattern becomes clear.

Bose built the INA around a simple, stubborn idea: an Indian nation should hold together regardless of religion, region, or language. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians filled its ranks, and the movement's rallying cry, "Jai Hind," carried no hint of any single community's identity.

Scholars studying the INA have pointed repeatedly to this insistence on communal unity as one of its defining, deliberate features, a rare wartime

experiment in building loyalty around shared political purpose instead of shared faith.

Kashmir fit that experiment naturally, given its own mix of religious communities living inside one princely state.

Rahman's presence beside Bose, first as chief of staff and then as the witness to his final hours, gives that idea a face and a name rather than an abstraction.

Another former INA commander, Kiani, followed a comparable arc: senior officer under Bose during the war, then a leading figure in the Kashmir campaign that followed Partition.

A regional biographical source also names Kanti Chandra Zadoo, a Kashmiri Pandit said to have served as Bose's personal secretary and reportedly present on the fatal flight itself, though that claim still awaits confirmation through primary archival material and needs treatment as an open question rather than settled history.

None of this should be read as proof that Bose himself steered events in Kashmir.

He died, or disappeared, in August 1945, a full two years before Partition split the map and pulled his former officers toward opposite sides of a new border.

The men who once served him made their own choices once independence forced new loyalties on everyone, and those choices pulled comrades apart as often as they held them together.

But the through-line still holds.

A soldier born in a small Kashmiri village stood beside one of India's most magnetic revolutionaries during the final hours anyone can reliably document, then returned home to fight for the very ground that raised him.

His testimony about a burning airplane in Formosa still gets picked apart by historians hunting for the truth about Bose's death. His name still marks a college gate in Bhimber, a town he helped pull free from Dogra rule with the same determination he once showed as Bose's most trusted aide.

Walk through Panjeri today, past the grave where Rahman has rested since 1978, and the distance between Taihoku and Bhimber collapses into something smaller and more personal: one man's path through two of the twentieth century's most contested chapters, carrying a Bengali leader's final words in one hand and a rifle for his own homeland in the other.

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Pak’s Summoning of US Diplomat Their Matter: CM Omar

PTI

Srinagar, Aug 20: Pakistan summoning US Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker after US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor’s remarks is a matter between the two countries, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said here on Thursday.

Pakistan on Wednesday summoned the US chargé d’affaires and lodged a “strong demarche” over remarks by Gor regarding Jammu and Kashmir during his visit to the Union territory.

Gor said Jammu and Kashmir is an important part of India and that the US will reconsider the advisories on travel to the place as central government and Abdullah have taken steps to make it a safer place.

“That (the demarche) is a matter between Pakistan and the US. Neither you nor I can do anything about it.



Whatever the US Ambassador (to India) said, he has said it. It is now between those two countries,” Abdullah told reporters here when asked about Pakistan’s protest.

The chief minister also refused to be drawn into the war of words with his alliance partner Congress, which said there should not be a third-party intervention on Jammu and Kashmir as it is an integral part of India.

“I am not getting into this. Congress has their point of view; they are a political

party, the largest opposition party. They have a point of view and are entitled to it. I am not going to get into a war of words over this. What can I say on that?” he said.

To a question about whether any celebrities from Bollywood or Hollywood were expected for the Kashmir International Film Festival taking place next month, the chief minister said the objective behind the festival was to expose local audiences to diverse kinds of cinema.

“Don’t expect anyone from Hollywood. I wish we had reached a stage where people from Hollywood would come; that will take time. For now, if some people arrive from Bollywood, that is good. But the objective is not simply to bring Bollywood celebrities here. Our aim is to expose local audiences to diverse kinds of cinema,” he said, adding that it is also a step towards generating employment.

“The goal is... conducting cutting-edge workshops related to the film industry like for direction, cinematography, editing, music, etc., so that when film shootings take place here, there is no need to bring all technicians from outside. Our local youth can work, leading to increased employment opportunities,” he added.

On the question about the completion of the AIIMS under construction, the chief

minister said the work is going on rapidly.

“The health minister reviews it periodically. When I visited earlier to inspect the construction, we were assured that one block would become operational this year, starting OPD and other basic treatments. We hope they stay committed to that timeline,” he said.

He also said that discussions on the location of a law university were ongoing.

“It appears that the file is nearly ready; we just need to grant formal approval, but it will happen,” he said.

On setting up of private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said one or two private universities were ready to be established, and in the coming weeks, “we will likely hear positive news and witness foundation stone-laying and the commencement of work”.

CUKashmir holds hackathon awareness camp

Observer News Service

Ganderbal, Aug 20: Under the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 Campaign of Mission YUVA, and to sensitize and motivate students to pursue innovation, entrepreneurship, Department of Information Technology (DIT), Central University of Kashmir (CUK), organised a Hackathon Awareness Camp in which 100 students participated.

The camp provided an opportunity to the students to understand the objectives of the Mission YUVA Hackathon and explore how innovative ideas can be transformed into practical, sustainable and employment-generating ventures.

The programme was attended by Ms. Beenish Wani, AD Employment; Ms. Saima, CCO; Mr. Salim Rashid, SDBU Lead; Mr. Gowhar, BHD Lead; and Mr. Farzan Amin, SBDU Coordinator, whose interaction with the students provided valuable insights into the opportunities available through Mission YUVA and the Hackathon initiative. Dr. Javed Ahmad and Dr. Zahoor Ahmad were

also present.

An important highlight of the camp was the interactive idea-generation and brainstorming session, where students were encouraged to observe challenges in their surroundings, identify potential areas of intervention, and develop innovative solutions based on local needs and resources. The students came forward with several promising ideas, particularly in the areas of agricultural innovation, strengthening and promotion of the artisan sector, and Shikara-based tourism experiences.

The programme was held under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, whose encouragement towards student innovation and entrepreneurship added significance to the initiative. The organizers thanked Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool and Registrar, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, for their encouragement in facilitating student-centric initiatives at the University.

The session was moderated by Asst Prof. Dr Yash Paul, who encouraged students to actively engage in the idea-generation and brainstorming process.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Western Himalaya

baseline, the study said. The projected increase was 6.71 degrees in the central Himalaya and 5.82 degrees in the eastern Himalaya.

Spring temperatures were projected to rise by 6.91 degrees in the west, 6.41 degrees in the central region, and 5.16 degrees in the east.

The study found that warming has already reached about 1 degree Celsius across much of the Himalayan region since the early decades of the 20th century, although the pace and pattern of warming vary between regions and seasons.

It also found that minimum, or night-time, temperatures are rising faster than daytime temperatures across the western and central Himalaya.

In the western Himalaya, winter minimum temperatures rose by 1.23 degrees Celsius, compared with 0.87 degrees for maximum temperatures. During spring, minimum temperatures increased by 1.25 degrees, against 0.91 degrees for daytime temperatures.

Researchers said warmer nights could reduce the period during which snow and ice refreeze, accelerating melt and changing the timing of water flows downstream.

“When the cold nights that let snowpack recover start disappearing, you change the melt cycle itself,” said Swagata Payra, a co-author from BIT Mesra.

The largest projected losses are expected in spring, when accumulated snow begins to melt.

Under the lowest-emissions scenario, spring snow in the western Himalaya could decline by 32 kg per square meter by the end of the century, according to the study. Under the highest-emissions pathway, the loss could reach 95.9 kg per square meter.

The authors said such losses could point towards an almost complete disappearance of seasonal snow in some parts of the region.

The difference between future emission pathways was particularly pronounced in the western Himalaya. Winter warming by the end of the century could be limited to 2.55 degrees Celsius under a low-emissions pathway, compared with 7.18 degrees under a high-emissions scenario.

“A low-emission pathway does not stop the warming, but it changes its magnitude by several degrees,” said Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay of Ashoka University, the study’s corresponding author.

The eastern Himalaya is projected to warm less and lose less snow than the western and central regions, but researchers warned that climate risks there remain significant, particularly from glacial lake outburst floods caused by unstable lakes left behind by retreating glaciers.

The authors called for region-specific climate policies, improved ground and satellite monitoring of glaciers and snow, stronger early-warning systems, and more sustainable water management.

The research was led by the Department of Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics at BIT Mesra, with contributions from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and Ashoka University.

The study, titled “Vulnerability of the Himalayan region under the climate change,” was published online on June 9, 2026.

Note- The Detailed story is available online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>

JKPCC Identifies 27 New

In an order dated August 18, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad said, “The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) has filed the status report on August 8 stating that 27 new wetlands which are of an area more than one hectare have been identified.”

The bench, however, noted that the document was flawed.

It said, “We find that in this tabulated information, the column of GIS (Geographic Information System) area is highlighted in black; therefore, it is difficult to read the disclosure made in that column.”

The bench further directed the JKPCC to furnish “complete information” regarding the newly identified wetlands, including their area and encroachments.

It said, “The JKPCC is also required to place on record the water quality analysis of the samples taken from these 27 water bodies and sources of pollution, if any, affecting their water quality.”

The tribunal has scheduled the next hearing for November 6.

J&K Collectors

to receive requests for registration or naturalisation “electronically”.

The government has directed that all applications currently pending with those committees or District Level Committees in the specified regions be immediately transferred to the relevant collector.

Upon submission, the system will generate an automated acknowledgement. The collector will then verify all submitted documents and conduct any inquiries necessary to determine the applicant’s suitability.

“The Collector shall verify the documents submitted by the applicant, along with the application, conduct such enquiry as he considers necessary for ascertaining the suitability of the applicant, administer the oath of allegiance as specified in the Second Schedule to the Act and satisfy himself regarding the eligibility of the applicant under section 6B,” the notification said.

If the collector is satisfied that an applicant is a “fit and proper person”, they are authorised to grant Indian citizenship directly. As part of the final steps, the collector must administer the oath of allegiance as prescribed by the Act.

However, the new rules maintain strict requirements for applicants to appear in person.

“In case an applicant fails to appear in person to subscribe the application and take the oath of allegiance despite giving reasonable opportunities, the Collector shall reject the application,” said the notified rules.

The government has also rescinded previous orders “except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such rescission”.

US Ambassador

by the central government and the Omar Abdullah-led administration to improve the security situation and make the region safer for visitors.

Upon arriving at the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport in Leh, Gor participated in a river-rafting activity covering several kilometres from Tsogti to Sangam, offering him an opportunity to experience one of Ladakh’s prominent adventure-tourism attractions.

The trip marks Gor’s first tour of Ladakh since assuming office as US Ambassador to India, providing an opportunity to experience the region beyond official engagements.

The ambassador’s visit comes amid growing international interest in the region’s tourism potential.

According to administration officials, Ladakh’s tourism sector has witnessed a strong upward trajectory, with tourist arrivals crossing the one-lakh mark for two successive months in June and July.

The Union Territory recorded 3,30,332 tourist arrivals from January to July this year, reaching 98.35 per cent of the total 3,35,872 tourists recorded during the entire calendar year in 2025.

More than 2.12 lakh tourists visited Ladakh in June and July alone, accounting for nearly 65 per cent of total arrivals through the first week of August. The increase was even more pronounced among international travellers, whose arrivals more than doubled.

Kashmir Leaders

spectrum in the Union territory. The BJP welcomed Gor’s remarks as a major diplomatic achievement for India, but the Congress said the US diplomat stated the “obvious”, adding that third-party intervention on Jammu and Kashmir was a “failure” of the central government.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said Pakistan’s summoning of the US chargé d’affaires was a bilateral matter between the countries, while PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said there is no need to take the US seriously, as its intervention has only caused destruction worldwide.

Gor, who met Abdullah on Wednesday during his visit to the Union territory, said Jammu and Kashmir is an “important part of India”. He was speaking to reporters alongside the chief minister at the latter’s residence after their meeting.

After his remarks, Pakistan summoned US chargé d’affaires Natalie Baker and lodged a “strong demarche”.

Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, Abdullah said, “That is a matter between Pakistan and the US. Neither you nor I can do anything about it. Whatever the US ambassador

(to India) said, he has said it. It is now between those two countries.”

The chief minister also refused to be drawn into a war of words with his party’s alliance partner Congress, which has said there should be no third-party intervention in Jammu and Kashmir, as it is an integral part of India.

“I am not getting into this. Congress has their point of view; they are a political party, the largest opposition party. They have a point of view and are entitled to it. I am not going to get into a war of words over this. What can I say on that?” he said.

Earlier, state Congress chief and Central Shalteng MLA Tariq Karra said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and any third-party intervention is a “failure” of the central government.

“Whether it is the US ambassador, the US secretary, or any diplomat in the world who says today that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, they haven’t said anything out of the ordinary. It has always been an integral part of India, and the whole world knows this,” Karra told reporters in response to a question about Gor’s remarks.

Asked whether the US ambassador was trying to strike a balance as he did not refer to Jammu and Kashmir as an “internal” or “integral” part of India, Karra said the “confusion” was because of the “failed policy of the present government”.

“For quite some time, US intervention in the government of India (matters) has been very high. And this happens only when (because) our country has a failed policy today,” he said.

On Pakistan summoning the US envoy over Gor’s comments, the JKPCC chief said it is the neighbouring country’s internal matter.

“That is their internal matter that they are inviting (summoning) them. Our policy is that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, was an integral part of India and will remain an integral part of India,” he said.

“When it comes to the matter between India and Pakistan, after the Shimla Agreement, if there are any relevant parties, they are India and Pakistan,” Karra asserted.

The MLA said Congress does not recognise any third-party intervention because that has been “our stated policy ever since” the Agreement.

“Today, if an intervention takes place anywhere or an offer is made, that is the failed policy of the present dispensation,” he said.

Describing Gor’s remarks as a major diplomatic achievement, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP said it was a strong reflection of the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s foreign policy.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP’s state spokesperson Altaf Thakur said the US ambassador’s statement from Srinagar carries considerable diplomatic significance, particularly at a time when Pakistan has repeatedly attempted to internationalise the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

“The world is increasingly recognising the ground reality of Jammu and Kashmir, and Pakistan’s propaganda stands exposed,” he said.

He credited Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for strengthening India’s diplomatic position globally and ensuring that the international narrative on the issue is increasingly centred on peace, development and democratic governance.

Thakur also said the visit and Gor’s comments had given a strong rebuttal to Pakistan’s narrative on Jammu and Kashmir.

“Pakistan has spent decades manufacturing a false narrative about Kashmir. Today, it is collapsing before the eyes of the international community. The reality is visible -- Jammu and Kashmir is peaceful, democratic, developing and increasingly connected with the world,” he said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, however, said there is no need to take the US seriously, as American intervention has only caused destruction worldwide.

“I think there is no need to take the US so seriously. We have seen that the US has caused destruction everywhere it intervened -- from Vietnam to Iran. “They are not our masters; they will give us a certificate, and then only there would be a dialogue,” she told reporters here.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said it was not the first time that the US ambassador had visited Kashmir.

“The only difference is that before 2019, any ambassador who came here used to meet people from every section of society, like people

from tourism, trade, travel and even those who hold other opinions. Then they would go back with their own opinion,” she said.

However, she added that after 2019 -- when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir’s special status -- “all these tours by foreign dignitaries are curated”.

“They come here, they don’t meet anyone other than the chief minister and the governor, and then they take a Shikara ride and leave,” she said.

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said the US ambassador’s remarks were highly significant.

“US Ambassador Sergio Gor’s recognition that Jammu and Kashmir is an ‘important part of India’ is highly significant. It reflects Washington’s acknowledgement of India’s position on Jammu and Kashmir,” Bukhari said in a post on X.

He expressed hope that Gor’s remarks will also help raise awareness in the country and strengthen the case for ensuring that Jammu and Kashmir receives the rights, attention, and recognition it deserves as an equal and important part of the nation.

Missing Drug

failing a sterility test conducted by the Government Analyst. The company disputed the report within the prescribed 28-day period and sought re-testing of the sample by the Director, Central Drugs Laboratory, Kolkata, in terms of Section 25 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The complaint was filed before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kathua, on May 14, 2012, and the sample was stated to have been sent for re-analysis.

However, in October 2016, the Central Drugs Laboratory informed the trial court that it had not received the sample.

The High Court noted that despite this crucial information, no effective inquiry was undertaken to determine where the sample had gone or why it had failed to reach the laboratory. The proceedings nevertheless remained pending and eventually the trial court proceeded on the basis of the earlier Government Analyst’s report.

The Court pointed out that the sample had a limited shelf life and had expired in July 2012. Therefore, by the time the trial court took cognizance in February 2020, the possibility of meaningful re-testing had already been lost.

The Court held that once the company had exercised its statutory right to seek re-analysis, the trial court could not simply revert to the earlier Government Analyst’s report after the statutory mechanism had failed for reasons that were never properly examined.

It observed that the prolonged delay had materially prejudiced the company and deprived it of an important evidentiary opportunity to independently establish whether the drug was actually of substandard quality.

The Court further held that the circumstances affected the fairness of the proceedings and attracted the constitutional guarantee of a fair and speedy trial under Article 21.

In strong observations, the Court said the matter warranted a “threadbare inquiry” into the circumstances leading to the non-receipt of the sample, the prolonged inaction thereafter and the responsibility for allowing the proceedings to continue despite the expiry of the sample.

The Court accordingly directed the Registrar General to place the judgment, complete paper-book and scanned trial court record before the Chief Justice for appropriate administrative action.

The Court separately directed the Drug Controller, Drugs and Food Control Organization, J&K, Jammu, to constitute, within one week, a committee headed by him and comprising experts in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the statutory procedure governing the testing of drug samples.

The committee has been tasked with examining the lapses, fixing responsibility and determining the circumstances in which the sample failed to reach the Central Drugs Laboratory.

It has also been directed to examine whether there was any role or “mischievous” on the part of any official of the petitioner-company in preventing the sample from reaching the laboratory. The committee will undertake this exercise after providing an opportunity of hearing to all stakeholders.

The inquiry is to be completed within four weeks, after which the Drug Controller has been directed to submit the report in sealed cover before the Registrar Judicial.

The Court ultimately allowed the petition and directed the Registry to furnish the complete records to the Registrar General and the Drug Controller for further appropriate action.

The judgement brings an end to the criminal proceedings against Albert David Limited while simultaneously directing an institutional examination of the circumstances in which the drug-testing process remained incomplete for years and the disputed sample was effectively lost despite its limited shelf life.

'Last' No More:

National Rural Livelihood Mission, benefiting more than 12,000 families.

Sinha also urged border youth to dream big and turn their villages into centres of opportunity in agriculture, tourism, crafts and other sectors.

“Will Karol Krishna be known only as a border village, or as a border village that produces the country’s finest youth?” he asked, placing the responsibility for shaping the region’s future on its younger generation.

During his visit, the LG distributed benefits under government schemes and handed over appointment letters to local youth. He also visited the Karol Krishna Border Out Post and interacted with security personnel, praising their role in safeguarding the frontier and their service during Operation Sindoor.

Striking a patriotic note, Sinha said development and security were inseparable.

“You are not the periphery of the country. You are the frontline—the place from where India becomes visible,” he told the residents.

Second Accused

latest arrest, both accused in the case are now in custody.

Further investigation is underway.

Shah Faesal's

been serving on central deputation since September 19, 2022.

The latest order extends his tenure beyond September 18, 2026, for a further period of two years.

He will continue to serve as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Culture under the approved extension.

The order was issued by the Office of the Establishment Officer, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.

Kashmir's Legal

their task extended well beyond handing out pamphlets. She asked them to seek out eligible residents directly, explain welfare programmes available to them, and walk families through the steps needed to claim support already owed to them.

“Households in remote pockets of Srinagar rarely encounter government offices,” she noted, “so a trained volunteer often becomes the only functioning bridge between a scheme written into law and help that actually reaches a doorstep.”

The BDO expanded on that mission from a different angle.

Speaking as a member of the DAWN Committee, the officer described volunteers as central to identifying people affected by drug abuse in their own neighbourhoods and stressed that progress depends on tight coordination between the legal services authority and local administrative bodies.

“Two institutions operating on separate tracks,” BDO Wani suggested, “need to move as one to reach families that formal systems tend to miss entirely.”

That dual mission highlights a wider pattern taking hold across Jammu and Kashmir, where officials increasingly treat paralegal volunteers as essential fieldwork, rather than symbolic outreach.

“A family unaware of a welfare scheme and a household grappling with addiction can both go unnoticed by government offices located far from where they actually live,” Wani continued. “Volunteers trained to close that distance become the connective thread between policy written in Srinagar and daily life in villages that rarely see it enforced.”

Judge Qadir closed the session with direct instructions.

She told volunteers to return home immediately and begin identifying residents who qualify under NALSA schemes, treating outreach as active pursuit rather than passive availability.

Her message left little room for interpretation: benefits described in government documents mean nothing until someone delivers them to the people those documents were written for.

Srinagar to Get ₹25.87 Cr State-of-the-Art Mechanized Abattoir

Modern facility to conform to modern hygiene standards with capacity for 5000 daily livestock

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the ₹25.87 crore state-of-the-art mechanized Abattoir here at Allochi Bagh, marking a significant step towards establishing a regulated, hygienic and scientifically managed meat-processing facility for Srinagar city.

The construction of modern mechanized Sheep & Goat Abattoir in Srinagar City, includes Testing & Commissioning on EPC Mode under CAPEX/SASCI.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the modern abattoir would mark an important step towards bringing Srinagar's meat-processing infrastructure in line with contemporary standards.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gurwinder Singh



Oberoi, MLA, Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Fazl ul Haseeb and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

The proposed abattoir will have a processing capacity of approximately 5,000 sheep and goats per day, making it one of the largest dedicated mechanized sheep and goat abattoirs in the country. The facility will incorporate modern mechanized sys-

tems covering slaughtering, carcass handling, processing, chilling, cold storage, sanitation, by-product management and other allied operations.

Commissioner SMC briefed the Chief Minister that the project is aimed at substantially improving meat hygiene and food safety, ensuring safer working conditions, strengthening veterinary and quality-control mechanisms and establishing a regulated, efficient and scientifically

managed slaughtering system for Srinagar city.

A key feature of the project is its emphasis on environmental safeguards and scientific waste management. The facility will incorporate a bio-digestion system and an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to scientifically treat organic waste and wastewater generated during operations. These systems will help reduce the organic pollution load, control foul odour, facilitate resource recovery and enable reuse of treated water for suitable non-potable purposes.

The project, once completed, is envisaged as a state-of-the-art mechanized abattoir and a significant urban infrastructure initiative for Srinagar, bringing modern standards of hygiene, food safety, animal handling, waste management and environmental protection to the city's meat-processing sector.

Ladakh to Withdraw Cases Against 25 With Limited Role in Last Year's Protests

Agencies

LEH: Chief Secretary, Ladakh, Ashish Kundra on Thursday said that cases against 25 individuals found to have had limited or no involvement in last year's protest in Ladakh would be withdrawn, with necessary closure proceedings undertaken in accordance with law.

Addressing a news conference here, Kundra, according to KNO said, "Cases against 25 individuals found to have had limited or no involvement would be withdrawn,

with necessary closure proceedings undertaken in accordance with law."

He informed that charge sheets have been filed against nine persons in cases where evidence was available, and that the matter would remain subject to proceedings before the competent courts.

The Chief Secretary outlined key government priorities, initiatives and important developments across various sectors. "Ladakh Administration is committed to transparent governance,

timely implementation of reforms and continued engagement with the people and stakeholders of Ladakh," he said.

Briefing on the recruitment status, the Chief Secretary informed that 1,340 of the 1,609 advertised posts under the administrative recruitment process have been filled. In addition, 314 vacancies have been filled through the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) process.

He said recruitment to 302 Group B and Group C posts has been advertised,

while the recruitment process for around 1,205 posts is expected to be taken forward in the coming weeks. Recruitment to 40 Sub-Inspector posts has also been initiated, while notifications for Teachers and Police Constables will be issued shortly.

On recruitment through UPSC and for professional posts, the Chief Secretary informed that 224 gazetted vacancies have been notified, including 125 Medical Officer posts, for which interviews are expected to commence next month.

CS Launches Online DPC Portal to Fast-Track Promotions



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo launched an online Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) Portal aimed at digitising and speeding up promotion cases across Jammu and Kashmir.

Reviewing the functioning of the Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings Department, Dulloo directed departments to ensure the time-bound operationalisation of the portal and speedy finalisation of Recruitment Rules.

Developed by BISAG-N, the portal will streamline DPC cases through a digital workflow involving Maker, Checker and Approver levels, reducing procedural delays and improving transparency. The General Administration Department will serve as its

Super Admin and oversee its adoption by government departments.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed cadre restructuring, Multi-Tasking Staff issues and BOPEE's functioning, directing officials to devise a mechanism to ensure optimum filling of seats in professional courses.

Officials said Recruitment Rules for 36 services have been cleared since January 2024, while 13 more were approved through Executive Orders. Preliminary work has also been completed for 88 additional services.

The meeting further reviewed BOPEE's shift to fully digital counselling, expansion of examination centres and the functioning of the Government Presses, which have completed over 65 per cent of the printing jobs received during the current financial year.

Police Chief Reviews Security Arrangements for Kaunsarnag Yatra

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday reviewed security arrangements for the forthcoming Kaunsarnag Yatra at a meeting here, officials said. The meeting was attended by senior police and army officers, and focused on reviewing existing arrangements and strengthening the security framework for the annual pilgrimage, they said.

Officers briefed Prabhat on the security arrangements and preparedness. The police chief stressed the need for enhanced coordination among all concerned agencies to ensure comprehensive security and effective management of the yatra, a police spokesperson said. The DGP directed the officers to maintain high levels of preparedness, strengthen security arrangements along the yatra routes, and ensure close coordination and seamless communication among all stakeholders, he said.

Prabhat underscored that the safety and security of pilgrims remains a top priority and called for all necessary security measures to facilitate the peaceful and smooth conduct of the yatra. (Press Trust of India)

IUST Invites Researchers & Academicians to Participate in J&K Science Congress 2026

AWANTIPORA: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Government of Jammu & Kashmir, will host the Jammu & Kashmir Science Congress 2026 from September 29 to October 1, 2026, at the University campus. The Congress, titled "Science, Innovation and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable and Viksit J&K," will bring together researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry representatives, and students from across the country to explore emerging scientific and technological solutions for sustainable development.

More than 500 scientists and researchers are expected to participate in the Congress. The Congress invites researchers, academicians and scientific professionals to actively participate and contribute their research and perspectives to the deliberations. (Observer News Service)



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION
DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGARI)
Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e-mail Id: to-exenmidrsrinagar@ik.gov.in

Sub: Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 24 of 2026-27, dated: 12.08.2026 for below mentioned work:
Servicing, Maintenance and Repairing to Motorized Marine Grade Aluminium boat at MISD Lethpora.
Ref: JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: 2026_IFC_320702_1

EXTENSION NOTICE
Due to Poor Response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	29.08.2026 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	31.08.2026 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.
No.: MIDS/Ts/2553-57
Date: 20.08.2026
DIPK-4810-26
DT: 20/08/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION BIJBEHARA
www.jkppd.gov.in Tel No: - 09132-233002 Fax No:- 09132-234397
e-mail: xen-stdbijbehara@jk.gov.in, xenstdbijbehara@gmail.com,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT NO: STB/30 of 2026-27; Dated: 18/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from "A" Class Electrical Contractors issued by the Electrical inspectorate of Govt of Central Inspectorial organization of Govt. of India/ other state Govt. In case bid submitted joint venture firm, any of partner should possess "A" class electrical license for "Segregation of 33 kV Mattan-Pahalgal by way of construction of new 33kv line from receiving station lqbalabad including LLO at lqbalabad and Hutmurrah receiving station" as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this tender document. The details are as under:

#	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (IN Rs.)	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
1.	Segregation of 33 kV Mattan-Pahalgal by way of construction of new 33kv line from receiving station lqbalabad including LLO at lqbalabad and Hutmurrah receiving station	14317458.00	3000	286350.00

2	Publishing Date & Time	18.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
3	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	18.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
4	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	18.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
5	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	07.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
6	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	18.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
7	Bid Submission End Date & Time	08.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
8	Bid opening date & Time	09.08.2026 (1700 Hrs)
9	Venue of opening Bids	STD Bijbehara
10	Availability of funds	Rs.50 lacs approved under current year UT Capex, remaining amount to be released next Financial Year.

Please Read Standard Bidding Document Carefully

1.

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

2.

There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-651; Dated: 07-06-2018

3.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of cost of tender document. The cost of tender document should be paid through e- challan/ treasury challan / receipt only.

4.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/ TD, pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara through speed post, Courier or by hand.

5.

The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, 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/ OEM representative will be required to be produced.

6.

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.

7.

In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday 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.

8.

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.

9.

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.

10.

The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders 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 above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.

11.

In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to submit additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/ FDR as per the latest Circular issued by Finance Deptt. Vide their No:FD-Code/ 441/ 2021-02-158 Dt. 08.08.2025

12.

The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before the submission of bid.

13.

Before the deadline for submission of bids, the employer reserves the right to modify the bidding document by issuing Addendum/ Corrigendum.

14.

All requisite documents like EMD, eChallan, NIT, SBD, Experience Certificate, Turnover Certificate, ITR, GSTR, PAN Card etc. as sought in the eNIT must be compulsorily uploaded with the bid.

No:STB/Ts/4460-63
Dated: 18.08.2026
DIPK-NB-1450-26
DT: 20/08/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
Bijbehara



DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SRINAGAR
SHERGARHI, OPPOSITE IQBAL PARK SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR 190009
Email.dposrinagar@jkpolice.gov.in | Tele: 2311324 Fax: 2311322

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

R/ Ct. Aftab Ahmad Khan
No. 4606/S EXK145444
S/O Farooq Ahmad Khan
R/O Halmathpora Kupwara A/P Shivpora Srinagar.

Whereas, among others you R/CT Aftab Ahmad Khan No. 4606/S EXK145444 S/o Farooq Ahmad Khan R/O Halmathpora Kupwara A/P Shivpora Srinagar selected for undergoing 'Basic Recruit Training Course' at PTS Kathua w.e.f 18/05/2026 in terms of PHQ J&K, order No. 1546/2026 dated 15.05.2026.

Whereas, pursuant to PHQ directives, you were accordingly relieved from this District wide relieving order issued under endstt. No. Estt/Trg-06/2026/22771-860 dated 16/05/2026 which you failed and remained unauthorisedly absent from training as reported by Principal, PTS Kathua vide signal No. TRG/BRTC-31th/2026/5429 dated 10/06/2026.

Whereas, Despite summons issued through local PS and duly executed by the SHO, followed by a notice issued vide this office letter No. Estt/ CRC-V/4606/2026/30309-10 dated 13/07/2026, calling upon you to explain within (03) days positively why stern departmental action, including discharge from service under the relevant provisions of J&K police rules, shall not be initiated against you for failing to report back at PTS Kathua and resume the mandatory training.

Whereas, In response, you have submitted reply through DySP (DAR) DPL Srinagar vide letter No. DAR/SGR/DE/12344-45 dated 24/07/2026 that due to some extreme medical complications, you failed to report at training centre for undergoing the mandatory BRTC. However, upon examination, it has been found that you remained absent from training unauthorisedly at your own will and failed to intimate either the concerned training authority or this office through any proper or lawful channel regarding your medical condition which has adversely affected discipline and set a wrong precedent among other police personnel. Such conduct amounts to a breach of discipline and unauthorised absence from duty/mandatory BRTC constitutes a serious act of misconduct and may attract action under the provisions of Article 128 J&K CSR Vol-Ist, besides other relevant service rules. Thus, a prima facie case of misconduct is made out against you.

Whereas, a final Notice was issued to you vide No. Estt/CRC-V/4606/2026/31913-15 dated 23/07/2026 calling upon you to explain, within (07) days positively as why you should not be removed/ discharged from service under the relevant provisions of the J&K Police under rules for your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC and for your persistent acts of indiscipline, neither did you submit any reply nor did you report back to the training centre, thereby demonstrating your unwillingness to undergo the mandatory BRTC.

Whereas, your service record has been perused and reveals that you have been appointed as Constable in District Srinagar vide DPO Srinagar order No. 72/2014 dated 13/01/2014 and are yet to complete the mandatory BRTC, despite availing following chances:-

S.No	Earlier selection for BRTC	PHQ Conducted	Reason for not undergone the BRTC
1.	3261/2016 dated 12/11/2016.	PTS Kathua	Reverted back on medical grounds.
2.	75214 dated 23/12/2019.	STC Talwara	Period of desertion w.e.f 28/12/2019 to 22/10/2020 i.e, (298) days treated as Diesnon.
3.	52830 dated 06/09/2021.	PTS Manigam	Reverted back on medical grounds.
4.	3703/2022 dated 04/11/2022.	STC Sheeri	Reverted back on medical grounds.
5.	1464 dated 14/03/2024.	PTS Manigam	Period of desertion w.e.f 17/03/2024 to 26/07/2024 i.e, (130) days treated as Diesnon.
6.	753 dated 18/02/2025.	STC Talwara	Censure and Period of desertion w.e.f 23/02/2025 to 01/05/2025 i.e, (69) days treated as Diesnon.

Whereas, your service records further reveals that you failed to prove a disciplined police constable by virtue of character roll maintained which depicts that huge period of absence was enquired and treated as Diesnon, for which necessary entries of (497) days has been recorded in your service records from time to time. Besides, awarded one (01) time censure for not attending the BRTC.

Whereas, your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC clearly establishes that you are deliberately avoiding the training, despite repeated opportunities, and has shown complete disregard for lawful orders and departmental discipline.

Whereas, the consequences of refusal or failure to undergo BRTC were duly explained to you in terms of PHQ J&K vide circular order No. 242/2003 dated 17/01/2003 read with PHQ J&K circular & No. Pers/25/2024/245-55 dated 11/05/2024, wherein it has been directed that Recruit Constables who refuse or fail to undergo the mandatory BRTC are liable to be discharged from service. Despite giving an assurance that you would complete the training with the next available batch, you have again failed to do so even (12) years, of your appointment, thereby violating the provisions of Rules 177, 187, 797 & 810 of J&K Police Rules governing probation and mandatory training.

Whereas, PHQ J&K letter No. AIG/P/BRTC/26/1582-85 dated 13/04/2026 directs initiation of appropriate departmental action against recruit Constables who fail or are unwilling to undergo the mandatory BRTC and further strictly instructed in terms of PHQ J&K letter No. Trg/55/2026/2171 dated 17/07/2026 that:-

► In case R/CTs fails to join BRTC, process for discharge from Police Department in respect of R/CT shall be initiated.

► In future no permission be granted for resumption of duties at DPL/Unit level in such cases prior to approval from PHQ J&K.

► The period they failed to attend the BRTC with instant batch shall be extended by Principal Training Centre accordingly.

Whereas, after a gap of (03) months, despite having been informed through various communications and followed by a notice to report back for training, your continued absence from training reflects gross indiscipline, wilful disobedience of lawful orders and complete lack of interest in serving the Police Department.

Whereas, fresh PHQ J&K directions, communication bearing No. Trg/55/2026/2194 dated 01/08/2026 read with ZPHQ (K) letter No. ZPHQ/Trg-BRTC-2026/34949-53 dated 06/08/2026, it has been directed to initiate the process of discharging you from the police department on the following reasons and asked for detailed report within (10) positively: o Those who are appointee of year 2013 to 2023 be selected but felled to join or remained absent from training resulting their reversion clearly indicates that they are not willing to undergo the mandatory BRTC. « Existing legal provisions are being cited to underline the consequences of not completing the BRTC within a given time limit:-

► A probationer has to clear the BRTC within the period of probation otherwise, he/ she is liable to be discharged (PR 177, 187, 797 & 810).

► No Annual Increment be allowed to the probationer until he/ she clears the BRTC within the period of probation (Art. 84 of service regulations).

Therefore, I Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy-IPS Sr. Superintendent of Police, Srinagar. hereby call upon you, R/Ct Aftab Ahmad Khan No. 4606/S EXK145444 S/O Farooq Ahmad Khan R/o Halmathpora Kupwara, A/P Shivpora Srinagar, to show cause within (07) days from the date of issuance of this notice as to why should not be removed/ discharged from service under the relevant provisions of the J&K Police Rules for your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC and for your persistent acts of indiscipline in light of PHQ fresh directives. In case no reply is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence, and appropriate action, as warranted under rules shall be taken against you accordingly.

No: Estt/CRC-V/4606/2026/35622-23
Dated: 18.08.2026

DIPK-4783-26
DT: 20/08/2026

Senior Superintendent of Police
District Srinagar

CBSE Language Policy: SC Says No Pressure on Children

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Observing that children should not come under any kind of pressure, the Supreme Court on Thursday stressed the need to find a solution to issues arising out of the CBSE policy mandating the study of three languages by Class 9 students.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V. Mohana observed there was nothing wrong in introducing the policy, but the only concern raised by the petitioners was about the manner in which it was being introduced.

"Some of these problems, you may revisit. There is no doubt that sooner or later, it has to be introduced. There is nothing wrong with that. But how is it to be streamlined so that whatever impediments or blockades are coming up, you may find a solution to those?" the bench told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

The bench said one of the aspects that was required to be considered was how to build adequate human resource infrastructure with regard to the language options available.

"If you have chosen Class 6 as the starting point, you may consider giving a reprieve to Class 6 students of this year. You can introduce it from next year," it said.

"Another thing which needs to be looked into is where do you draw the line? Whether it is Class 6, Class 4 or Class 3. You can take a call depending on the curriculum and where the choice between two and three languages is first introduced," the bench said.

It said one of the concerns was whether we consider English a native language or a foreign language.

Bhati said she would take instructions on the suggestions and get back to the court.

"We don't want the children to come under any pressure," the CJ said.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the CBSE's policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 9 students from July 1.

At the outset, senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for some of the petitioners, told the bench that the issue relates to three languages and they were concerned with Class 6.

He said for Classes 6 to 8, the CBSE has no jurisdiction or authority to frame the curriculum, as this has to be done by the NCERT.

The CJ observed that learning any language is a big asset and something invaluable.

Grover said there have to be qualified teachers for this.

"If they are introducing a language, they will also have plan for teachers. It is their obligation," the bench observed, adding, it will take the schools to task if they are erring.

The bench observed that the CBSE has given options of 23 languages.

"Let us not have any impression of inferiority complex with respect to regional languages. We should respect all these languages as much as any other language," it said.

The bench said whenever a new concept is introduced, it is natural to have some apprehensions.

"We can constitute an expert committee ourselves or ask the government to constitute an expert committee so that as and when the difficulties arise, they can make recommendations and find solutions," it said.

Bhati said, "We want to support our children in the best possible manner."

She said thousands of experts were consulted in the process.

"The CBSE is one of the boards in the country. There are 33,000 odd schools out of a total of 7.5 lakh schools. Around 4.45 per cent of schools are CBSE schools in India, and 99.19 schools are already compliant with the two native languages," she said, adding, "Language is a vehicle of a culture."

Justice Bagchi observed he personally had a serious reservation about the expression "native".

"It has a colonial connotation. It should be indigenous," he said, adding that framers of the policy should have been conscious of the words they had used.

It posted the matter for further hearing after 10 days.



"As the Union of India, you will also have to see that other than the CBSE, what is happening in other boards," the bench told Bhati, adding that it has to be ensured that the roll-out of the policy is appropriately undertaken.

Gandhi Manuscript Fetches Record ₹16.2 Crore at Auction

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A collection of 688 autographed reflections by Mahatma Gandhi on truth, ahimsa, and service, among other subjects, to his close associate and freedom fighter Anand T Hingorani was sold for Rs 16.20 crore at a Saffronart auction, setting the world record for an Indian historical document sold at an auction.

Written over a span of two years after the death of Hingorani's wife Vidya, the daily handwritten messages of guidance, reflection, and encouragement were later compiled into a book titled "A Thought for the Day" and stand among the most intimate surviving records of correspondence between the two. Thoguh the identity of the buyer was not revealed, the auction house said "the buyer is from within India, and the manuscript will stay in the country."



The auction, "Gandhi: From the Collection of Anand T. Hingorani", featured 86 lots of letters, manuscripts, photographs and personal objects associated with Gandhi. According to the auction house, the manuscript addresses truth, ahimsa, brahmacharya, non-possession, fearlessness, religious equality, the removal of untouchability, prayer, Ramanama, service, labour, hunger, duty, Swaraj, moral responsibility, silence, conscience, non-attachment, self-realisation and the search for God.

Delhi Master Plan 2047 Maps AI, Smart Poles, 5G Push

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Master Plan-2047 envisages a digital infrastructure push, including 5G networks, optical-fibre connectivity, smart poles, and unified command and control centres, with artificial intelligence used for traffic, public transport, and urban management.

The plan, notified on Thursday, proposes using AI for traffic forecasting, dynamic management of public transport fleets and parking, while integrating real-time information for commuters and coordinating different modes of transport via app-based integration.

Under the digital infrastructure framework, local bodies may set up unified command-and-control centres for emergency response, while

public areas will feature smart poles equipped with CCTV cameras, sensors, and public information systems.

The Information Technology department had proposed an integrated "Technology & Innovation Zone" to bring together AI, semiconductor development, drone technology, startups, digital governance, and advanced computing.

The department sought land for four initiatives under the proposed zone -- 25 to 30 acres for a Semiconductor and Electronics Ecosystem, 10 to 20 acres for a Drone Innovation and Testing Ecosystem, 5 to 10 acres for a DISHA Innovation Hub, and 1 to 2 acres for a State Data Centre and AI Infrastructure.

The combined indicative land requirement is 41 to 62 acres.

Mirza Fakhrul Elected Bangladesh President

Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, a long-time secretary general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a close ally of former premier Khaleda Zia, was on Thursday elected as the country's new President in the first contested poll for the post in 35 years.

The 78-year-old BNP stalwart defeated his lone rival, Colonel (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, the 84-year-old Liberal Democratic Party chairman and the nominee of the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party opposition alliance, Chief Election Commissioner and also Election Returning Officer AMM Nasir Uddin announced after the counting of votes.

Of the total 349 registered voters, 343 voted in the election. Six lawmakers didn't vote, he said.



Alamgir secured 255 votes while Oli Ahmad bagged 88 votes.

He will take the oath as Bangladesh's 23rd President on Friday evening at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban.

It is the first contested presidential election in Bangladesh since 1991, as the office had largely been filled through consensus and uncontested polls in recent decades.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman congratulated Alamgir on his victory in the presidential polls. Lawmakers also congratulated the President-elect by thumping their desks.

17-Year-Old Gets 20-Year Jail for Rape in Kota

Press Trust of India

KOTA (RJ): A Special POCOS Court in Kota sentenced a 17-year-old juvenile to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a Rs 6,000 fine for abducting and raping a 15-year-old girl here nearly two years ago.

In its order on Wednesday, the court also issued significant reformative directions targeting the convict's education, mental health, and social rehabilitation.

The minor has been awarded the punishment for abducting and raping a 15-year-old girl, a Class 9 student, in September 2024, public prosecutor at POCOS 2 court, Virendra Singh Bhanawat, told PTI on Thursday.

He said the accused and the girl had known each other for three to four years and had communicated on the phone. On the midnight

of September 16, 2024, the minor girl left home without informing her family. The accused juvenile abducted her and took her to his grandmother's residence, where he held her for five days and repeatedly sexually assaulted her.

Following a complaint filed by the girl's mother at Kunhadi police station, the police rescued the girl on September 25, 2024. Based on her statements, a case was registered under Sections 137(2), 64(2)(M) and 65(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the POCOS Act.

Following the initial investigation, the accused juvenile was detained but later granted bail, the public prosecutor said.

On a petition filed by the girl's counsellor, the court on May 25, 2025, ordered the conduct of a trial of the accused juvenile as an adult.



MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

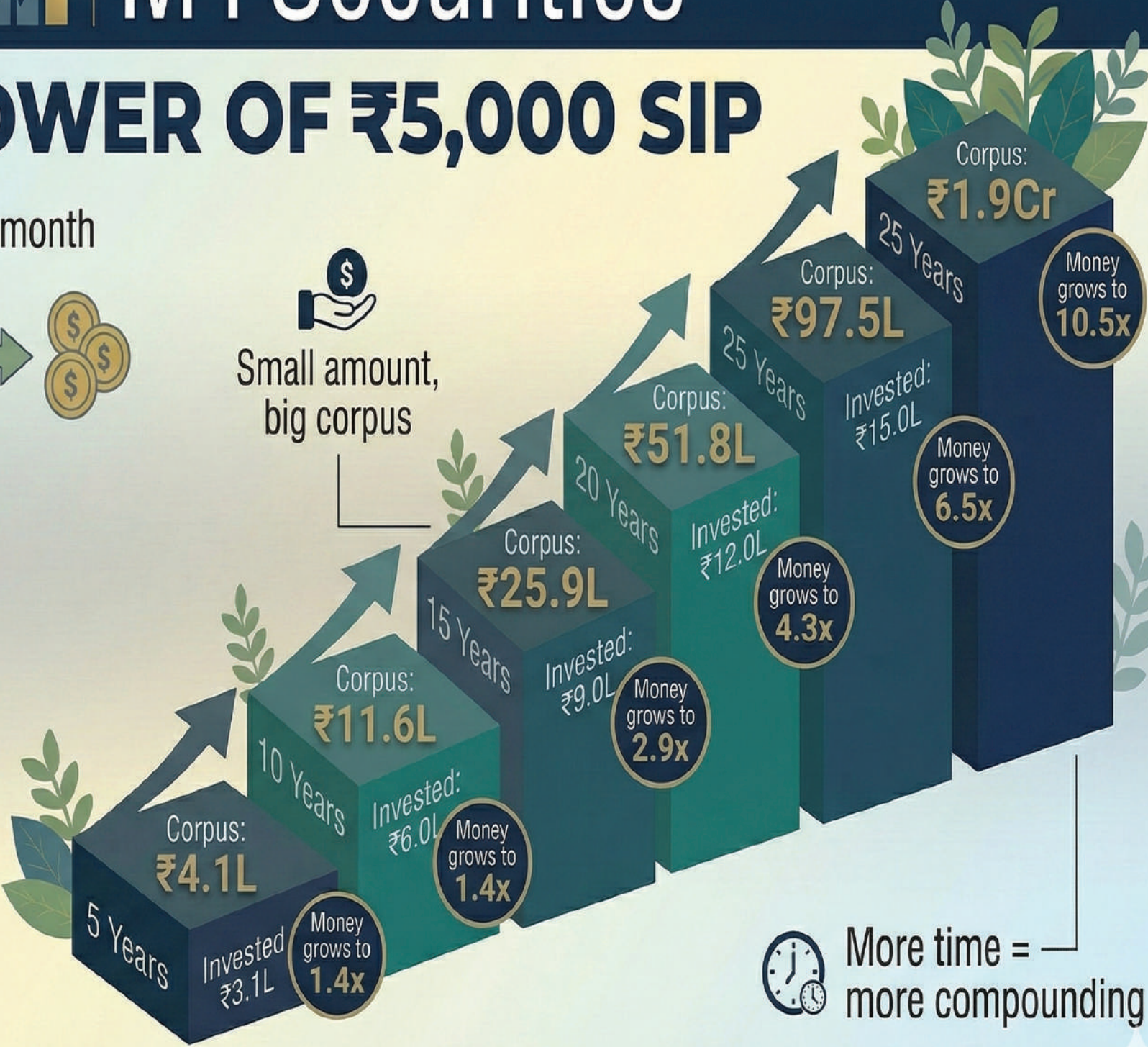
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



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
30 Years	₹1.9Cr	-	-

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