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J&K Likely To Witness Gusty Winds Today



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at several places on Thursday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

The weather department has also forecast thunderstorm, lightning and squall activity over Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday. However, no such warning has been issued from September 4 onwards.

The forecast comes amid unsettled weather conditions across the Union Territory, with cloud cover and rainfall reported in several areas.

In Srinagar, generally cloudy weather is expected with the possibility of rain and thunderstorms, while Jammu is also likely to experience unstable weather conditions.

The IMD has advised people to exercise caution during thunderstorms and avoid exposed locations,

NC, BJP Stage Rival Protests Over Governance, Statehood

NC seeks restoration of statehood, constitutional guarantees; BJP targets Omar govt over jobs, power tariffs, development

Police stop both parties' marches towards BJP headquarters, Civil Secretariat in Srinagar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The ruling National Conference (NC) and opposition BJP took their political battle to the streets of Srinagar on Wednesday, with the NC demanding restoration of statehood and constitutional

guarantees for Jammu and Kashmir, while the BJP targeted the Omar Abdullah-led government over unemployment, electricity tariffs, development and alleged governance failures.

NC Protesters Stopped Near Rajbagh

The NC protest began at Gindun Sports Complex in Rajbagh, where ministers, legislators, senior leaders and workers assembled before marching towards the BJP headquarters in Jawahar Nagar. Police stopped the procession near | More on P6

NC Protest Was 'Brutally Repressed': CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday rejected comparisons between the National Conference (NC) and BJP protests in Srinagar, alleging that the administration and police treated the two demonstrations differently.

Speaking with reporters in Srinagar, the Chief Minister said the BJP was allowed to protest while the NC demonstration

was "brutally repressed".

He alleged that several NC workers were dragged and injured, with some requiring hospital treatment. "Please, don't draw a false equivalence. There is no equivalence in the way in which the two parties were treated by the administration, by the police. One was facilitated and one was brutally repressed," he said.

He said | More on P6

BJP Dares CM To Resign; Seek Fresh Mandate

The BJP on Wednesday staged a protest against the Jammu and Kashmir government in Srinagar, accusing the Omar Abdullah-led administration of failing to address basic public issues, including unemployment, water supply, healthcare, education and rising power tariffs. BJP leaders | More on P6

Iran Launches 'Decisive' Retaliation, Strikes US Bases Across Region

Observer News Service

Tehran — Iran launched what it described as a sweeping and "decisive" retaliatory campaign against US military positions across the Middle East after a US strike on southern Iran killed civilians attending a wedding ceremony, sharply escalating an already volatile confrontation.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said the Iranian Armed Forces had begun a series of combined missile-and-drone operations against American bases and interests in the region, with strikes reported in Jordan, Iraq and Bahrain.

The retaliation came after a US airstrike hit a residential area in Kuhestak, in Sirik County of Hormozgan Province, where a wedding ceremony was reportedly taking place.

Iranian emergency authorities said the attack killed civilians and wounded dozens.

The Iranian Red Crescent later put the toll at five dead and 50 wounded, while IRGC statements said the victims included a child.

Wedding Ceremony Hits in Southern Iran

The initial US strike reportedly took place Tuesday night in the Bamani district of Sirik County.

Ahmad Nafisi, Hormozgan's deputy governor for political, security and social affairs, said a residential house hosting a wedding ceremony had been targeted. | More on P6

Kishtwar Rape-Murder Case

Crime Branch Raids Accused's Home, Worker Sacked

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Crime Branch on Wednesday raided the residence of the prime accused and his brother in the rape-and-death case of a 15-year-old tribal girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar, while authorities terminated the services of a second sanitation worker from the district hospital in connection with the case.

The case was handed over to the Crime Branch on August 29 following widespread protests and condemnation over the incident.

According to officials, the minor was allegedly raped by her school teacher over several months before she died during a pregnancy termination procedure on August 20.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has arrested



seven people so far, including the main accused, his brother, two hospital sanitation workers and a nurse.

The arrests were made in connection with an FIR registered at Chatroo police station under relevant provisions of the POCSO Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Officials said | More on P6

CM To New MOs: Take Healthcare Closer To People

Hands Over Appointment Orders; Assures Better Service Conditions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday handed over appointment orders to newly appointed Medical Officers of the Health and Medical Education Department at a ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), urging the new doctors to serve people with dedication and compassion.

Personally handing over the appointment orders to the newly recruited Medical Officers appointed across



Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister congratulated them on joining government service and described their appointment as the beginning of a new chapter in their

professional lives.

Addressing the gathering, Omar said the appointment marked the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and | More on P6

J&K Sitting On 'Wealth of Biomass': CM

Jammu and Kashmir is sitting on a substantial biomass resource that can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on

Wednesday, calling for locally suited and economically viable solutions to convert waste into useful energy. Omar was addressing the | More on P6

Forged Teacher Adjustment Case

EOW Kashmir Chargesheets Five

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of the Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch has filed a chargesheet against five persons for allegedly fabricating and using forged Education Department documents to facilitate the purported adjustment of three persons as teachers in Zone Nagam, Charar-i-Sharief, Budgam.

The chargesheet was filed before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam, in FIR No. 36/2021 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 201 and 120-B RPC.

The accused | More on P6

HC Denies Bail to Ex-Sarpanch In Group Assault Case

KO Correspondent

Jammu: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed the bail plea of a former Sarpanch from Rajouri, who was arrested in connection with an alleged group assault involving weapons.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal dismissed the petition filed by accused Kewal Krishan in connection with FIR No. 314/2026 registered at Police Station Rajouri under Sections 109, 126(2) and 191(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Sections 4/25 of the Arms Act.

Krishan had claimed that he was falsely implicated in the



case and that no specific overt act had been attributed to him.

The High Court noted that the petition was a successive bail application, as the accused's earlier plea had been rejected by the Principal Sessions Judge, Rajouri, on July 11, 2026.

The court observed that a successive bail plea can be reconsidered only when there is a

material change in circumstances warranting a different view.

The petitioner had argued that such a change had occurred following the discharge of the injured persons from a hospital in Ludhiana. However, the High Court found the development insufficient, noting that the statement of one of the injured persons was yet to be recorded and his medical reports were still awaited.

The court also took note of the fact that five accused persons remained absconding and that the alleged weapons used in the incident had not yet been recovered.

At the same | More on P6

J&K Class IV Recruitment

Jobless Youth Seek Removal Of Upper Qualification Bar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) advertising around 2,800 Class IV vacancies, a growing demand has emerged from unemployed educated youth to remove the maximum educational qualification limit for such posts.

Under the existing rules, candidates applying for Class IV posts must have passed matriculation but cannot possess qualifications higher than 10+2.

The upper qualification limit was prescribed through SRO-99 of 2008, issued on

April 7, 2008, during the PDP-Congress government led by Ghulam Nabi Azad.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Section 124 of the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir and in suppression of all rules/orders pertaining to the recruitment of Class IV posts, the Governor hereby directs that the minimum and maximum qualification for appointment to Class IV posts under direct recruitment shall be matriculation and 10+2, respectively," the notification stated.

The qualification restriction was retained under the Appointment | More on P6

J&K Hospitals Hit As Interns Continue Strike

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hospital services across Jammu and Kashmir were affected on Wednesday as MBBS and BDS interns continued their indefinite strike for the third consecutive day, demanding revision of their monthly stipend.

Hundreds of interns staged sit-in protests and candlelight vigils at government medical colleges and other institutions across the Union Territory, seeking an increase in the stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000 per month.

Protests were reported at GMC Srinagar, GMC Baramulla, GMC Handwara, GMC Anantnag, GMC Jammu, GMC Udhampur, GMC Rajouri. | More on P6



CITY

Mehbooba Backs GMC Bemina Medicos' Protest

Agencies

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday extended support to medical students of Government Medical College (GMC) Bemina, Srinagar, who staged a midnight protest demanding a hike in their stipend.

A late-night candlelight vigil was also organised by the protesting students as they sought a rightful stipend of up to Rs 30,000.

Mehbooba, as per KNO, said the students and future doctors had been "forced onto the streets" to demand what they rightfully deserved, while highlighting their long working hours and contribution to the healthcare system.

"These are the young doctors who work 36-hour shifts, including nights, caring for patients while the rest of us

These are the young doctors who work 36-hour shifts, including nights, caring for patients while the rest of us sleep

sleep. They are the backbone of our healthcare system yet they have to protest for what they rightfully deserve," she said.

She said the issue was not merely about a stipend but about "dignity, justice and respect" for those working in hospitals. "I appeal to the CM: meet the students tomorrow and resolve this within a week. If their voices continue to be ignored, we will stand with them on the streets," Mehbooba said.

"Pay our doctors what they deserve. They should not have to beg for dignity," she added—(KNO)

Lal Chowk Traders Oppose Proposed Relocation of Key Govt Offices from City Centre

Agencies

Srinagar: The Traders Association Central Lal Chowk has opposed the proposed relocation of the Civil Secretariat and 20 other major administrative and security offices from central Srinagar, warning that the move could have a significant impact on businesses operating in the city's commercial core.

Association president Feroz Ahmad Baba said the concentration of government institutions in and around central Srinagar has for decades supported a wider commercial ecosystem, with traders, restaurants, retailers and transport operators benefiting from the daily movement of employees and visitors.

The association maintained that removing these establishments would reduce the regular footfall on which a large number of businesses depend and could weaken the economic activity of the Lal Chowk area.

Baba said the issue should not be viewed only

through the lens of traffic congestion, arguing that Lal Chowk's commercial importance and its historical role as the centre of Srinagar also needed to be taken into consideration while reviewing the proposal.

The traders said traffic management in the city was necessary but argued that the problem could be addressed through measures such as improved traffic regulation, multi-level parking facilities and strengthening of public transport rather than relocating the administrative core.

The association has urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other concerned authorities to review the proposal in the context of the Master Plan-2035 and hold consultations with traders and other stakeholders before taking a final decision.

It said a broader consultation was necessary to balance the need for decongesting central Srinagar with the economic interests and livelihoods associated with the city's traditional commercial centre. [KNT]

Srinagar Admin Reviews Progress on AgriStack, Farmer IDs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office to review the progress on the implementation of AgriStack, Farmer ID generation and the Digital Crop Survey across the District.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars, District Manager, CSC and other concerned.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of the progress achieved under the initiatives and assessed the status of farmer enrolment, generation of Farmer IDs and the ongoing Digital Crop Survey across all the Tehsils of the District.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned Revenue Officers to accord top priority to the enrolment of eligible beneficiary farmers and ensure that the process is completed in a time-bound manner. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts at the Tehsil and field levels to ensure that no eligible farmer is left out of the enrolment process.

The Tehsildars were directed to closely monitor the progress in their respective jurisdictions and complete the enrolment process of farmer-related data.

Emphasizing the importance of reliable data, the DC stressed that the exercise should be carried out with due diligence so that the database remains. The DC also called for close



coordination between the Revenue Agriculture Departments and CSC functionaries involved in the process.

During the meeting, the DC also took stock of various revenue-related initiatives, including status of digitisation of Revenue Records, Online/Offline Migrant Grievance and other citizen centric revenue-related ser-

vice. He stressed the importance of efficient, transparent and citizen-centric delivery of revenue services across the district.

The DC directed all concerned Officers to maintain regular monitoring of progress and ensure effective implementation of all ongoing revenue and farmer-centric initiatives.

Junction Remodelling, Enforcement Ease Traffic Congestion in Shehr-e-Khas

Agencies

Srinagar: Traffic movement in parts of Downtown Srinagar has undergone noticeable changes over the past year following the introduction of one-way systems, junction modifications, enforcement measures and restrictions on certain categories of vehicles.

The changes have been particularly visible on traditionally congested stretches of Shehr-e-Khas, where narrow roads, heavy pedestrian movement, commercial activity and roadside obstructions have long contributed to traffic bottlenecks.

The traffic arrangements have been implemented under the supervision of SSP

Traffic City Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, with DySP Traffic Mehboob-ul-Haq involved in the implementation and ground-level management of the measures.

The Rajouri Kadal-Gojwara stretch was placed under one-way movement for public transport, while traffic movement over the narrow Barbar Shah bridge was also regulated on a one-way basis. Authorities have additionally introduced barricading and junction modifications at identified choke points, including Chhati Padshahi and Kanyar.

Restrictions on e-rickshaw movement along MA Road and Residency Road formed another part of the traffic-management plan, aimed at reducing mixed traffic on already congested corridors.KNT

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Postponement & Rescheduling of OMR Based Written Examination for the post of CSSD Attendant/Nursing Aid G-III advertised under Notification No. 07 of 2025.

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned candidates that the OMR Based Written Examination for the post of **CSSD Attendant/Nursing Aid G-III**, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 07 of 2025 dated 29.07.2025, which was scheduled to be held on **06.09.2026** is hereby postponed and shall **now be conducted on 25.10.2026**.

Admit Cards for the said examination shall be made available on the official website of the JKSSB i.e. www.jkssb.nic.in, seven days prior to the date of examination.

Further, the candidates are advised to regularly visit the official website of the Board for information and updates.

DIPK-5223/26
dated: 02-09-2026

JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/10/2022-04 (7055504)

District Police HQ Baramulla

0195-234217 (C), 0195-237251 (F), dpobaramulla@jkpolice.gov.in

وارنٲ گشٲى زير 335/BNSS

سرڪار بٺام :- فاروق احمد مير

جرام زير دفعات 113(3)(4) BNS

پرچہ علت نمبر 23/2025 تھانہ پوليس کٲر

حکم بٺام :- اہلڪاران پوليس رياست جموں و کشمير بخلاف ملزم صدر معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر مین ملزم کو بار با بار بہ ذریعہ وارنٲ گرفتاری بلا ضمانتی طلب کیا گیا آہ ملزم کی دستیابی نہ ہوئی ہے اور وارنٲ ہذا پر تعمیل آئی ہے کہ ملزم _ فاروق احمد میر عرف انگریز ولد محمد خالق میر ساکنہ گلاب دہی تحصیل کاربامہ

گھر سے فرار ہے اور روپوش ہوگیا ہے جس سے ملزم کی دستیابی بطریق آسانی مشکل ہے لہذا ملزم کے خلاف کاروائی زیر دفعہ 335 BNS بعمل لائی جا کر اہلکاران پولیس ریاست جموں و کشمیر کو حکم و اختیار دیا جاتا ہے کہ ملزم متذکورہ بالا جہاں کہیں بھی اندر حدود ریاست دستیاب ہو تو اس سے فور گرفتار کرکے عدالت ہذا میں پیش کریں وارنٲ ہذا تا دستیابی ملزمان / ملزم زير کار رہے گا تحریر 25-02-2026

وارنٲ ہذا بغرض تعمیل S.S.P باریمولہ ارسال ہووے

وارنٲ ہذا بغرض اشاعت گورنمنٲ پریس جموں مرسل ہووے

وارنٲ ہذا بغرض انتظام تعمیل SHO تھانہ کٲر مرسل ہوے

تحریر الصدر

JMJC COURT TANGMARG

DIPK-5271/26
dated: 02-09-2026

Labourer Dies After Falling from Height

Agencies

Srinagar: A 55-year-old labourer died after falling from a height while working in Wagoora Nowgam area of Srinagar on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the man was injured after falling from a height while working in the area.

He said the man was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital Srinagar, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

The deceased was identified as Ghulam Mohammad Ganie (55), son of late Mohammad Ismail, a resident of Wagoora Nowgam.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident.—(KNO)

Woman dies of electric shock in Gandbal

Agencies

Srinagar: A 45-year-old woman died after suffering an electric shock at her home in Gandbal area of Srinagar on Wednesday evening, officials said. An official said that the woman fell unconscious after receiving an electric shock at her residence. He said she was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital Srinagar in an unconscious condition, where doctors declared her brought dead.

She was later identified as Zubada Banoo (45), wife of late Mohammad Rafiq Bhat, a resident of Gandbal, Srinagar. Meanwhile, an investigation has been taken up into the incident.—(KNO)



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL
BEMINA, SRINAGAR

Department of Materials Management
Email: mmo@skimsmc.edu.in, Ph: 0194-2493226

eNIT NO: SKIMS MCH 04 Tender of 2026
DATED: 02/09/2026

Sub: Notice inviting e-tenders for Refueling of Transport fleet/Vehicles of SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar (J&K) on rate contract basis.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K through Principal SKIMS MCH, e-tenders are invited under two bid system (Technical bid and Financial bid) from the Oil Companies/ their authorized and registered dealers having outlets in the vicinity of SKIMS Medical College, Bemina (Radius 05 Kms) for refueling of Transport Fleet / Vehicles of SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar (J&K) on annual rate contract basis for a period of one year, to be reckoned from the date of issue of rate contract. The agencies with sound financial background and fulfilling other conditions are eligible to participate.

The detailed tender document containing quantity and other terms and conditions, is available on www.skimsmc.edu.in and www.jktenders.gov.in and complete bidding process will be online on said e- tender portal, as per following schedule:

S. No.	Description	Schedule
01	Tender Fee	Rs. 1000/-
02	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 50,000.00
03	Last date for downloading of tenders	21/09/2026
04	Last date for submission of tenders	21/09/2026 upto 2:00 P.M.
05	Date & time for opening of technical bids	24/09/2026 at 02:30 P.M.

Any **clarification** with regard to this tender can be sought from the office of undersigned personally or through e-mail mmo@skimsmc.edu.in upto **12/09/2026**.

The tender notice is also available on SKIMS MCH Bemina websites, www.skims.ac.in, www.skimsmc.edu.in for reference only. Complete bidding process will be online at www.jktenders.gov.in. **(Technical and Price bids shall have to be submitted in electronic format on the said tender portal and in no case be submitted in physical form, unless demanded by SKIMS MCH.**

Principal SKIMS MCH reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any tender or all tenders in full or part thereof without assigning any reason.

The tender must be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed eNIT.

DIPK-NB-1537/26
dated: 02-09-2026

Sd/-
Materials Management Officer
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/2026/5829-35
Dated: 02/09/2026

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The NC Factor

History suggests that political stature and an independent political constituency are not always the same thing.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

As ga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has taken a decision that may prove far more consequential for his own political future than for the National Conference.

His differences with the party leadership are neither imaginary nor insignificant. Ruhullah has consistently argued that the National Conference cannot allow restoration of statehood to become a substitute for its larger political commitment to the restoration of the constitutional position represented by Articles 370 and 35-A.

That is a legitimate political position. Indeed, there is considerable force in the argument that a party which sought votes on constitutional questions must continue to articulate them after coming to power.

But disagreement with one's party and departure from it are two very different things.

Ruhullah has announced that he proposes to resign both from the Lok Sabha and from the National Conference on November 3. His decision follows a prolonged public disagreement with the party leadership and Dr Farooq Abdullah's challenge to him to seek a fresh mandate outside the party.

Whether the proposed resignation ultimately takes place or not, the episode brings back an interesting lesson from the political history of Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Conference has survived many rebellions. The rebels have not always survived the grand old party of Kashmir.

That statement is not intended as praise for everything the party has done. The National Conference has committed its share of political mistakes, some of them serious enough to remain subjects of historical debate.

But political parties are not judged merely by the correctness of every decision taken by their leaders. They are also institutions created over decades, with an organisation, a symbol, a political memory and an emotional relationship with sections of the electorate.

Individual leaders sometimes discover this distinction only after leaving.

Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beg gives an early and striking example. Few men were closer to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, with their political association spanning decades. But when the two fell out in 1978, Beg resigned as Deputy Chief Minister and later formed the Inquilabi National Conference.

The new formation could never acquire anything resembling the political weight that Beg had enjoyed while standing beside Sheikh Abdullah.

There were others, like Shamim Ahmad Shamim, an intellectual, parliamentarian, journalist and editor of Aaina, possessing an individuality few politicians of his generation could match. Abdul Rashid Kabli was another recognisable political figure.

Their departures from the dominant political stream did not translate their personal standing into enduring alternative political institutions.

Then came the spectacular revolt of 1984.

Ghulam Mohammad Shah did what few dissidents anywhere manage to achieve: he broke the National Conference, took legislators with him and actually became Chief Minister.

Devi Das Thakur was one of the principal personalities associated with that rebellion and became Deputy Chief Minister. For a moment it appeared that the National Conference itself might have been permanently fractured.

It was not.

The Shah government fell in 1986 and the breakaway formation gradually disappeared as a major political force. The parent organisation endured.

In later years too, prominent individuals left or moved away from the National Conference. Ghulam Hassan Mir, Dilawar Mir and others possessed political experience, constituencies and considerable visibility. But none succeeded in creating an organisation capable of replacing the National Conference's broader footprint.

Saifuddin Soz is the only exception, as his case is different.

After leaving the NC, he had a substantial career in the Congress, including service in the Union Government. His example therefore cautions against making the simplistic claim that everyone leaving the NC becomes politically irrelevant. History rarely accommodates such absolute propositions.

Devender Singh Rana is an even stronger exception and cannot honestly be omitted.

Rana was among the most important faces of the National Conference in Jammu and served as its provincial president. In 2021, he and Surjit Singh Slathia resigned from the party and joined the BJP.

Rana did not disappear politically after leaving the NC.

On the contrary, contesting Nagrota on the BJP ticket in 2024, he won by an impressive margin of 30,472 votes.

His case proves something important: political history is not governed by an iron law.

But Rana also moved into another large, nationally established political organisation.

He did not build an independent political force capable of drawing away the National Conference's social base. His success, therefore, does not necessarily challenge the larger argument.

If anything, it points to another truth: leaving a large organisation is easier when another large organisation is ready to take you in.

That contrast may matter enormously in Ruhullah's case.

Ruhullah is undoubtedly a serious politician. He is articulate, politically aware and possesses an identity of his own. His victory from Srinagar in the 2024 parliamentary election was emphatic: he secured 356,866 votes, or 52.85 per cent, defeating his nearest rival by 188,416 votes.

But how much of that mandate belonged to Aga Ruhullah personally and how much belonged to the National Conference?

That question cannot be answered by speeches, television debates or social-media applause. Only an election can answer it.

It is precisely here that political ambition can occasionally misread public affection.

A leader standing on the platform of a large political party sees thousands listening to him, workers raising slogans for him and voters putting their faith in him. It is tempting to conclude that the crowd belongs to the speaker. Often, however, part of that crowd belongs to the flag behind him.

The National Conference demonstrated its continuing organisational strength in the 2024 Assembly election, winning 42 of the 90 seats and emerging as the principal political force forming the government. Whatever criticism may legitimately be directed against it, it cannot presently be wished away from the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ruhullah therefore had another option, and perhaps a more useful one.

He could have remained inside the National Conference and continued pressing its leadership relentlessly on Article 370 and 35-A. An articulate dissenting voice within the most influential political organisation in Kashmir could arguably exert greater pressure than another leader standing outside it.

Internal disagreement is not necessarily weakness. Properly handled, it may be evidence that a political party still possesses ideological life.

Nor should the National Conference leadership have permitted differences to reach a stage where challenges were issued publicly and resignation became a matter of prestige. Political organisations need dissenters too. A leader capable of questioning his own party is sometimes more valuable inside the room than outside the gate.

Ruhullah's concern that the constitutional questions confronting Jammu and Kashmir should not be reduced merely to restoration of statehood calls for political discussion. But a worthy cause does not automatically make every political strategy adopted in its pursuit equally wise.

Fragmentation has been one of the recurring weaknesses of Kashmir politics. Every new division may produce another leader, another platform and another set of slogans, while leaving the collective political weight of the region diminished.

If Ruhullah eventually walks away, the National Conference will undoubtedly feel the loss. He is too important a political figure for anyone to pretend otherwise. But history suggests that the greater risk may be his.

The National Conference has lost formidable leaders before and remained standing. Many of those who walked away discovered that leaving a party and carrying its constituency along are entirely different political achievements.

Ruhullah may yet prove to be the exception.

But history has given him enough reasons to think carefully before attempting it.

The author is an advocate practising the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

KO VIEW
Kashmir's Changing Equation

Srinagar showdown between the National Conference and the BJP has surprised political analysts and prompted pundits to make fresh projections about Kashmir politics.

The striking feature was the BJP's show of strength in the summer capital, where the party was once difficult to imagine as a serious political force. Its ability to assemble a sizeable cadre base in city has added a new dimension to the contest.

The BJP's presence in the valley has often been more visible through party programmes, press conferences, institutional activity and social media than through large public demonstrations.

The Lal Chowk mobilisation changed that perception.

Party leaders were visibly encouraged by the response, while political observers saw signs of an organisation that is becoming more willing to test itself in public.

The BJP entered Jammu and Kashmir's governing equation through its alliance with the PDP in 2014. That arrangement brought the party into government and altered the region's political calculations.

Its influence in Kashmir, however, remained considerably less visible than in Jammu. The latest mobilisation suggests the party is seeking a more direct foothold in the valley.

The National Conference faces this development at an uncomfortable time. As the ruling party, it is now judged primarily through the performance of its government. Questions around governance, along with internal dissent following the resignation of a dissident leader in November, have added pressure.

A party that has relied heavily on its historic political standing now has to contend with a rival seeking space among voters who judge governments through daily concerns.

The BJP appears to understand that opening. Its criticism of the government over unemployment, electricity tariffs, corruption and governance places issues of everyday administration alongside the larger constitutional questions that have dominated Kashmir's politics.

That is a significant tactical choice. It allows the party to present itself as an opposition force focused on grievances rather than limiting its message to ideology. The grand old party, meanwhile, continues to centre its mobilisation on statehood and constitutional safeguards. Those issues remain fundamental to its political position, but the public debate is widening.

Jobs, electricity and government performance now provide another basis on which voters can judge the administration.

The significance of the BJP's demonstration should also be kept in proportion. A crowd does not automatically become an electoral constituency, and one mobilisation cannot establish a durable base.

Still, it has demonstrated an organisational capacity in Srinagar that was far less visible before. That fact alone changes the calculations for established parties.

The Factory Gate

Behind J&K's rising industrial numbers lies a harder question: whether local young people have the skills and opportunities to enter, advance and build businesses of their own.



Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir has spent years asking how to bring investment into the region. That question has begun to produce an answer.

Factories are opening, local entrepreneurs are starting enterprises and government schemes are putting capital into hands that want to build businesses.

The harder question now lies inside those factories: who is trained to work there, who can rise within them and how much of the income generated by them stays in Jammu and Kashmir?

J&K's economy for 2026-27 is estimated at 3,15,822 crore. Services account for about 61 percent of the economy, agriculture for about 20 percent and manufacturing for 19 percent.

Manufacturing therefore has a substantial place in the economy, although its present scale remains too limited to absorb the large pool of young people seeking work.

Official figures show how quickly industrial activity has grown.

The budget records 2,227 organised industrial units starting production since 2020, with investment of 15,940 crore and employment for 73,827 people.

Another official account puts the figures at 2,279 units, 16,598.97 crore of investment and 75,848 jobs between 2019-20 and 2025-26.

The most revealing figure lies inside those numbers: about 90 percent of the new units were established by local entrepreneurs.

Kashmiris are investing in their own business-

es. They are moving into manufacturing, processing and services and creating work for others.

The old picture of local enterprise as something centred mainly on family shops and traditional occupations has become too narrow.

Scale remains the difficulty, as many local enterprises are small and less diversified, which limits their ability to create large numbers of stable jobs.

Kashmir already produces a surprisingly wide range of goods and services, including food products, fruit grading and packing, cold-chain services, carpets, pashmina, shawls, silk, handloom goods, handicrafts, walnut wood products, furniture, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, packaging materials, electrical goods and building materials.

The handicrafts and handloom sector alone supports nearly 4.45 lakh people.

That figure shows how deeply production and skill are embedded in Kashmiri society. It also points toward a larger economic possibility: turning existing skills into modern businesses that process, brand, package and sell finished products within the region.

The factory survey explains why this matters. Registered manufacturing in 2019-20 used inputs worth 22,709.61 crore and produced output valued at 30,086.39 crore. Gross Value Added stood at 7,376.78 crore, roughly one-fourth of total output.

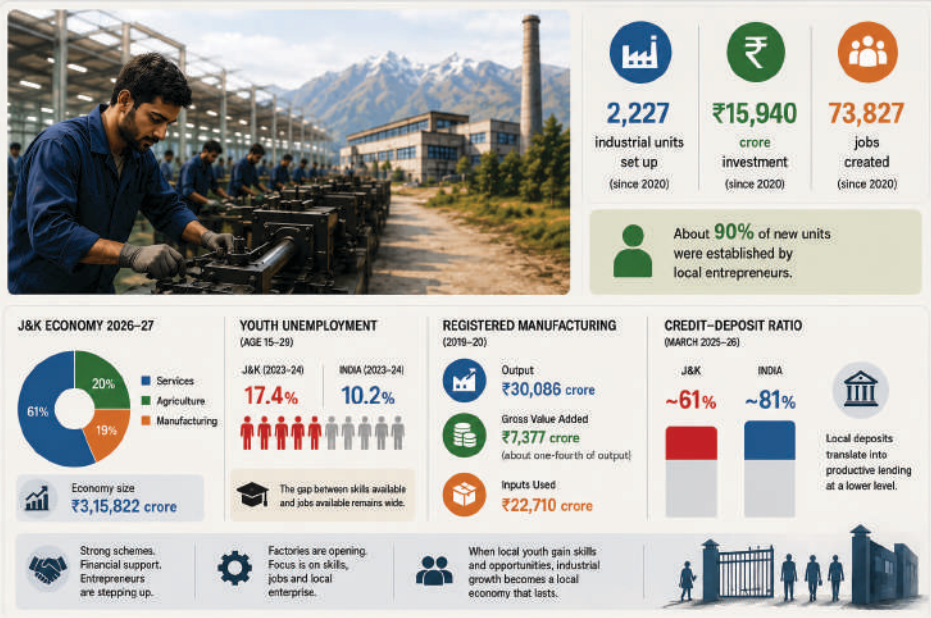
The figures suggest substantial room to keep more economic value inside J&K through local processing, packaging, branding and marketing.

Youth unemployment exposes the other side of the story.

Among people aged 15 to 29, the unemployment rate reached 17.4 percent in 2023-24, compared with 10.2 percent for India. Overall unemployment stood at 6.1 percent in J&K against a national figure of 3.2 percent.

Those numbers eventually become household stories.

A young person can spend years studying and preparing for competitive examinations and still find that the industrial unit operating nearby seeks a machine operator, electrician, welder, refrigeration technician, packaging worker, bookkeeper or logistics assistant.



The factory is there, and so are the jobs, but the link between them remains weak.

Human capital therefore becomes the central economic task.

Skills, work habits, confidence, practical training and the ability to perform specialised tasks determine how much local society gains from industrial expansion.

When those skills are unavailable locally, employers can turn to workers from outside the region.

The answer cannot rest on telling young people to accept any job. Workers look for wages that make sense, secure employment, decent workplaces and a path toward better positions.

Industrial growth can meet those expectations through paid apprenticeships, practical training, workplace exposure and stronger links between factories and skill centres.

J&K also lacks a sufficiently detailed public picture of its industrial workforce.

Available government figures do not provide a complete breakdown of local and migrant workers, permanent and contractual staff, apprentices or night-shift workers.

Better labour data would show where industrial expansion is creating local employment and where employers still depend on outside workers.

Central government support has played a major part in the expansion.

Since 2020-21, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme has helped create 57,244 enterprises in J&K, generated employment for 4.58 lakh people and disbursed 1,169.34 crore in margin money.

During 2023-24, J&K recorded 15,037 PMEGP units, the highest figure among Indian states and Union territories.

Mission YUVA adds another large intervention. Its target is 1.37 lakh enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs over five years.

The 2026-27 Budget also provides CGT-MSE fee reimbursement for eligible loans and raises capital spending for the Industry and Handicrafts sector to 461 crore. Central grants proposed for J&K in 2026-27 stand at 43,290.29 crore.

The financial system reveals a further weakness.

J&K's credit-deposit ratio stood at 64.39 percent in March 2024 and later around 61 percent in 2025-26, compared with about 81 percent nationally.

Local deposits therefore translate into productive lending at a lower level than the national picture.

Stronger local credit can help small businesses expand, households build savings and entrepreneurs invest in machinery, workers and new products.

Kashmir also has a long economic memory worth recovering.

The silk industry was reorganised on modern lines in 1892. Carpet weaving developed over centuries into one of the region's best-known skilled industries. Practical skill and enterprise have deep roots here.

Modern industrial policy can build on that history instead of treating skilled work as a second choice beside government employment.

The next phase calls for practical workshops, skill centres, paid apprenticeships, contractor-led training, industrial visits, career guidance and leadership that gives skilled work social value.

It calls for more processing and finished production within J&K for apples, walnuts, saffron, silk, carpets, pashmina, food products and woodwork.

The region has already demonstrated that it can produce entrepreneurs. Government schemes have supplied substantial financial support. Industrial units are producing goods and creating jobs.

The unfinished task is to connect those gains to the people who live here.

A factory can record investment in crores and employment in thousands. The real test comes later, when a young Kashmiri walks through its gate with a skill that was learned locally, earns enough to build a household, saves enough to invest and eventually starts a business of his or her own.

That is when industrial growth becomes a local economy rather than a set of industrial units.

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Kashmir Needs a 'Wartaav' for Hard Times

Kashmir can turn an old custom of giving into a system of support for families facing illness, bereavement and sudden financial hardship.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

A few days ago, I sat at a waleema in Srinagar while the groom's mother and her husband worked through a stack of envelopes on the floor beside them.

She lifted one after another and read out the figures the way a shopkeeper closes a register at night.

"Ten thousand," she said. "I gave them seven thousand three years back, at their daughter's wedding."

Then, holding up a thinner envelope: "Four thousand. They always give less than what we give them."

Beyond bucks, she was counting people, sorting relatives into columns of generous and stingy, loyal and calculating.

Behind that pile of envelopes was a memory more precise than any bank statement: who gave what, in which year, at whose function, and whether this year's gift settled the account or left a balance owed.

This is wartaav, the custom of exchanging cash gifts at weddings, waleemas and engagements across the valley.

Islam encourages such exchange as an expression of affection, a small gesture meant to strengthen ties between families.

My father, Lala Soab, used to speak of a tradition he had heard of, somewhere in a village in China

or Africa, where a person was given gifts on the appearance of his first grey hair, a sign, so the belief went, of moving closer to God.

Whether or not that belief holds, it points to something worth sitting with: that a society decides not only what it gives, but when, and why.

Somewhere along the way, wartaav in Kashmir stopped being a gesture and became a transaction.

What I give you today, I expect returned with interest when my turn comes. A gift is no longer an act of affection so much as an investment awaiting its yield.

Guests walk into wedding halls with envelopes in their pockets mostly because custom leaves them little choice.

Hosts, often without meaning to, start counting whether their relatives have treated them fairly, comparing this year's generosity with what they gave in years past.

Some Kashmiri families have simply opted out. Many shopkeepers and businessmen no longer participate in wartaav at all, and there is a certain sense in that refusal: it frees both sides from the arithmetic.

One of my uncles rarely attends weddings anymore. "If I have to spend money anyway," he told me once, half joking, "I would rather go to a restaurant and eat what I like."

The line drew laughter, but underneath it sat something less funny, that for him a wedding invitation had become indistinguishable from a bill.

A colleague of mine, a mechanic at a local college, told me that certain relatives had stopped inviting him to their functions.

He believed the reason was simple: his envelopes were too thin.

Sit with that for a moment. A man's presence at a family's



Consider a man discharged from hospital after weeks of treatment that emptied his savings. Think of a widow whose husband, the family's only earner, has just died. Imagine a household facing a funeral, grief and unpaid bills arriving together. These are the hours when a small sum, placed without ceremony or public tally, could mean far more than any wedding gift.

happiest hour, his affection, his blessing, weighed less than the paper in his hand.

That is the question worth asking: are we inviting people to share our joy, or to help finance it?

If wartaav is to mean anything again, perhaps it needs to change address.

Instead of appearing only at moments of celebration, envelopes could appear at moments of need.

Consider a man discharged from hospital after weeks of treatment that emptied his savings. Think of a widow whose husband, the family's only earner, has just died. Imagine a household facing a funeral, grief and unpaid bills arriving together.

These are the hours when a small sum, placed without ceremony or public tally, could mean far more than any wedding gift.

There need be no register kept at a sickbed, no comparison of who gave what.

Those who can give more should give more, those who can give less should give less, and those who can give nothing at all should still be welcomed for their presence and their prayers.

Imagine the relief of a family that has just buried its breadwinner, finding neighbours at the door not merely with words of sympathy but with unasked-for help.

None of this calls for abolishing gifts, as they remain one of the gentler instincts we have.

What needs abolishing is the bookkeeping, the memory of exact sums, the silent scorekeeping that turns a wedding into a settlement of old debts.

Let the rich give generously and without display, and let the poor give whatever they can manage, or nothing at all beyond their blessing.

No host should measure affection in rupees, and no envelope should ever need to be reopened, recalculated, or repaid.

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The Other Side of a Kashmiri Wedding

My sister's wedding has made me think about the strange grief of watching someone build a second home.



Kabra Altaf

We were parked outside a tailor's shop in Shere-Khas, Nowhatta, near Jamia Masjid, when the Maghrib azaan began.

This is the neighbourhood of our nanihal, the lanes where we prayed on Shab-e-Qadr as children, the streets that hold a version of home neither of us has lived in for years but both of us still claim.

My sister sat in front of me on the scooter. The call to prayer rose over the rooftops the way it always does there, and something in it undid me.

I told her the sound made me miss home, even standing a few streets from it. She said the same thing happened to her.

I asked her a question I had not planned to ask: Would she still feel this way once she was married, hearing Maghrib in a house that was no longer ours?

She went silent. Her answer, when it came, was smaller than the question deserved: I don't know.

That silence is the real subject here, rather than the wedding itself.

Kashmiri families talk about marriage in the language of

blessing and beginning. A daughter's rishta comes, the walima gets fixed, and the baraata day is spoken of with a festive certainty, as though a woman's move from one house to another were a simple transfer of address.

Nobody prepares the sister who stays behind for what it does to hear that news for the first time.

I cried through most of the night I learned about her rishta and never told her.

I did not understand, then, that grief and celebration could occupy the same household on the same evening, that congratulations and loss could be spoken in one breath and only one of them said out loud.

What gets lost in the language of a good match is the actual furniture of a life, the small daily architecture two sisters build without noticing they are building it.

The handwritten cards she made before my competitions, once given to her by a dervish and passed on to me as luck. The banging on a locked door until someone opens it. The searching through drawers for hidden junk food. The insistence, asked and re-asked over years, on who I loved more, and the answer I always wanted, which was her name.

None of this shows up in a nikahnama, and none of it is what relatives discuss when they praise a good rishta. But it is what a sister actually leaves, and what the one remaining actually loses, and no ceremony accounts for it.

The Maghrib azaan is not incidental to this.

In a place like Srinagar, the call to prayer marks the day the way weather marks a season, constant enough that people stop hearing it and then, in certain streets, suddenly do.

It becomes a private instrument for measuring distance from home, which is why hearing it near our nanihal made both of us ache in the same moment.

My sister's real test will be the first Maghrib she hears in her husband's house, in the same city, possibly the same tone of azaan, and whether it sounds like exile or like a second claim on the word home.

Nobody can promise her which one it will be. That uncertainty is the cost of marriage that families rarely name because naming it would complicate the celebration.

I bought higher heels for her wedding so I would finally stand taller than her, a small, petty victory I am not ashamed of wanting.

I plan to smile on her baraata day, though I do not know yet if I will manage it.

What I want for her is not the traditional wish, that she settle in, adjust, make peace with a new house. I want the azaan there to sound like it did in Nowhatta, unbearable and beloved at once, proof that a person can build a second home without amputating the first.

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My sister's real test will be the first Maghrib she hears in her husband's house, in the same city, possibly the same tone of azaan, and whether it sounds like exile or like a second claim on the word home.

J&K Likely To

trees and other vulnerable structures.

Iran Launches

Emergency teams were immediately dispatched to the scene, officials said, while rescue operations continued as authorities assessed the damage.

Iranian Red Crescent officials initially reported two deaths and several injuries before revising the toll upward. Around 20 injured people were evacuated to medical facilities in the early stages of the rescue operation.

The Red Crescent subsequently said five people had been killed and 50 injured.

The IRCG said the attack had revived memories of earlier US-Israeli strikes on civilian targets during the previous round of hostilities, including attacks on a school in Minab and a sports complex in Lamerd.

It also cited earlier strikes on Chabahar and Konarak in Sistan and Baluchestan Province and Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran Fires Back Across Region

Within hours, Iran announced a major retaliatory operation.

“The decisive operations by the Iranian Armed Forces in response to the American terrorist enemy began minutes ago,” the IRCG said.

“US bases and interests across the region are now coming under attack by Iranian missiles and drones,” it added.

Iran said the operation represented a response to what it described as repeated American aggression against Iranian territory, particularly in the country’s southern regions.

The first reported targets included US positions in Jordan, where Iranian missiles were launched toward the Gulf of Aqaba.

Missiles Fired Toward Jordan

Explosions were reported in and around Eilat, with interceptors launched toward Iranian missiles headed in the direction of Aqaba, on the Jordan-Israel border.

Residents in Eilat reported seeing interceptors launched from the city toward Jordan.

Jordanian authorities issued mobile alerts shortly before 11 p.m., including in Aqaba, warning residents about the possibility of falling debris.

“The area where you are located may be exposed to falling debris,” the warning said. “We ask you to remain calm and seek shelter in the nearest building or stay inside your vehicle.”

Jordanian authorities said air defenses intercepted missiles in several parts of the country, while sirens sounded across Jordan at around 11:15 p.m.

The IRCG said the Iranian strike targeted Tabaqin camp, located on the Gulf of Aqaba coast. MQ-9 Drone Downed

Iran also claimed that its new-generation aerospace defence system had shot down an American MQ-9 Reaper drone.

The IRCG said the downed aircraft represented the 50th advanced MQ-9 drone to have been destroyed by Iranian forces during the conflict.

US Marine Base In Jordan Hit

In a second statement, the IRCG said its Aerospace Force had carried out a “heavy ballistic-missile strike” against a US Marine facility known as Camp Titini on the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba.

“The attack killed a large number of US personnel and destroyed several key facilities and the enemy’s attack helicopters,” the IRCG said.

The statement did not provide a precise figure for the alleged US casualties.

Iran then announced another strike against an American base in Jordan.

The IRCG said a “heavy ballistic-missile strike” hit hangars housing long-range RQ-4 and MQ-9 unmanned aircraft at the US base known as Prince Hassan.

“A number of drones were destroyed, and several pilots and flight technical crewmembers were killed,” the IRCG claimed.

“Several of their technical infrastructure facilities were also set ablaze.”

The Corps also mourned the Iranian civilians killed in the Sirik strike, accusing Washington of targeting civilians because it was unable to confront Iran’s armed forces directly.

The IRCG described the attack as “an act of desperation” and called on Jordan to stop allowing its territory to be used as a launch platform for US military operations.

NC, BJP Stage

Rajbagh Police Station and prevented the protesters from proceeding further. Some protesters were also taken into preventive custody.

The NC accused the administration of restricting its protest while allowing the BJP to demonstrate in Lal Chowk.

“The JKNC’s peaceful protest was stopped from moving forward. People were prevented from joining, and elected representatives were mishandled. Yet, when the BJP held a protest outside the Secretariat, it was allowed to proceed. What a shame!” the party said on X.

Speaking to reporters, NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said the protest was aimed at reminding the BJP-led Centre of commitments made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

“We only want to remind the BJP leadership in Delhi that the promises you made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be fulfilled. The time has now come,” Sadiq said.

He said the demands included restoration of statehood, constitutional guarantees and rationalisation of reservation for youth.

“Where is statehood? It has been two years since the elections. The time has come to fulfil the promise made to us,” Sadiq said.

Cabinet Minister and NC leader Sakina Itoo said the party would continue its peaceful struggle.

“The people of Jammu and Kashmir chose it, and they can choose any day. For us, every day is a day of protest, and every day we will peacefully demand, at every level and on every platform, that our rights be restored,” she said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani said the NC had been waiting for two years for key commitments to be fulfilled. He also raised the issue of reservation rationalisation, saying the Cabinet had approved the matter and forwarded it to the Lieutenant Governor, but a decision was still awaited.

NC MP Choudhary Ramzan said the protest was aimed at reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of

what he termed their “unfulfilled promises”.

“We are reminding the PM and HM of their unfulfilled promises. We want them to remember their promises, including restoration of statehood and constitutional rights,” he said.

BJP Targets Omar Govt Over Governance

Meanwhile, the BJP staged its own protest against the NC-led government, with hundreds of leaders and workers assembling near the Clock Tower in Lal Chowk.

The protesters raised slogans against the government and marched towards the Civil Secretariat but were stopped by police near Hari Singh High Street. The area was barricaded and security forces were deployed in strength.

BJP J&K president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma accused the government of failing to deliver on development and said it should either work during the remaining three years of its term or step down.

“What can be expected from such a Chief Minister? In the two years that have passed, the development that should have taken place under his leadership has not happened,” Sharma said.

Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma said the protest reflected public anger over electricity, water, roads and unemployment.

“This is a reflection of the failures of the government, which you are seeing on the streets today,” he said.

The BJP also accused the government of failing to provide employment opportunities and levelled allegations regarding recruitment and appointments.

Sunil Sharma targeted Omar Abdullah over promises made by the NC during the Assembly elections, including commitments relating to Article 370, free electricity and jobs. He challenged the Chief Minister to resign from his Ganderbal Assembly seat and seek a fresh mandate specifically on the issue of statehood.

“If Omar Abdullah has even a little bit of dignity left, then come and fight the elections on statehood and resign from Ganderbal,” he said.

Sat Sharma also criticised the government over its response to security-related issues and alleged that the Centre was being blamed whenever an incident occurred in Jammu and Kashmir.

PDP Calls NC-BJP Protests a ‘Fixed Match’

The rival protests also drew criticism from the People’s Democratic Party.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti accused the police of adopting double standards, alleging that the same police that restricts PDP protests had facilitated the NC and BJP demonstrations.

PDP MLA Waheed Para described the NC-BJP protests as a “fixed” match and questioned the political parties’ approach amid unemployment and governance concerns.

NC Protest Was

the difference in the treatment of the two protests was visible to everyone, alleging that BJP protesters were escorted while the NC was prevented from marching towards the BJP office.

Omar questioned the ease with which media persons were able to interact with BJP Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma during the protest. “The ease with which media were able to interview the Leader of the Opposition during their protest was seen by all of us,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the contrasting treatment reflected the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that protests targeting the government were allowed while demonstrations outside the BJP office were prevented.

“If you want to march on the Chief Minister’s residence, you are allowed to. If you want to gh-erao the Secretariat, you are allowed to. But if you want to protest outside the BJP’s office, God forbid, you will not be allowed,” he said.

Responding to BJP’s demand that he resign and seek a fresh mandate on the issue of statehood, Abdullah said he would not step down to satisfy the Leader of Opposition. “Why should I resign? I will not resign for the happiness of the LoP,” he said.

Omar said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had given his government a five-year mandate and that it would present its report card before the people after completing its term. “The people of Jammu and Kashmir have given us five years. We will present our report card to the people after five years,” he said.

Dismisses BJP allegations of backdoor appointments

On allegations of backdoor appointments and favouritism, the CM said his government did not control the agencies responsible for investigating such cases.

“If there have been backdoor appointments, then which agency has investigated them? Tell me one thing: if there has been a backdoor appointment, then the Anti-Corruption Bureau is not under my control. The Crime Branch is not under my control. The CID is not under my control,” he said.

He said such allegations were being levelled by the BJP without providing evidence, alleging that the party was trying to divert attention from its own shortcomings. “These are baseless allegations from the BJP, because they have nothing else to say. They themselves fail every day and make us the target,” he said.(KNO)

BJP Dares CM

and hundreds of workers assembled near the Clock Tower in Lal Chowk carrying placards and raising slogans against the National Conference-led government.

Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were facing hardships while the government had failed to address their concerns.

“Today, survival has become difficult for the common and poor people. There is a water crisis across J&K, yet not a single fitter or executive engineer is visible anywhere, let alone a minister,” Sharma said.

He also alleged deficiencies in the healthcare and education sectors.

“Go to the hospitals, there are no doctors, no medical staff, and no one to attend to the poor. Go to the schools, there are no teachers, no masters, no headmasters,” he said.

Sharma Questions Omar’s Priorities

Targeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sharma questioned the government’s performance and criticised the Chief Minister over his alleged focus on tourism activities.

He asked whether people had elected Omar

“to live like a prince and go skiing in Gulmarg and Pahalgam”.

Sharma also accused the government of outsourcing 25,000 jobs and alleged that recruitment was not being conducted fairly.

According to him, the BJP’s protest centred on four issues, including what he termed “selling” jobs instead of fair recruitment, failure to conduct local body polls, “rampant corruption” and power tariff hikes.

The BJP said these issues were causing hardship to people, particularly the youth, and demanded that the government take corrective measures.

The protesters were scheduled to march from Lal Chowk towards the Civil Secretariat as part of the agitation. Police stopped the procession near Hari Singh High Street as security forces were deployed and barricades placed along the route. (PTI)

CM To New

sacrifice by the doctors and their families. He acknowledged the contribution of the parents and families who supported the young doctors throughout their medical education and training.

The Chief Minister said joining government service, particularly in the health sector, brought with it a greater responsibility as people approach doctors during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

“People have high expectations from you. In the most difficult of times, when people go in search of someone, they go in search of a doctor. Some people will reach you when they have given up all their hopes, and they will see the last ray of hope in you,” he said.

Omar urged the newly appointed Medical Officers to serve wherever they were posted, particularly in remote and underserved areas, saying stronger healthcare delivery at the grassroots level was essential to reducing the burden on hospitals in Jammu and Srinagar.

He said people should not have to travel to major cities for routine medical procedures and treatment.

“Normal deliveries, gallbladder and appendicitis surgeries—these should be available at the sub-district level, and at least at the district level where they cannot be provided at the sub-district level. But often we see patients being referred directly to Srinagar or Jammu,” he said.

The Chief Minister called upon the new doctors to help ensure quality and accessible healthcare closer to where people live.

At the same time, he acknowledged that doctors posted in remote areas would expect adequate infrastructure, connectivity and better working conditions from the government.

“You will expect us to provide you with proper infrastructure so that you can carry out your duties properly. You will expect us to provide you with proper connectivity in the areas where we post you,” Omar said, assuring that the government would continue working to improve service conditions and healthcare infrastructure.

He also called for a change in the mindset towards postings in remote areas, sharing an anecdote from an earlier interaction with newly appointed doctors to underline the need for greater willingness to serve outside major urban centres.

“We have to change the future of Jammu and Kashmir. To change the future, we are paying special attention to two things—education and health,” Omar Abdullah said.

He described education and health as the foundation for Jammu and Kashmir’s progress, saying development in other sectors would not reach its full potential unless people were educated and healthy.

Highlighting the government’s efforts to make medical education more accessible, Omar said Jammu and Kashmir continues to substantially subsidise medical education so that students can pursue medical studies at comparatively affordable costs.

He said medical education in government medical colleges in J&K remains significantly cheaper than in several other states despite the high cost involved in training doctors.

“We happily accept this expense because we want more doctors to be made,” he said, adding that the government had also taken steps to increase the intake capacity of medical colleges in J&K in coordination with the Centre.

The Chief Minister said increasing the number of medical seats would create a larger pool of trained doctors who could eventually enter public service and contribute to healthcare delivery across the Union Territory.

Assuring the newly appointed Medical Officers of continued government support, he said, “We will improve your service conditions so that you can carry out your work without fear. We will also improve your infrastructure. And in medical colleges, wherever there is a shortage, we will also improve it.”

Calling upon the doctors to make the most of their careers in public service, Omar expressed hope that they would dedicate the coming decades to serving the people and contributing to the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

“You have entered the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Please do your work with that spirit—with the hope that people see you in these positions, and with the hope that your parents and family, who helped you reach here by making sacrifices and supporting you, can be proud of you,” he said.

J&K Misses Deadline

and Congestion Charges, under regulations framed by CERC.

The issue of unpaid power-related dues has previously been raised in J&K, with the Assembly informed earlier this year that several government departments owe hundreds of crores in outstanding electricity bills. (KNO)

J&K Sitting

inaugural session of the 41st National Convention of Chemical Engineers and National Seminar on “Biomass: A Sustainable Resource for Decarbonizing the Economy” at the Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre.

The two-day event was organised by the Chemical Engineering Division Board of the Institution of Engineers (India) in association with the Department of Chemical Engineering, NIT Srinagar.

The Chief Minister said reducing dependence on carbon-based fuels had become increasingly important in view of energy security concerns

and the growing environmental impact of fossil fuel use.

Referring to the retreat of glaciers in the Himalayan region, Omar said the effects of climate change were becoming increasingly visible.

“Those of us who are roughly around my age or maybe a little older have seen with our own eyes the way in which our glaciers are retreating and shrinking,” he said.

He cited the example of the Thajivi glacier near Sonamarg, saying the distance people now have to travel to reach it illustrates the extent of glacier retreat.

Omar, however, stressed that the transition away from a carbon-based economy could not happen simply by replacing one energy source with another.

“Economically viable, sustainable, environmentally friendly solutions are the need of the hour,” he said.

Highlighting J&K’s biomass potential, he said the Union Territory generates biomass through agriculture, horticulture, forests, municipal waste and rising consumption.

“We are sitting on a wealth of biomass whether we like it or not,” Omar said, adding that the challenge was to develop effective mechanisms to convert the resource into useful energy.

He said J&K had so far struggled to establish a workable waste-to-energy model despite generating sufficient waste to support such initiatives. The economic viability of such projects, he noted, remained a major challenge when compared with cheaper sources such as solar and hydropower.

At the same time, Omar said economic considerations could not be the only factor in determining the future of waste management and energy policy.

“We will have to do it,” he said, stressing the need to address both legacy waste and the continuously increasing generation of organic waste.

The Chief Minister also recalled efforts during his previous tenure to explore converting plant material removed from Dal Lake into biofuel in collaboration with higher education institutions, particularly the agricultural university.

He said such ideas needed to move beyond discussions and be pursued through practical experimentation.

Sharing an example from his time at a boarding school in Himachal Pradesh, Omar recalled how a teacher had proposed using poultry waste to generate biogas. The system was eventually developed to transport biogas nearly a kilometre to the school’s central dining hall, reducing dependence on fossil fuels for cooking.

He urged scientists and engineers not to be discouraged by failed experiments, saying unsuccessful attempts could provide valuable lessons for future innovation.

“Let us not be afraid of failure,” he said.

Omar called upon engineers, scientists and academic institutions participating in the convention to use their collective expertise to develop practical projects suited to J&K’s requirements.

“We need to commit the awesome brain power that is present in this room, or that is represented by the institutions that are present here, to arrive at workable, sustainable, economically viable projects,” he said.

He emphasised that biomass solutions developed for J&K could not simply be replicated from other parts of the country because resources, geography and climatic conditions differed.

“The biomass of Jammu and Kashmir will not be the same as the biomass of Maharashtra, will not be the same as the biomass of Tamil Nadu,” he said, calling for localized and indigenized solutions.

The Chief Minister suggested that the convention should produce concrete recommendations that could be examined by the J&K Government and shared with the Government of India and other states.

He said the focus should be on technologies and models that can simultaneously address waste management, energy generation, environmental sustainability and economic viability.

“Let us arrive at localized, sustainable, economical solutions,” Omar said.

He expressed hope that the deliberations would result in actionable recommendations and practical ideas capable of translating scientific research into field-level solutions. (ONS)

Crime Branch Raids

the Crime Branch teams searched the residences of the prime accused and his brother as part of the ongoing investigation. The searches were aimed at collecting evidence and examining material that could help establish the sequence of events and the alleged involvement of those accused.

In a related development, the services of a Hospital Development Fund (HDF) sanitation worker at District Hospital Kishtwar were terminated with immediate effect following her arrest in the case on August 30.

The termination order cited the “extremely grave and serious” nature of the allegations and offences, saying her continuation in service was incompatible with the discipline, integrity, reputation and functioning of a public health institution.

The latest developments come amid heightened scrutiny of the case and the alleged role of hospital staff in the circumstances surrounding the girl’s death.

Forged Teacher

have been identified as Nisar Ahmad Bhat, Shakir Gull, Mohammad Ayaz Rather, Sheikh Ruhail Ahmad and Tanveer Ahmad Rather.

The case came to light after the Director, School Education Kashmir, reported that the three individuals had joined as teachers in Zone Nagam on the basis of purported transfer or adjustment orders allegedly issued by the Directorate.

During the investigation, the orders were found to bear forged signatures as well as fictitious order and dispatch/endorsement numbers.

Records from the ZEO Nagam and CEO Budgam confirmed that Rather, Ruhail and Tanveer had been adjusted on the basis of the questioned documents. Verification from the Directorate further revealed that its order book had been closed on December 31, 2019, establishing that the order and endorsement numbers cited in the documents were fictitious.

The investigation also found that the three individuals had never been appointed anywhere in the Education Department, officials said.

According to the Crime Branch, Nisar Ahmad

Bhat and Shakir Gull acted as facilitators, with Bhat allegedly arranging the means and machinery used to fabricate and print the forged official documents.

The agency said the allegations were substantiated during the investigation and the chargesheet was presented before the court for judicial determination.

HC Denies Bail

time, the investigation had progressed, with witness statements recorded, the vehicle allegedly used in the incident seized, and material gathered through analysis of call-detail records, the court noted.

The High Court also considered Krishan’s criminal antecedents. The prosecution placed on record details of three previous FIRs, including two cases stated to be pending before the competent court and another under investigation.

The court further noted the allegation that the petitioner had failed to disclose one of the previous FIRs in his bail application. It observed that a person seeking discretionary relief such as bail is expected to make a full and candid disclosure of all material facts, including criminal antecedents.

The court said that while deciding a bail application, several factors have to be considered, including the prima facie material against the accused, gravity of the allegations, possibility of absconding, likelihood of witness intimidation or evidence tampering, criminal antecedents and the potential impact of release on the ongoing investigation.

The High Court also took into account the petitioner’s position as a former Sarpanch and his standing in the locality.

“In view of his standing in the locality and his criminal antecedents, his release at this stage gives rise to a reasonable apprehension that he may interfere with the ongoing investigation, tamper with the evidence, or influence and intimidate the witnesses, thereby causing a sense of insecurity among the victims and their family members and adversely affecting not only the fair course of the investigation and the administration of criminal justice but also the sense of security and confidence of the society at large,” the court said and dismissed the bail application.

Jobless Youth Seek

to Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules issued in 2020 during Central rule in the Union Territory.

“The Board shall invite applications for the said posts from persons who are domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and are within the prescribed age and possess the minimum and maximum qualification as prescribed in notification SRO-99 of 2008,” reads S.O. 184 issued by the General Administration Department on June 4, 2020.

Graduates, Postgraduates Left Out

The existing rule has left tens of thousands of graduates and other highly qualified unemployed youth ineligible for Class IV recruitment.

Official data cited in the report shows that more than 25,000 students graduate annually from colleges and universities across J&K, while thousands more complete postgraduate, professional and technical courses each year.

According to figures presented by the J&K Government in the Assembly last year, graduates and postgraduates account for around one-third of the total registered unemployed youth in the Union Territory.

The figures include 66,628 unemployed graduates and 47,114 postgraduates.

The youth demanding removal of the upper qualification bar argue that candidates with higher educational qualifications should not be automatically excluded from Class IV recruitment, particularly amid limited employment opportunities.

Ladakh Removes Qualification Cap

The issue has also gained attention after the Union Territory of Ladakh recently removed the maximum educational qualification bar for Class IV posts.

The development has further strengthened demands among unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir for a similar change in the recruitment rules.

The demand comes as the JKSSB has opened recruitment for around 2,800 Class IV posts, once again bringing the qualification restriction into focus.

J&K Hospitals

GMC Doda and SKIMS Bemina. The interns have also stayed away from routine duties as part of the agitation.

The protesting interns said the stipend has remained unchanged for nearly seven years despite rising living costs, long working hours and increasing clinical responsibilities.

“We are working in emergency departments, wards and other clinical areas, often during night and extended shifts. Despite these responsibilities, we are receiving only Rs 12,300 a month. The amount is simply not proportionate to the work we are doing,” said Dr Tasaduq, a protesting intern.

Another intern said interns play an important role in the functioning of government hospitals by assisting senior doctors in emergency care, OPDs and wards.

The protesters also highlighted the disparity between Jammu and Kashmir and several other states, where medical interns receive substantially higher stipends for comparable duties.

Dr Ikhtlas, another protesting intern, said the existing stipend effectively amounts to around Rs 400 a day.

“Our stipend has remained unchanged for nearly seven years. We perform the same clinical duties as interns elsewhere, including emergency and night duties, but our remuneration remains around Rs 400 a day. We want the government to consider our demand seriously and raise it to Rs 30,000,” he said.

The interns said the matter had already been taken up with the government, including through a committee that recommended revision, but implementation had been delayed.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo had on Monday termed the demand genuine and said the proposal was pending with the Finance Department.

The interns, however, have sought a time-bound decision and written assurance, saying verbal assurances were insufficient after years of delay.

They said the strike would continue until their demand for a stipend revision is addressed. [KNT]

Tall Walnut Trees, Unsafe Harvesting Claim Four Lives in Kashmir

Agencies

QAZIGUND: As the walnut harvesting season begins across Kashmir, falls from tall and slippery trees have claimed at least four lives of seasonal workers, once again highlighting the occupational hazards associated with the traditional harvesting practice.

One of the deceased, Mohammad Maqbool Bhat of Damjan, Qazigund, was the lone breadwinner of his family and is survived by two young children. Ghulam Mohammad Ganai of Laribal, Tral, died after falling while threshing walnuts and later succumbed at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.

In Uri, 35-year-old Ashiq Husain of Pawadan village died after falling from a walnut tree while threshing walnuts. Another worker, Hilal Ahmad Mir of Puchal, Pulwama, also died after sustaining serious injuries in a fall.

The deaths have renewed concerns over the safety of workers



who climb tall walnut trees without specialised protective equipment. A 2025 study, From Injury to Economic Strain: Assessing the Unseen Costs of Labour Risks in Kashmir's Walnut Harvesting Industry, examined 150 labourers in Kupwara and Ganderbal and hospital records of 95 workers

treated at SKIMS Soura during the harvesting season.

The study identified falls from heights as the major occupational hazard, with workers suffering spinal injuries, head trauma, internal bleeding and lung damage. Of the 95 hospital cases examined, 12 workers were brought dead, while another 13 died

within 24 to 72 hours of admission.

Workers typically spend 7.5 to 8.5 hours a day during the harvesting season and often use long bamboo or wooden sticks while working at considerable heights. The absence of helmets, harnesses and fall-arrest systems, coupled with rain and slippery conditions, increases the danger.

The study recommended mechanical harvesting and pruning equipment, mandatory safety kits, worker training, health insurance and compensation for injured workers and families of those killed.

Farmers have also called for replacing ageing, tall walnut trees with shorter hybrid varieties that can reduce the need for climbing.

Nazir Ahmad Khatana, a walnut farmer from Nagrass Qazigund, said hybrid walnut plants should be provided to farmers free of cost. "Old trees need to be replaced as many of them have low yields, while decomposed branches also pose a serious risk to workers," he said.

Kashmir is among India's major walnut-producing regions. Departmental data puts walnut cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir at around 95,601 hectares, accounting for more than 85 per cent of the country's walnut cultivation area. Kashmir accounts for around 56,721 hectares, with Anantnag, Budgam and Pulwama among the major producing districts.

However, growers are also facing growing market pressure from imported walnuts, particularly from China, Chile and California.

Haji Bhadur Khan, president of the Fruit Association, said the five per cent GST on walnuts had increased the financial burden on growers and made locally produced walnuts less competitive.

He urged the government to reduce GST on walnuts to zero per cent and take steps to address the influx of cheaper imported walnuts, which he said was adversely affecting the market for Kashmiri produce. —(KNO)

J&K Bank Disburses Loans to Over 3,100 Youth under 'Big Week' Campaign

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has disbursed credit to more than 3,100 aspiring entrepreneurs as part of the 'Big Week Campaign' under Mission YUVA, marking a significant milestone in the government's youth employment and entrepreneurship initiative.

The achievement was highlighted at a closing ceremony held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters here, co-presided over by J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and Secretary to the Government, Labour & Employment and Revenue Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan (IAS).

Director Employment and Mission Director, Mission YUVA, Harvinder Singh (IAS), senior officers of the Bank and government officials were also present. The Bank's divisional heads, along with zonal and cluster heads from across Jammu and Kashmir, participated virtually.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan lauded J&K Bank's role



in implementing Mission YUVA, saying the Bank had been an integral partner of the programme since its conceptualisation.

He said dignified employment was fundamental to a dignified life and every loan disbursed under the initiative represented more than a financial transaction, guiding young people towards enterprise and hope.

Ranjan said Mission YUVA had attracted the attention of key stakeholders in the country's governance system, with entrepreneurship and self-employment emerging as important avenues to address unemployment. He described the initiative as an "extraordinary journey" that could emerge as a model for the rest of the country.

Chatterjee said close coordination between the government and the Bank had been a key factor behind the programme's progress. He termed the government's sustained reviews and follow-up of the initiative unprecedented and said Mission YUVA demonstrated how thorough groundwork could translate into tangible outcomes.

However, he stressed that the focus must extend beyond merely setting up enterprises.

"Setting up enterprises alone should not be our objective. Their sustainability and expansion—supported through the second phase of Bank finance—will ensure their meaningful contribution to J&K's GDP," he said.

PARAS Health to Hold Free Multispeciality Camp in Kishtwar on Sept 5-6

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: PARAS Health Srinagar, in association with Tariq Memorial Trust, Kishtwar, will organise a two-day Free Mega Multispeciality Health Camp in Kishtwar on September 5 and 6, aimed at taking specialised healthcare services closer to people in the region.

The outreach initiative is part of PARAS Health Srinagar's broader healthcare programme focused on improving access to specialist medical advice, particularly for communities that may face difficulties in reaching advanced healthcare facilities.

During the camp, residents of Kishtwar and adjoining areas will be able to avail themselves of free consultations in cardiology, urology, orthopaedics and gastroenterology.

The specialist panel will include Dr Mohsin Raj Man-to, Cardiologist; Dr Younis Mushtaq, Urologist; Dr Yawar Hyder, Orthopaedic Specialist; and Dr Wajeed Yousuf, Gastroenterologist.



Besides specialist consultations, the camp will offer free ECG, Random Blood Sugar (RBS) testing and blood pressure monitoring.

Facility Director, Dr Murtuza Habib, said healthcare should not be limited by geographical boundaries and stressed the importance of taking specialist expertise closer to communities.

"Our outreach initiatives are aimed at taking specialist expertise closer to communities and ensuring that people have access to timely medical advice and screening," he said.

He said the initiative was also intended to promote preventive healthcare and encourage early detection of medical conditions.

"Kishtwar has a strong need for accessible specialist healthcare. Through

such camps, we want to bridge the distance between patients and specialised medical expertise while creating greater awareness about timely diagnosis and treatment," Habib said.

PARAS Health Srinagar said its outreach programme would continue to focus on extending healthcare services to different parts of Jammu and Kashmir through multispeciality camps and other community-based initiatives.

CS Reviews Nearly ₹40,000 Cr Highway & Tunnel Projects Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo reviewed the progress of the Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure and Connectivity Development Programme, encompassing a massive portfolio of National Highways, tunnels, flyovers, viaducts, bridges, ring roads and other strategic connectivity projects being executed across the Union Territory through BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL and the Public Works (R&B) Department.

The comprehensive review also covered a substantial pipeline of projects at DPR and in-principle stages, being prepared for sanction and inclusion in the upcoming work plans of the respective executing agencies under various Government of India programmes.

The meeting was attended by ACS, PWD; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/ Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; Chief Engineer, Project Beacon/ SAMPARK; Chief Engineers of PWD; Regional Officers of NHAI and NHIDCL; and senior officers and representatives of concerned departments and executing agencies.

Taking detailed stock of the progress of individual highway and tunnel projects, the Chief Secretary sought updates on their physical progress and probable dates of completion. He emphasized the transformative significance of these mega connectivity projects for Jammu & Kashmir and directed the Divisional and District Administrations to remain in close coordination with the executing agencies for swift resolution of bottlenecks and ensuring satisfactory pace of work.

UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NIT No- 97 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 01.09.2026 (3rd call).

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
1	Fencing around dumping site/ proposed land for solid waste Management in estate Dhamambal Tehsil Sopore.	76.39	1600	152780/-	06 Months	07.09. 2026	AAY	Own Re-sources of MC Sopore	SE(R&B)Bla-69 of 2026-27 dated: 19.10.2024

Project Authority: MC Sopore

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA. Accorded Chief Executive Officer Municipal Counsel Sopore vide his order No: MC/Spr/24-25/63 of 2024 dated: 05.10.2024

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

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	01.09.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.09.2026 to 07.09.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	01.09.2026
4	Bid submission End date	07.09.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	08.09.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

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

3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.03 of 2026-27.

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

22: If the Contractor breaches the contract, the Department reserves the right to award the remaining work to new bidders at the defaulting contractor's expense immediately after the notice of breach has been served on the defaulter. In the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, the Performance Security will be forfeited along with the termination of contract termination. Furthermore, the defaulting contractor will be barred from participating in future from participating in R&B Department in Bidding Processes for a period of one year. Any Subsequent Breach shall result in process of irrevocable cancellation of Registration.

23 The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal, while participating in the tendering process it should be ensured that all bank account of contractors mapped on JKPWDOMS must be linked with PAN No, GST No and ADHAAR No as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No : 7111-20

Dated: 01.09.2026.

DIPK-5240-26

DT: 02/09/2026

sd/-

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Sopore

PM SHRI SCHOOL

JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SHOPIAN

NOTIFICATION FOR LAUNCHING OF ONLINE PORTAL

FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR CLASSE S IX & X I L E ST-2027

Online Registration portal for filling up vacant seats through Lateral Entry Selection Test (LEST)-2027 for admission to classes IX & XI for the session (2027-28) is launched. The candidates may apply free of cost by visiting the following links:

For class IX: https://cbseitms.nic.in/2026/nvsix_9

For class XI: https://cbseitms.nic.in/2026/nvsxi_11

The last date of submission of online application is 30.09.2026. The Prospectus is available on the registration portal.

DIPK-5255-26

DT: 02/09/2026

Principal

JNV SHOPIAN

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL,

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

GANDERBAL, KASHMIR-193504.

Mob: 94195 81530, 94197 77355 | www.acetkashmir.ac.in

e-mail: gcet-kashmir@jk.gov.in , gcetkashmir@gmail.com

No: GCET/26/1009

Dated: 01-09-2026

(EXTENSION OF LAST DATE)

ADV. NOTICE NO: GCET/26/893 , DATED: 05-08-2026

The last date for the submission of Application Forms in response to the detailed Advertisement Notice for engagement as Assistant Professors /Teaching Assistants/Assistant Librarian on Academic Arrangement (Need basis) in Government College of Engineering & Technology, Ganderbal Kashmir has been extended till 14-09-2026 (4 pm).

DIPK-5216-26

DT: 02/09/2026

Principal,

GCET, Ganderbal

از سرشتہ پنچایت سیکرٹری حلقہ تولہ باغ بلاک شیرپتھری نوٹس برائے کھلی بولی

برخاص و عام کو بذریعہ نوٹس بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ پلانٹیشن بیٹ سندھ مل حلقہ تولہ باغ کے درختان جس میں سفیدہ 154 عدد دیگر 60 عدد اور بان 1 عدد، جو کہ موقع پر مارک شدہ اور گرے ہوتے ہیں۔ لہذا اب ان کی بولی پکارنی مطلوب ہے۔ بوقت دوپہر 12:00 بجے بتاریخ 21 ستمبر 2026، بروز سوموار، بمقام پنچایت گھر تولہ باغ لہذا خواہشمند حضرات سے استماعا کی جاتی ہے کہ وقت اور تاریخ مقررہ پر آکر بولی میں شمولیت کرے۔

شرائط بولی بذیل ہیں

(1) قبل از شمولیت بولی مبلغ CDR (Rs80,000) فی ڈی ڈی او شیرپتھری کے نام رکھنا لازمی ہے۔

(2) پنچایت سیکرٹری حلقہ تولہ باغ (بولی میں اگر H1، بولی چھوڑ کر جا لگا تو رخصانت ضبط ہوگا اور H1 اور H2 کے درمیان بولی میں RS5000 سے کم فرق ہوگا تو بولی H2 کو بولی مل سکتی ہے۔

(3) بولی دس دن کے لئے تحت قواعد کھلی رکھی جا سکتی تاکہ بولی میں بذریعہ درخواست کم از کم دس فیصد بوجھا سکتا ہے

(4) بولی میں صرف وہی اشخاص حصہ لے سکتے ہیں جو متروک وقت سے پہلے CDR جمع کرینگے

(5) مزید شرائط بولی موقع پر سنائے جائینگے

پنچایت سیکرٹری حلقہ تولہ باغ

DIPK-5225-26

DT: 02/09/2026

NO: PYT/TUL/001

DATE: 31 August 2026

UN: World Nears 1.5°C Warming Threshold

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Global temperature rise is set to cross the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold, likely within the next few years, intensifying extreme weather, ecosystem loss and submersion of small island developing nations, according to a new UN report released on Wednesday.

The report, "Limiting Overshoot", released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) emphasised the need for immediate and sustained cuts to greenhouse gas emissions.

"Global temperature rise is set to cross 1.5°C, likely within the next few years, pushing climate

risks and impacts to increasingly dangerous heights, but it is still possible to bring temperatures down and achieve global goals in the Paris Agreement," the report said.

Above 1.5 degrees Celsius, risks and impacts will intensify with every extra fraction of a degree and every year. Expected impacts include intensified extreme weather, ecosystem loss, and submersion of small island developing states, and low-lying coastal cities, it said.

It identified an "overshoot, peak, and decline" pathway as the best remaining option to minimise the magnitude



and duration of the overshoot and to try to return to below 1.5 degrees Celsius as soon as possible.

In a statement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "This summer's scorching heat, raging wildfires and deadly floods are a warning of what lies ahead. We must make the overshoot above 1.5 degrees as small and short as possible. That demands an overshoot of ambition."

There is a need to minimise peak temperature rise through immediate and sustained cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, on the road to net-zero, said the report.

Moreover, temperatures must be brought down through long-term net-negative emissions, with carefully governed Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) -- the process of removing carbon from the air and storing it through afforestation or other means -- as an essential part of the mix.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, said, "Now is the time we must double down on climate action. We can -- and must -- get on the right path. By cutting greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience and adaptation, and ensuring exceedance of 1.5 degrees Celsius is as small and short as possible."

Tata Trusts Flags India's Growing Dementia Challenge

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: As India moves towards an increasingly ageing population, there is a need to go beyond early detection and build a stronger, more collaborative ecosystem to address dementia, Tata Trusts said on Wednesday.

Dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with daily life.

"Dementia will be one of the defining health conversations in India over the next three decades. Our effort is to build a shared, evidence-based understanding of dementia in India, one that looks beyond the disease to the realities of the individual and the caregiver and seeks to build an ecosystem of care around them," Tata Trusts CEO Siddharth Sharma said in a statement.

A 2023 AIIMS-USC study estimates that the number of Indian seniors living with dementia could reach 16.9 million by 2036, nearly doubling earlier than expected.

Ramani Sundaram, Executive Director, Dementia India Alliance stated that

early detection of dementia is an important first step, but it cannot exist in isolation.

"India today has fewer than 50 full-fledged dementia care centres. We need a stronger, more connected dementia ecosystem - one that supports individuals and caregivers, equips families with resources and knowledge to navigate this difficult journey, and brings healthcare, communities, workplaces and policymakers together to respond proactively and effectively," she added.

Dr Anura Kurpad, Senior Advisor, Health, said people often describe changes in memory, behaviour or everyday functioning simply as old age but these changes can be early signs of dementia and should not be ignored.

"While there is currently no cure for dementia, an early diagnosis can be transformative. Literature on the subject underscores a critical health prevention window and we need to utilise that through systemic action on modifiable risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension and other lifestyle factors," she added.

Xi Visits Egypt, Deepens China's Mideast Push

AP

CAIRO: On the surface, Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Egypt this week is a run-of-the-mill opportunity for two countries to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties.

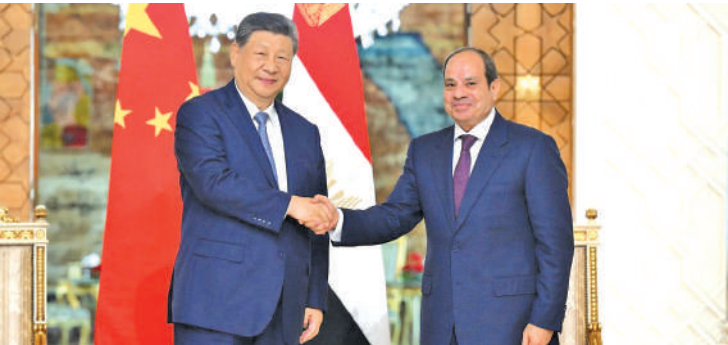
But there is deep subtext to the meeting between Xi and President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi: China, the United States' top global rival, is cultivating an extensive relationship with one of America's key allies in the Middle East as it moves to expand its influence in the rapidly changing region.

Xi aims to present China as a stabiliser in the region and contrast it with the United States, which for decades has been militarily entangled there -- its six-month war with Iran being just the latest example.

"China continues to build up its soft power reserves while the United States self-sabotages its own stock," Amr Hamzawy, director of the Washington-based Carnegie Middle East Program, wrote in a paper earlier this year along with Kathryn Selfe, a former fellow at the program.

Xi arrived on Tuesday evening at Cairo airport, which was adorned with Chinese and Egyptian flags. El-Sissi and military guards greeted him on the tarmac with a red-carpet ceremony.

In wide-range talks Wednesday, Xi said Cairo and Beijing should



jointly oppose what he called "unilateralism and acts of bullying," according to China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

The Chinese leader also called for the two countries to "work together for a more just and equitable global governance system," Xinhua reported.

Xi's first visit to region since 2022

Xi, who plans to visit the Grand Egyptian Museum, near the pyramids of Giza, is on his first trip to Egypt in a decade, the first time he has been in the region since visiting Saudi Arabia in 2022. El-Sissi has visited China multiple times in recent years.

The leaders marked 70 years of diplomatic ties by publishing friendly opinion pieces on Tuesday in Egypt's state-run newspapers.

Xi wrote that Beijing and Cairo should "expand the scope of pragmatic collaboration" through development. El-Sissi lauded China's

Restored 'Pakeezah' Set For France, UK Premieres

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI, SEP 2 (PTI) A 4K restored version of Meena Kumari-starrer 1972 classic "Pakeezah" is set to have its world premiere at Festival Lumiere in Lyon, France, and the BFI London Film Festival.

The restoration on the movie, directed by Kamal Amrohi, was spearheaded by not-for-profit organisation Film Heritage Foundation, which spent two years to bring the film to its original glory.

The world premiere in Lyon will be led by Cannes and Lumiere chief Thierry Frémaux.

From France, the film will travel to London for a gala screening at the BFI IMAX, that will be presented by FHF director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur alongside Amrohi's children, Tajdar and Rukhsaar and grandson Bilal Amrohi.

Hailed by the late film critic Derek Malcolm as one of the most extraordinary musical melodramas ever made, "Pakeezah" boasts a legendary, production-plagued history that mirrors the high drama and heartbreak of its onscreen narrative.

Dungarpur said restoring

"Pakeezah" has been a long-held dream for him ever since he saw the movie as a child with his grandmother in a cinema hall in Dumraon, Bihar. He thanked Bilal for being the "moving spirit" behind the restoration work.

"The restoration of 'Pakeezah' took two years. It has been one of the most exciting yet one of the most challenging restorations I have worked on. When I went to inspect the original camera negative and saw that it had almost melted, my heart sank.

"And the other film elements we had to work with were not in good condition with faded colours, scratches and mould... I wondered how I would be able to restore Kamal Amrohi's original vision with what I had to work with," Dungarpur said in a statement.

During their research, the FHF team discovered original film stills which helped in restoration. Dungarpur also consulted Kamal Amrohi's children -- son Tajdar and daughter Rukhsaar -- who had visited the sets and had vivid memories from the making of the film.

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