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World Leaders Arrive In Delhi For 18th BRICS Summit



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and several other leaders arrived in Delhi on Friday to attend the two-day BRICS summit that gets underway from September 12.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Vice President of Uganda Jessica Alupo and Vice

President of Nigeria Sen. Kashim Shettima have also reached the national capital for the mega conclave.

India is hosting the 18th BRICS summit at Bharat Mandapam on September 12 and 13.

India assumed its fourth BRICS Chairship on January 1. The year 2026 also marks a milestone as BRICS completes 20 years since its establishment.

"Warmly welcome President Cyril Ramaphosa | [More on P6](#)

Modi Pushes BRICS to Remove Trade Barriers, Ensure Freedom of Navigation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for BRICS to turn its growing economic weight into greater investment and expanded business ties, stressing that freedom of navigation, secure sea lanes and the safety of seafarers were essential to keeping global trade running. Addressing the BRICS Business Forum in India, Modi urged the grouping to identify and remove its top 10 trade

Digital Transformation

J&K Bank Wins Best Bank Award



Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank has won the 'Best Bank Award for Digital Transformation in Banking' at the Navabharat BFSI Summit & Awards 2026 held in Mumbai.

The award recognises the bank's digital initiatives and deployment of technology aimed at transforming customer-facing banking services.

J&K Bank Zonal Head (Mumbai) | [More on P6](#)

J&K to Set Up Project Monitoring Group

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is set to establish a dedicated Project Monitoring Group (JK-PMG) on the lines of the National Project Monitoring Group (PMG) to ensure high-level monitoring of mega developmental projects and facilitate coordinated resolution of bottlenecks affecting their execution.

The institutional framework for replicating the national mechanism in the Union Territory was presented before Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo by

representatives of the National PMG.

The proposed system aims to strengthen project oversight, improve inter-departmental coordination and ensure timely intervention in matters involving land acquisition, statutory clearances, construction approvals and other implementation-related issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed leveraging technology to move from periodic status reporting to real-time, milestone-based project monitoring.

He said the | [More on P6](#)



A glacier winds through the rugged mountains of Kargil, showcasing the region's dramatic high-altitude landscape. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

₹3,568-Cr Singhpura-Vailoo Tunnel Project Moves Ahead

NHIDCL Invites Bids for 20.7-Km Twin-Tube Tunnel

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The long-pending Singhpura-Vailoo twin-tube tunnel project under Sinthan Pass is set to move ahead, with the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) inviting bids for its construction along the Kishtwar-Vailoo-Khanabal section of National Highway-244.

The project, estimated to cost 3,567.51 crore, is aimed at providing an all-weather connectivity link between Kishtwar in the Chenab Valley and Anantnag in south Kashmir, offering an alternative to the Sinthan Top route that frequently remains closed during winter due to heavy snowfall.

According to a Notice Inviting Bid issued by NHIDCL, a copy of which lies with the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the 38.611-km highway package will be executed in



Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.

The package includes construction of a 10.331-km left tunnel tube and a 10.363-km right tunnel tube, along with approach roads and associated infrastructure. The stipulated construction period is 60 months, followed by a 120-month maintenance period.

The project will connect Chhatroo in Kishtwar district with Vailoo in Anantnag

district. The eastern approach from Chhatroo to the tunnel portal will cover 17.088 km, while the western approach towards Vailoo will extend for 11.160 km, including the portal section.

The eastern portal, proposed near Singhpura in Kishtwar district, will be located at an elevation of around 2,243 metres, while the western portal at Gadole will be at approximately 2,404 metres. | [More on P6](#)

Ladakh Groups Drop Statehood Demand, Seek Elected Govt



Agencies

Srinagar: The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic

Alliance (KDA) have dropped their demand for full statehood for Ladakh and are now seeking a full-fledged elected legislature with their own MLAs and Chief Minister, besides control over police and law and order, LAB chairman Chering Dorjey Lakruk told the news agency Kashmir News Trust.

"We have abandoned the demand for statehood," Dorjey said, explaining that the focus of the LAB and KDA was now on securing a

full-fledged elected government within the existing Union Territory framework.

He said the proposed arrangement should include an elected Legislative Assembly, elected MLAs and a Chief Minister heading the government.

Dorjey said the elected government should also have control over police and law and order, which, he said, was an important part of the demand being placed before the Centre.

The development assumes significance against the backdrop of the ongoing talks | [More on P6](#)

No Action On Demands, NHM Staff Extend Strike

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued across Jammu and Kashmir for the third consecutive day on Friday, with the employees extending their ongoing 72-hour strike by another 72 hours from September 12, citing the government's failure to take concrete and time-bound action on their long-pending demands.

The decision was taken by the Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) UT-Level Coordination Committee, which said the extension was necessary as the issues raised by NHM employees remained unresolved despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from the authorities.

According to details obtained by the news agency, Kashmir News Observer (KNO), employees associated with various NHM programmes and health services continued their



peaceful protests at district, block and field-level establishments across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The protesting workforce includes employees working under various NHM programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). They have been seeking a comprehensive policy addressing their remuneration, employment security and social-security concerns.

The Association said thousands of NHM employees have served the public healthcare system under contractual arrangements | [More on P6](#)

J&K Families Feel The Pinch As Essential Prices Stay High

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Household budgets across Jammu and Kashmir continue to face pressure from the rising cost of essential commodities, with consumers reporting higher prices of food and other daily-use items despite the administration's price-monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

The latest available J&K price data shows retail prices of several essential commodities at elevated levels. The average retail price of milk stands at 62.67 per litre, while sugar is priced at 63.33 per kilogram. Moong dal is recorded at 121.33 per kilogram and masoor dal at 104.33 per kilogram.

For consumers, the impact extends beyond the headline inflation rate, as household expenditure is shaped by the prices families actually pay for food, cooking essentials and other daily-use commodities



in local markets.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics has an official mechanism for monitoring prices across the Union Territory. Retail prices of essential commodities are collected from selected markets and shops in all 20 districts and analysed to identify price fluctuations and regulate supplies. Daily prices of 22 essential commodities are also submitted to the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs for monitoring.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department is responsible for monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities and protecting consumer interests. Its enforcement machinery includes the Legal Metrology Department, which checks compliance relating to packaged commodities, weights, measures and pricing.

The authorities have also taken enforcement action in recent months.

The Legal Metrology Department said it realised about 44.55 lakh in revenue and 9.10 lakh through composition during August 2026, while more than 50 improvement notices were served to establishments for minor or rectifiable deficiencies. In September, two online sellers were also penalised 25,000 each in a consumer-protection action.

In Jammu, a market inspection conducted in Trikuta Nagar and | [More on P6](#)



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Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Email ID: xened2nd@gmail.com ;Tel/Fax No. 0194-2311374

EXTENSION NOTICE NO. 1

Due to poor response, the last date for submission of e-bid in respect of this office's e-NIT No. ED-II/12 of 2026-27; Dated : 17/08/26 issued vide this office endorsement No. ED-II/9253-60/TS; Dated: 17/08/26, having Tender ID : 2026_PDD_321311_1 for "R&M of Distribution Sub-station under Capex 2026-27 for ED-II Rajbagh under(nR and M of Distribution Sub-station for various divisions of KPDCL for under the jurisdiction of CP&AO KPDCL PDDSS2627100236)" is hereby now extended with the details enumerated below :

Last Date for receipt of e-Bids online (Extended)	19-09-2026; 04:00 PM
Bid Opening Date (Extended)	21-09-2026; 02:30 PM

However, the rest of the terms and conditions as laid down in the e-NIT shall remain the same.

-SD-
Executive Engineer
KPDCL, ED-2nd,Rajbagh
Srinagar

No.:ED-II/TS/11021-29
DIPK-NB-1607/26
Dated: 11/09/26

OFFICE OF THE EXCUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION KULGAM KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

MINI SECTARIATE KULGAM
PHONE & FAX No. 01931-260386

Nazir Ahmad Itoo, S/O: Gh. Mohd.
R/O: Gopalpora Ph.No.

EDK/5762-64

Dated: 11-9-2026

Subject:- Show Cause Notice.

References: - 1. This office letter No. EDK/633-35 dated: - 29.04.2026
2. Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School KBPora's letter No. SS/KBP/106/26 dated: 12.05.2026..
3. This office letter no. EDK/1034-35 dated: - 19.05.2026.
4. Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Bijbehara's letter No. SE/O&M/Bij/AS/2345-47 dated: 23.06.2026.

1. Whereas, discrepancies have been noticed in your recorded date of birth. As per the Aadhaar-based Biometric Authentication, your date of birth is 02.05.1962, whereas the department seniority list reflects your date of birth as 08.05.1971.
2. Whereas, this office vide letter No. EDK/7531-32 dated: -10.03.2026, has communicated the discrepancies found in your date of birth to the Superintending Engineer Circle Bijbehara for necessary instructions.
3. Whereas the Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Bijbehara vide letter No. SE/O&M/AS/10907-08 dated: - 24.03.2026, directed this office to verify the authenticity of the date of birth certificate from the concerned school/competent issuing authority.
4. Whereas, accordingly this office approached the Principal, Govt. Higher Secondary School K.B. Pora Noorabad vide letter No. EDK/633-35 dated: 29.04.2026 for verification of the certificate submitted by you.
5. Whereas, the Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School K.B. Pora vide letter no. HSS/KBP/106/26 dated: - 12.05.2026 reported that the certificate submitted by your is fraudulent and not genuine.
6. Whereas, the matter was subsequently reported to the notice of Superintending Engineer Circle Bijbehara vide this office letter No. EDK/1034-35 dated: - 19.05.2026, and the Superintending Engineer vide the above cited reference, directed this office to proceed in accordance with the prescribed procedure.
Now through the medium of this communication, you, Nazir Ahmad Itoo S/O: Gh. Mohd R/O: Gopalpora engaged as TDL/PDL is hereby called upon to show cause and explain your position within seven days' time from the date of issuance of this notice as to why action including termination of your services from PDL/TDL should not be taken against you in light of the above facts and the directions issued by the Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Bijbehara.
As such through this Publication the concerned individual is afforded every reasonable opportunity to respond and to avoid any future dispute or claim regarding non service of the notice and no claim whatsoever regarding non receipt or non-service of the Show Cause Notice shall be entertained by this office in respect of the proposed action relating to his engagement as TDL/PDL after the publication.

DIPK-NB-1608/26

Executive Engineer
Electric Division Kulgam

dated: 11-09-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Abdul Rashid Khanday, S/o Abdul Rahman Khanday, R/o Shallabugh, Tehsil Tulumulla, District Ganderbal, intend to correct my name in my Service Record from "Ab Rashid Khanday" to "Abdul Rashid Khanday, S/o Abdul Rahman Khanday, R/o Shallabugh, Tehsil Tulumulla, District Ganderbal".Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Abdul Rashid Khanday for all purposes and official records.

Anybody having any objection in this regard may submit his/her objection before the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Rashid Khanday
S/o Abdul Rahman Khanday
R/o Shallabugh, Tehsil Tulumulla, District Ganderbal

Media line left

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Iqbal S/o Syed Latiefululla, R/o Nargis Bag Chandil, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, have applied for correction of my Aadhaar records. My name and father's name have been wrongly recorded as Syed Mohammad Iqbal and Syed Mohammad Lateef, respectively, instead of my correct name Mohd Iqbal and father's name Syed Latiefululla, as per my School Certificate Record.

Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

zk

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject Application of RAFIA AKHTER & KHUSHNEEDA AKHTER D/O NOOR UD DIN KHAN R/O RESHIPORA for issuance of RBA in favor of Self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwai halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant in currently residing in village Sheikhpura and belongs to the Khan Community having annual Income of Rs 134000 The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No	Name Of The Family Member	Relationship With The Fammlly Head	Age	Occup ation	A n n u a l Income
1	Noor Du Din Khan	Father	55	Shopkee per	134000
2	Haneefa Begum	Mothers	50	H/W	
3	Rafia Akhter	Applicant	33	Student	
4	Khushneeda Akhter	Applicant	26	Student	
5	Ameer Din	Brother	21	Student	
6	Shumail Noor	Sister	19	Student	

Therefore, through this Public Notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/ she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published No objection shall be entertained alter the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar fko-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Basit Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Mir, R/o Zalura, District Baramulla, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Basit Ahmad Mir" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2012-5095-9947.

My correct and actual name is "Basit Bashir", as reflected in my school records. This notice is issued for correction of the said discrepancy in the relevant records.

BASIT BASHIR
S/o Bashhir Ahmad Mir
R/o Zalura District Baramulla fko

Meer Constructions & Suppliers Managing Partners

1. Parveze Ahmad Mir S/O Haji Ghulam Ahmed Mir R/O Gantamulla Tehsil Norvow District Baramulla JK 2. Mir Tawqeer Ahmad S/O Parvez Ahmad Mir R/O Gantamulla Tehsil Norvow District Baramulla JK is giving information to the general public that we intend to apply for "AAY" CLASS (FIRM) in the above mentioned name. Since we have an enlisted Registration card bearing Reg. No. 381/ AAY/CE/PDC/KCC/2002-2003 same is converted to Firm. If anybody has any objections may file it to Chief Engineer, CI&D wing PDC Bemina Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objections shall be accepted

MASS BMT.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK01AR 7257 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the RTO Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Khan Zeeshan
S/o Mohammad Amin Khan
R/o Mughal Mohalla Chattabal Srinagar mdl

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khan Zeeshan S/o Mohammad Amin Khan, R/o Daga Kadal, Owantabhwana, Srinagar, have lost the number plate of my motorcycle (Avenger), bearing Registration No. JK01AR7257, on 03/09/2026 while travelling from Soura, Srinagar to Illahi Bagh Chowk, Srinagar. The vehicle is registered in my name. Any person finding the said number plate or having any information/objection regarding its loss may inform the concerned Police Station. I shall be responsible for any misuse of the lost number plate.

Khan Zeeshan
Deponent fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Iqrar Ellahi Wani S/o Mohd Amin Wani, R/o Dedikoot, Tehsil Kupwara, District Kupwara, on behalf of myself, my sisters Shabnum Amin Wani and Rabiya Akhter, and my mother Raja Begum, hereby declare that none of us shall have any responsibility, liability or connection with any loan, money, debt or financial transaction entered into by our father, Mohd Amin Wani.

Any person, bank or financial institution dealing with him in this regard shall do so at their own risk and responsibility, and we shall not be held liable for any such transaction or its consequences.

Iqrar Ellahi Wani
For Self & Fam qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shobeena Kossar, W/o Imran Malik, R/o Saidpora Bala, Shopian, District Shopian, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Sabeena Begum" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8764 6864 6566.

I further declare that my correct and actual name is Shobeena Kossar instead of Sabeena Begum. The said discrepancy has also been reflected in my Domicile Certificate and school records due to an inadvertent oversight.

I hereby state that Sabeena Begum and Shobeena Kossar refer to one and the same person, and my correct name for all official and legal purposes shall be Shobeena Kossar. This notice is issued for the information of all concerned and for carrying out the necessary correction in the relevant records.

Sd/-
Shobeena Kossar
W/o Imran Malik
R/o Saidpora Bala, Shopian
District Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Malik, D/o Maheen Nazir, R/o Largam, District Shopian, do hereby solemnly declare as under:

That the actual and correct name of my daughter/ward is MAHEEN NAZIR, whereas her name has been incorrectly recorded as MAHEEN JAN in her Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 2066 0196 6116.

I further declare that Maheen Nazir and Maheen Jan refer to one and the same person, and that the discrepancy has occurred due to a clerical error in the Aadhaar records. Her correct name is MAHEEN NAZIR, as reflected in all her other personal and official documents.

This public notice is hereby issued for the information of all concerned and for the purpose of correction of her name in the Aadhaar Card and other relevant records. Any person having any objection to the said correction may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Malik
D/o Maheen Nazir
R/o Largam, District Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Javed Ahmad Bhat, F/o Muntaza Javed, R/o Gund-I-Hado, District Shopian, hereby declare and inform all concerned that the correct name and Date of Birth (D.O.B.) of my ward are Muntaza Javed, D.O.B. 06/06/2012, as recorded in her school and other official records.

However, her Aadhaar Card has incorrectly been issued in the name of Muntaha Jan, with D.O.B. 01/03/2008, bearing Aadhaar No. 7148 2775 1536.

The aforesaid discrepancy occurred due to a clerical error. Muntaha Jan and Muntaza Javed refer to one and the same person, and the correct D.O.B. is 06/06/2012.

This notice is hereby published for the information of all concerned and for carrying out the necessary correction in the Aadhaar Card and other relevant records. Any person having any objection in this regard may communicate the same to the undersigned/concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Javed Ahmad Bhat
F/o Muntaza Javed
R/o Gund-I-Hado, District Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aamir Maqbool S/o Mohmad Maqbool Bhat, R/o Wadura, Tehsil Zaingeer, District Baramulla, have applied for correction of my Aadhaar records. My name and father's name have been wrongly recorded as Mohammad Aamir Bhat and Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, whereas my correct name and father's name are Aamir Maqbool and Mohmad Maqbool Bhat, respectively, as per my Date of Birth Certificate. Mohammad Aamir Bhat and Aamir Maqbool refer to one and the same person.

Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar Authority within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Mohmad Zaman Khan** (Age: 59 years), S/o Sheer Ali Khan, R/o Brandub Rfd., Tehsil Rohama, District Baramulla, hereby declare that I am a domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and am permanently residing at the above-mentioned address.

I have obtained an Aadhaar Card bearing No. **5858 1329 8088**. However, my name and parentage have been wrongly recorded in the said Aadhaar Card as "**Mohammad Zaman Khan S/o Shir Ali Khan**", instead of my correct name and parentage, "**Mohmad Zaman Khan S/o Sheer Ali Khan.**"

I hereby affirm that **Mohmad Zaman Khan S/o Sheer Ali Khan** is my correct name and parentage as per my service records.

This notice is issued for the information of all concerned and for carrying out the necessary correction in my Aadhaar Card and other relevant records.

Mohmad Zaman Khan
S/o Sheer Ali Khan
R/o Brandub Rfd., Tehsil Rohama,
District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my service records the name is entered as MOHAMMAD SHAFI LONE Parentage ABDUL SATTAR LONE while my actual name is MOHD SHAFI LOAN Parentage AB SATAR LOAN. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact CHEIF EDUCATION OFFICER BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHD SHAFI LOAN
S/O AB SATAR LOAN
R/O LAKHRIPORA BUDGAM
CELL: 7006099605 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) JAHANGER AHMAD to (New name) JAHANGIR AHMAD BHAT . In future i will be known as (New Name) JAHANGIR AHMAD BHAT.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my name as mentioned in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No 207113222834 has been incorrectly recorded as NAZIMA ASHRAF while as my actual name is NAZIMA JAN . Now I want to apply for the correction of same in my Aadhar from old name NAZIMA ASHRAF to new name NAZIMA JAN . In future I will be known as NAZIMA JAN . Any person who has any objections or concerns regarding these changes is requested to raise them within 07 days from the date of this notice.

Name:- NAZIMA JAN D/O -MOHAMAD ASHRAF DAR
R/O-PETH MAKHAMA BEERWAH BUDGAM J&K 193411 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Afzal Chopan, F/o Rahiba Afzal, R/o Kharwara, Shopian, hereby declare that I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

I further declare that the name of my daughter, Rahiba Afzal, has been wrongly recorded as "Raidah Afzal" in her Aadhaar records. It is hereby clarified that "Raidah Afzal" and "Rahiba Afzal" refer to one and the same person, and the correct name is Rahiba Afzal.

This notice is being issued for information of all concerned and for the purpose of correction of the said discrepancy in the relevant records.

Mohammad Afzal Chopan F/o Rahiba Afzal
R/o Kharwara, Shopian fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death (BDO Tuijar Sharif)
Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Mohammad Hashim Mir S/o Saif U Din Mir R/o Zaloora , Tehsil Zaloora for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self Mohammad Hashim Mir born on (DOB 15-02-2015) and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

fko

اطلاع عام

برخاض و عام کو زیر ایشتر مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے کی ایک ریسٹ ڈیزیز ہیزیسز 0206010001207 جڑکھیر سے دادا کے نام پر بچتی غلام احمد غلو کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو ہیر سے نام بتنی محمد شرف غلو کے نام پر کروانا مطلب ہے۔ اس بار سے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی امراض ہو تو وہ سوات دن کے اندر اندر دیا کوئیہ بھیجیے۔ ڈی ڈی بڈ گام کے دفتر میں بھیجیں کریں۔ یہ یاد دلانے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

محمد شرف غلو ملو محمد ا احمد غلو سوا کن قاضی باغ بڈ گام
فونہ 7889419192 MBC-

Asgar Ali Returns to PDP, Joins Party in Sgr

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Former legislator and senior political leader Syed Asgar Ali has returned to the People's Democratic Party (PDP), rejoining the party in the presence of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti in Srinagar on Friday.

Ali, a former Member of the Legislative Council from Kishtwar, had been associated with the PDP for several years and held key organisational responsibilities, including membership of the party's Political Affairs Committee.

He subsequently left the PDP and joined the National Conference in 2019.

Welcoming his return, Mehbooba Mufti described Ali's rejoining as a significant development for the party in Jammu and Kashmir.

A prominent political figure from Kishtwar, Ali's return comes amid continuing political realignments in the Union Territory.

KU Hosts NABL Training to Strengthen Medical Laboratory Standards

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A five-day NABL Assessor Training Programme on "Strengthening Medical Laboratory Quality Assurance in J&K" concluded at the University of Kashmir (KU) on Friday, highlighting the need for quality assurance, standardisation and professional competence in medical laboratories.

The programme was organised by the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, KU, in collaboration with the State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K, and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Quality Council of India (QCI). It aimed to strengthen professional understanding of ISO 15189:2022 and laboratory assessment and accreditation processes.

While presiding over the valedictory-cum-ceremonial session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof Nilofer Khan, said quality laboratory systems are critical to accurate clinical diagnosis and effective patient care. She said such specialised training programmes help build professional competence and promote a cul-



ture of quality in healthcare.

"Consistency, quality and adherence to recognised standards are crucial to reliable laboratory practices," Prof Khan said, adding that the University would continue to promote collaborations and capacity-building initiatives with wider societal relevance.

Director SKIMS, Prof Mohd Ashraf Ganie in his remarks stressed the importance of institutional collaboration in strengthening clinical and paramedical care. He called for well-equipped laboratories, skilled human resources and stringent protocols, while underlining the importance

of human judgement alongside technological interventions.

Speaking on the occasion Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof Sharieffuddin Pirzada, and Dean Research, KU, Prof Bashir A. Ganai, emphasised quality-driven training and stronger linkages among universities, healthcare institutions and research organisations. They underlined the need to translate institutional collaborations into better professional practices and move from compliance towards sustained commitment to quality.

In their remarks Principal, Government Medical College Srinagar and Dean,

School of Medicine and School of Allied Sciences, University of Kashmir, Prof (Dr) Iffat Hassan Shah, and Dean, School of Biological Sciences, KU, Prof Fayaz Ahmad, highlighted the importance of accurate clinical findings in diagnosis and patient care. They said specialised academic and training initiatives can strengthen professional capacities and contribute to better healthcare outcomes.

Chairperson, State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K, Dr Sabhiya Majid, highlighted the Council's role in capacity-building of allied healthcare institutions, while Dr Ritu Kulshrestha, Joint Director, NABL-QCI, presented a brief report of the five-day programme and outlined its major components and outcomes.

Earlier, Head, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, KU, Dr Tanveer Ali Dar, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and highlighted the significance of the initiative. Prof Fouzia Rashid, Organising Secretary, delivered the vote of thanks, while Ms Beenish Shakeel conducted the proceedings of the valedictory session.



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-28243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 47
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	4: 58
Magrib	6: 53
ISHA	8: 15

Srinagar Court Declines Extension of Interim Bail to Junaid Qureshi, Orders Custody

Agencies

Srinagar: The 2nd Additional Sessions Court, Srinagar, on Friday declined the prayer for continuation of interim bail to Junaid Qureshi in connection with an alleged assault on his father, observing that fresh circumstances brought before the court, including CCTV footage and deterioration in the victim's medical condition, weighed against extending his interim liberty.

The court was hearing an application under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, in connection with FIR No. 83/2026 registered at Police Station Nishat under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

According to the order, the victim, identified as Mohammad Hashim Qureshi and stated to be the applicant's father, had sustained a deep and lacerated injury to his head after allegedly being pushed down from an attic/stair-

case area. The Investigating Officer informed the court that his condition had deteriorated and that he was presently admitted in the ICU.

The court recorded that CCTV footage produced by the Inves-

tingating Officer appeared, on a prima facie view, to depict the applicant pushing the victim, following which the victim fell down the stairs and sustained a head injury. The court clarified that it was not making any final finding on the admissibility or evidentiary value of the electronic material at the bail stage.

The victim, identified as Mohammad Hashim Qureshi and stated to be the applicant's father, had sustained a deep and lacerated injury to his head after allegedly being pushed down from an attic/staircase area

The prosecution had also opposed continuation of interim bail,

but held that the manner in which material antecedents are disclosed or not disclosed can be relevant while exercising discretionary bail jurisdiction.

The court also noted that the victim was the applicant's aged father and said the human dimension of the case could not be entirely overlooked, while making clear that the consideration did not amount to a finding of guilt.

The court observed that although the investigation had substantially progressed, the subsequent developments, including the CCTV footage and the victim's deteriorating condition requiring ICU admission, had to be considered while deciding whether the limited interim liberty should continue.

Consequently, the court declined the prayer for continuation or extension of interim bail. It directed that Qureshi be taken into custody and handed over to the concerned police station for further proceedings in accordance with law.

The court made it clear that its observations regarding the CCTV footage, medical condition of the victim and alleged criminal antecedents were confined to consideration of interim liberty and would not prejudice the accused or prosecution at the appropriate stage of the proceedings. [KNT]

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-TENDER NOTICE				
Tender Notice No:-141, 144-2026-27-ADEN-JRC & 142, 143-2026-27-ADEN-LDH				Date: 10.09.2026
Sr.DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date- 05.10.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments towards the tender document cost and Earnes money only through the payment modes available on www.reps.gov.in portal like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.reps.gov.in				
Tender Type		Tendering Section		Packet System
Open		Works		Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time
09.09.2026		21.09.2026		05.10.2026/15:00 Hrs
SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender		
1	141-2026-27-ADEN-JRC	Supply of ballast in various yards i.e.w. Improvement in various yards under ADEN-JRC in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-I/FZR		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
25982780.19		519700.00	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature work: "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for Railways/Highway/Roads".				
2	142-2026-27-ADEN-LDH	Supply of ballast in various yards i.e.w. Improvement in various yards of SSE/P.way/LDH under ADEN/LDH in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-I/FZR.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
70897663.18		1418000.00	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature work: "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for Railways/Highway/Roads".				
3	143-2026-27-ADEN-LDH	Supply of ballast in various yards i.e.w. Improvement in various yards of SSE/P.way/NSS under ADEN/LDH in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-I/FZR.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
17788348.99		355800.00	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature work: "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for Railways/Highway/Roads".				
4	144-2026-27-ADEN-JRC	Improvement in various yards of SSE/P.Way/NRO under ADEN/JRC in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-I/FZR.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
10234189.80		204700.00	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature work: "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ ballast screening / regulating machines & TTR by T28."				
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				3147/26

Dastgeer Sahib Urs: Focus on Power, Water, Traffic, Safety Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo on Friday reviewed arrangements for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeeleani (RA) at Ziyarat Dastgeer Sahib in Sarai Bala, Amirakadal.

The DC visited the shrine along with senior officers from the civil administration, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Police, Traffic, Fire and Emergency Services, health, roads, power, water supply and other concerned departments.

During the visit, Labroo took an on-site assessment of arrangements related to drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, traffic regulation, parking, street lighting, fire safety and medical facilities. He directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure that requisite arrangements are completed well in advance of the Urs.

Interacting with members of the Shrine Management Committee, the DC sought their suggestions and feedback regarding facilities required for the large number of devotees expected to visit the shrine during the Urs days.

Chairing a meeting with officers at the shrine, Labroo stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, besides maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in and around the shrine premises.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as hashim hashim While my correct name is Mohammad Hashim Mir. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar center Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. A fter that no objection shall be entertained Mohammad Hashim Mir S/o Saif U Din Mir R/o Zalooraa fko

Department of Health and Medical Education Government Medical College Baramulla.

Procurement Section
e-mail: omer.hussain0337@jk.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING SHORT-TERM QUOTATIONS

Subject: Invitation of short-term quotations for procurement of three (3) Cochlear Implant System under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Scheme.

Sealed/online quotations are hereby invited from eligible Manufacturers/OEMs or their authorised Dealers/Distributors for the supply of three (03) Cochlear Implant Systems for identified beneficiaries under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Scheme, against sanctioned funds of 5,20,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty Thousand only) per Cochlear Implant System, as released by the Mission Director, NHM, J&K. The successful bidder shall be required to supply, install and commission the Cochlear Implant System within 5 days from the date of issuance of the Purchase/Supply Order.

1. Key Dates

Last date & time for submission of quotations	15/09/2026, up to 2:00 PM
Date & time of opening of quotations	15/09/2026, at 3:00 PM
Venue	Principal's Office, GMC Baramulla

2. Eligibility Criteria

- Bidder must be the manufacturer/OEM, or an authorised dealer/distributor holding a valid Manufacturer's Authorisation Letter for the quoted implant.
- Bidder/OEM must hold a valid CDSCO Medical Device manufacturing/sale/import licence, as applicable.
- The quoted implant system must be US FDA approved for paediatric and adult implantation.
- Bidder must have supplied similar cochlear implant systems in Government/PSU/Autonomous/Private hospitals in India, supported by a Performance/Satisfactory Service Certificate.
- Bidder must not be blacklisted/debarred by any State/Central Government Department or agency (Non-Blacklisting Declaration to be submitted).
- Bidder must have a functional local service/representative presence in Jammu & Kashmir.

3. Essential Technical Specifications (summary)

Feature	Requirement
Implant	Small, compact, hermetically sealed titanium casing with silicone cover
Channels/ Electrodes	12 or above; straight electrode array; multi-channel/ multi-electrode
Implant Warranty	10 years from date of surgery/ switch-on
MRI Compatibility	1.5 Tesla or above, without removal of magnet
Implant Reliability	95% or higher reliability; intra-op and post-op integrity testing
Speech Processor	BTE/Off-the-Ear, multi-program memory, dual microphone, direct streaming, mobile app control, IP57 water resistance
Processor Warranty	3 years from date of switch-on
Power Source	Rechargeable battery pack + Zinc-Air battery option, both supplied
Quality Certification	US FDA approved for paediatric and adult implantation

Accessories	Coils/cables, magnets, holding buckle, hooks, processor clip-on cover, dry-aid kit, external hard case, rechargeable batteries with charger, disposable battery packs
Company Support	Free audiologist/ therapist training; service support within J&K; equipment defect/ malfunction resolution within 10 working days with loaner processor
Recipient Base	More than 5,000 recipients of the company in India
Local Representative	At least 1 local representative/service provider in J&K

(Full detailed specification sheet, as enclosed with this Notice, forms an integral part of this invitation and shall prevail in case of any ambiguity.)

4. Mandatory Commercial & Submission Clauses

- Quotation Validity: 30 days from the date of opening.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): The bidder shall deposit an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in favor of Chief Accounts Officer GMC Baramulla in form of DD along with the quotation. Bids received without the requisite EMD shall be liable for rejection, except in cases where valid exemption is admissible under applicable Government rules. Bidders claiming exemption from EMD shall submit valid documentary proof in support of such exemption.
- Maximum Acceptable Rate/Sanctioned Amount:
- The sanctioned amount is 5,20,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty Thousand only) per Cochlear Implant System. The bidder shall quote the complete landed/finished cost on FOR/Free Delivery basis at GMC Baramulla/Associated Hospital, inclusive of all applicable taxes, duties.
- Any quotation in which the total quoted price exceeds 5,20,000/- per Cochlear Implant System shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be liable for outright rejection/disqualification. No quotation exceeding the sanctioned amount shall be considered for evaluation.
- Price to be quoted on FOR/Free-Delivery basis at GMC Baramulla / Associated Hospital, inclusive of all taxes, duties.
- Delivery: Within 5 days of issue of Purchase/Supply Order,
- Warranty: Comprehensive on-site warranty - 10 years for internal implant, 3 years for speech processor, and 1 year for accessories/rechargeable battery, as detailed in the enclosed specification sheet.
- Quality Certificates (US FDA/CE/BIS/ISO 13485, as applicable) must be enclosed with the quotation.
- Manufacturer's Authorisation Form (if quoting through a dealer/distributor) must be enclosed in original.
- Non-Blacklisting Declaration and Bidder's GST/PAN details must be enclosed.
- Payment: Shall be released only after satisfactory implantation, and submission of an Installation & Acceptance Certificate countersigned by the user Department.
- The Principal, GMC Baramulla reserves the right to accept or reject any/all quotations without assigning any reason, and to negotiate/verify technical compliance before award.
- Quotations must be submitted in a sealed envelope superscribed "Quotation for Cochlear Implant under RBSK Scheme", addressed to the Procurement Office, Government Medical College, Baramulla, on or before the last date specified below.

ENCLOSURE: DETAILED SPECIFICATION FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT (AS FORWARDED VIDE NO. GMC/BLA/ENT/2026/381 DATED 05-08-2026).

No: GMCBB/PO/2026-27/1035-41
DIPK-5577/26
Dated: 11-09-2026

Principal
Govt. Medical College,
Baramulla

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KO VIEW

Make Events Count

Kashmir's first International Film Festival should be judged by what follows it, rather than by how well the event itself was staged. Indian cinema treated Kashmir as scenery for decades, borrowing its mountains and meadows for song sequences while the region built almost no film industry of its own. The valley has educated young people, strong local stories and locations that filmmakers already prize, but it still lacks script development houses, production support, training programs and regular local screenings. A festival that ends with a closing ceremony changes little of that. The same disparity runs through literature and the arts. Students spend years in Kashmiri colleges and universities reading Dostoevsky and studying the ideas that formed world culture, then graduate into a region without publishing houses, literary platforms, functioning stages or scholarships for young writers. Government-backed events keep bringing investors, filmmakers, writers and entrepreneurs into the region, but few of these gatherings leave behind an institution capable of employing the graduates the same government has spent years educating. That disconnect lies at the center of Kashmir's unemployment crisis. Public-sector jobs cannot absorb the number of graduates the valley produces annually, and a private economy built on creative industries, publishing, cinema, theatre and entrepreneurship has never been given the institutional groundwork to grow. Small enterprises in these fields could create professional markets for skills already taught in classrooms, if government programs treated events as a starting point rather than an endpoint. The film festival has given Kashmir a starting point. The next step is to build script labs, production grants and regular screening programmes that continue after the festival ends. Literary festivals can lead to publishing programmes and writing fellowships. Startup conferences can lead to incubators and investment networks that keep working after the conference is over. None of this happens on its own. Kashmir has educated a large number of young people without creating enough professional spaces where they can use what they have learned. Theatre students need stages, writers need publishers, while filmmakers need script development, production opportunities and paid work. Events should help create those opportunities instead of ending with the final programme. The government now has a chance to build on what this festival has started. The focus should be on institutions, local talent and real opportunities.

The Myth of Kashmir's One Pajama

A dubious tale of clothing shortages has endured because it captures something real about poverty, even if it misses the larger economic story.



Irshad Mushtaq

A weaver in Srinagar's old city can still turn raw pashm into a shawl fine enough to pull through a ring, a skill passed down since the workshops Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin encouraged nearly six centuries ago. That shawl may sell in Delhi or Paris for a sum the weaver never sees written on a receipt of his own. This divide, between what Kashmir makes and what Kashmir keeps, says more about the valley's economy than any story about missing talent or missing effort. Start with the numbers, because they are blunt. Jammu and Kashmir's per-capita income for 2025-26 is estimated near 1,68,243, against a national figure close to 2.27 lakh. The region's output is roughly 26 percent below the country's, even as its Gross State Domestic Product touches 2.8567 lakh crore and grows at a genuinely healthy 5.82 percent after inflation. J&K's population was about one percent of India's in the 2011 Census, but it produces closer to 0.8 percent of national output. Growth is real, but the share of what that growth returns to ordinary households is not. It helps to clear away one story first. The claim that Kashmiris once wore "one pajama for four persons" is an exaggeration that has calcified into folk memory, rather than a fact of history. What families actually wore were pherans and woollens, layered against a mountain winter, practical enough to hold a kangri underneath. Poor households patched and reused clothing, as poor households did across the subcontinent before Independence, when the National Planning Committee of 1936 catalogued shortages of food, housing and cloth from Punjab to Bengal. Kashmir's poverty was real, but it was not unique, and it was not the poverty of a people without craft. The craft was, if anything, the problem's other face. Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's influence on Kashmiri weaving and embroidery, and Zain-ul-Abidin's patronage of silk, carpets, paper-making and canal-fed farmland, built a valley capable of producing goods that travelled to Central Asia and Persia on the strength of their quality alone. But a shawl sold at a princely price abroad did not translate into a weaver's security at home.



By April 1953, close to 1.93 lakh acres had been formally attested in favour of about 1.61 lakh tillers. Sheikh Abdullah's Naya Kashmir programme reset the social floor of the economy, and it should be credited for that. But the average allotment came to roughly 1.23 acres per beneficiary, enough for a household to plant its own name on a field, not enough to finance an orchard's modernisation, a child's college fees and the next generation's employment all at once.

Casual labourers earned roughly four to six annas a day before 1941, and the famine of 1877-79, layered onto a collapse in shawl demand, pushed artisan families deeper into debt. Beauty was exported, but precarity stayed. Literacy tells the same story in a different register. Around 1941, roughly 16 of every 100 Indians could read. In J&K, the figure was closer to 7. Female literacy in the state was near 2.3 percent. A region entering 1947 with that few trained teachers, clerks, doctors and administrators was always going to need decades to build the institutions a modern economy depends on, regardless of how fertile its soil or fine its embroidery. The land reforms that followed were not cosmetic. Jagirs, muafis and mukararidar rights were abolished in 1948. The 1950 Big Landed Estates Abolition Act set a ceiling of about 182 kanals, roughly 22.75 acres, and by the government's own accounting affected some 9,000 large landholders, moving around 4.5 lakh acres above the ceiling and transferring 2.3 lakh acres toward cultivators. By April 1953, close to 1.93 lakh acres had been formally attested in favour of about 1.61 lakh tillers. Sheikh Abdullah's Naya Kashmir programme reset the social floor of the economy, and it should be credited for that. But the average allotment came to roughly 1.23 acres per beneficiary, enough for a household to plant its own name on a field, not enough to finance an orchard's modernisation, a child's college fees and the next generation's employment all at once. What came after was genuine and hard-won.

Literacy climbed from about 7 percent before Independence to 67.16 percent by 2011, narrowing a disparity that had once been nearly ten points to roughly 6.9. Roads, tunnels, hospitals and electricity reached villages that had known only footpaths and ponies. Union transfers to J&K were budgeted at 41,000 crore for 2025-26 and are projected near 43,290 crore the following year. Samagra Shiksha alone carried a work plan above 2,325 crore. None of this is small, and none of it should be waved away by anyone arguing that Kashmir has been neglected. Money for salaries, pensions and school buildings does not, on its own, build an export brand. That is the distinction the spending figures obscure. Services account for 61 percent of J&K's gross value added. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, sits at just 18.52 percent. Horticulture supports around 7 lakh families and 35 lakh people, and tourism drew 1.78 crore visits in 2025, yet apples, walnuts and saffron still leave the valley half-finished, to be graded, packaged, branded and marked up somewhere else.

A farmer who grows the fruit rarely owns the cold store that decides its final price. Tamil Nadu, which posted 9.69 percent real growth in 2024-25 and exported more than \$46.5 billion, offers no template Kashmir can copy. It has a coast, ports and a manufacturing base Kashmir's geography will never replicate. What it demonstrates instead is what value addition looks like when it stays home: processing, branding, logistics and finance built close enough to the raw material that the profit does not have to travel far to find its owner. Families who sell orchard land for a hospital bill or a daughter's wedding are not always behaving irrationally. They are meeting an emergency with the only asset that moves quickly. The danger lies in what happens to the money afterward, when it funds a season of expenses rather than a workshop, a cold store or a small firm that outlives the crisis that created it. Rising land prices look like prosperity on a ledger and can still leave the next generation with less productive ground to stand on than their parents had. Kashmir finished its first transformation when the tiller got the field. Its second transformation, unfinished and less visible in any budget line, is the one that decides whether the shawl, the apple and the saffron thread finally belong, all the way to the till, to the hands that made them.

The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator, and can be reached at drmt757@gmail.com.

Sanction Before Sanction

A statutory phrase written in Srinagar in the 1980s is now deciding whether a retired government officer in Jammu and Kashmir can be dragged into a criminal court without the safeguard the legislature built for him.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

Sanction for prosecuting a public servant looks, on paper, like a stamp: present or absent, granted or refused. Courts have long treated it that way, as a box to check before a trial begins. But the law asks harder questions first: Was sanction needed at all under the statute in force when the alleged offence occurred? Who held the authority to grant it? Did that authority actually look at the material, or simply sign what was placed before it? And does the precedent a judge reaches for actually interpret the statute in front of him, or has a rule built for a different law been carried over without anyone checking whether the words match? That last question decided the fate of a retired officer named Ghulam Rasool Baba. Sanction exists because not every bad decision by a government servant is corruption. A road contract awarded on flawed advice, a file cleared in haste, and a procedure skipped under pressure are the ordinary failures of administration, and the legislature did not want them prosecuted as crimes without a second set of eyes examining the file first. The safeguard was built to protect the business of governing, rather than to protect the dishonest. It is a fence around honest error instead of a wall around theft. Before 2019, Jammu and Kashmir ran on its

own law, the Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006, separate from the Central statute that governed the rest of the country. Section 6 of that Act barred a court from taking cognizance of corruption charges against a public servant without prior sanction. Section 2 defined "public servant" in language wider than the Central Act's: anyone who "is or has been" under government employment. It covered both serving officials and those who had already left government service. Those two words, "has been," became the center of a 1998 ruling by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in Chuni Lal Raina v. State of J&K. Raina had already retired when the case against him began, and the state argued sanction was therefore unnecessary. The court disagreed, reasoning that if the legislature meant to protect only serving officers, it would not have bothered adding "has been" to the definition at all. The court also noted that the J&K provisions had been amended in 1983, meaning Supreme Court rulings on the older, unamended language did not automatically apply. Sanction, the court held, was needed even for a retired officer whose case fell within Section 6. One year later, the Supreme Court decided State of J&K v. Charan Dass Puri, and that judgment has since been read by some as proof that retirement ends the sanction requirement in Kashmir altogether. But read the judgment closely and the confusion dissolves. Puri concerned a different statute entirely, the J&K Public Servants Prevention of Corruption Act, 1975, not the Samvat 2006 Act. The Supreme Court never examined the wider "is or has been" language that had anchored Chuni Lal Raina. It could not have overruled a reading it never considered. The pattern repeats in 2020, when the Su-



preme Court decided Station House Officer, CBI/ACB v. B.A. Srinivasan. That case arose under the Central Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, whose Section 19, before it was amended, protected only a person "who is employed," present tense, serving officers only. Srinivasan had retired, so no sanction was needed under that Central provision as it then stood. Correct for that statute. But Srinivasan never interpreted Section 2 of the J&K Act. It never weighed the words "has been." A ruling about one law's silence cannot settle what a different law's explicit language means. Then Parliament rewrote the Central Act. From 26 July 2018, Section 19 was amended

to cover not only a person "who is employed" but also one who "was at the time of commission of the alleged offence employed." A retired officer, under the amended Central law, can no longer escape the sanction requirement simply by having left service. The Supreme Court confirmed this shift in 2023, in A. Srinivasulu v. State, tracing the exact moment Parliament decided that retirement should not erase the safeguard for conduct committed while in office. Read the old J&K Act and the amended Central Act side by side, and a strange thing becomes visible. The Kashmir law, written decades earlier, already said in its own words what Parliament only added to the national law in 2018.

The J&K sanctioning provision even directed courts, in cases of doubt, to identify the authority competent to remove the officer "at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed." That is the same logic Parliament later wrote into Section 19. The old J&K statute lies closer in spirit to the post-2018 Central Act than to the pre-amendment version that decided Srinivasan. This is the statute the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was asked to apply in December 2025, in Ghulam Rasool Baba v. Principal Secretary to Government. Baba had retired before the charge-sheet against him was filed. He argued that sanction was necessary. The court held that Section 19 of the Central Act was equivalent to Section 6 of the J&K Act and, relying on Srinivasan, ruled that sanction was not required. Read against the statutory text, the ruling borrows a rule built for a law that no longer resembles the one Kashmir actually has on its books. It applies the pre-2018 Central reasoning to a J&K statute whose own wording, "is or has been," already anticipated the very protection Parliament later felt compelled to write into national law. A retired officer in Srinagar or Jammu, decades removed from the file that is now being reopened against him, discovers that the safeguard his own statute promised him has been read out of existence by a precedent that was never talking about his statute at all.

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

My Painful Encounter at SMHS

Young doctors have legitimate concerns about workload and compensation, but professional exhaustion cannot become an excuse for humiliating patients.



Haziqah Shaheen

My visit to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar began with an irritated eye and ended with a question about what we have come to accept inside public hospitals.

I had spent the day bearing the pain before deciding that I needed medical attention. I took a ticket for the ophthalmology ward and was directed to Ward 8.

The ward was crowded, and directions changed from one room to another. There was little coordination, and a patient arriving in pain had to work out the system while already struggling with the reason for being there.

Eventually, I reached a room where a young female doctor was attending to patients. One patient was writhing in pain while an attendant waited beside her. The doctor told them to bear it for a while until another doctor came.

Her own duty time, she said, was over.

I could understand that she had been waiting for someone to replace her. Medical staff work long hours, and understaffing can turn a hospital ward into a place where exhaustion becomes part of the furniture.

My concern began when that exhaustion appeared to become an excuse for how patients were treated.

When my turn came, the examination was conducted with an impatience that was difficult to miss. Light was directed into my eyes aggressively. I reacted to the pain. When I protested, I was rebuked. I was then asked to lie on another stretcher, where the examination

continued.

A liquid was forcibly injected into my eye, and my repeated complaints were dismissed. The manner of the interaction made me feel that my pain had become an inconvenience rather than the reason I had entered the room.

The episode became harder to accept when the doctor began writing my prescription and then stopped midway. She got up and, in an angry and dismissive manner, told patients to go to hell.

The remark was heard by another patient and appeared to be directed at me as well.

She left the prescription unfinished and told me to wait for another doctor. I asked how another doctor could prescribe treatment when she had examined me herself. She dismissed the concern and walked out.

My colleague confronted her and demanded some answers. But her co-worker in the room defended her conduct and then left.

The situation changed only after I made my professional background clear.

That detail has remained with me because it raises an uncomfortable question: what happens to a patient who has no colleague beside him and no confidence to challenge a doctor? What about an elderly man who has travelled from a village, a mother who has brought her child, or a worker who has spent his day's earnings to reach the hospital?

Public hospitals are often the only option for people who cannot afford private treatment. Many families depend on them when someone falls ill. Being poor should never mean being treated with less respect.

The most disturbing moment came as the young doctor was leaving.

A child was there with a swollen eye, crying in pain. Her mother asked the doctor to examine her daughter before leaving. The response was astonishingly dismissive.

The mother was told that the child had been fine for the previous three days, so nothing would



A hospital can be understaffed, a doctor can be exhausted, and a ward can be crowded. But none of those conditions change the basic human fact that the person standing before a doctor may be frightened, hurting and depending on that encounter.

suddenly happen to her.

The mother was shocked, so were we.

That moment made the incident bigger than my own experience. A doctor may lose patience with one patient, but the way patients are treated inside a major public hospital affects everyone who sees it.

Children observe what hospitals are like, parents wonder whether someone will hear them when their child is in pain, while attendants begin to think twice before speaking up.

I do not want this incident turned into an indictment of doctors as a profession. Many medical workers perform difficult work under exhausting conditions. Young doctors have legitimate concerns about stipends and compensation.

Their demands need proper attention from the government. Staff shortages and excessive workloads also belong to policy discussions, especially in emergency and public hospitals.

Those pressures, however, cannot become the patient's burden.

A doctor who has worked beyond a scheduled duty needs institutional support, while a patient who arrives in severe pain needs medical attention.

The government has a responsibility to ensure that the two realities do not collide inside a hospital room.

The answer cannot be to ask medical workers to absorb endless pressure while expecting them to function indefinitely without fatigue. It also cannot be to tell

patients to tolerate humiliation because the staff are overworked.

Hospital administration has to address staffing, workload and handover arrangements so that a doctor leaving duty can do so properly and the next doctor can take over without leaving patients stranded.

SMHS is too important to become a place where patients feel they have to establish their social or professional standing before someone takes their complaint seriously.

My colleague had suggested going to a private hospital. I resisted because I believe public hospitals should remain places ordinary people can depend on.

That belief has nothing to do with romanticising government

institutions. It comes from a simple conviction that public healthcare belongs to the public, including people who have little money and little influence.

Doctors, nurses and other medical workers are professionals. Their work holds great responsibility, but their profession does not place them above the people they treat.

A patient entering a hospital room is not asking for a personal favour. He is seeking the service for which the institution exists.

Professionalism begins there.

Pain does not become smaller because a doctor's duty is ending. A frightened mother does not become less worthy of attention because the ward is crowded. A poor patient does not become an easier target for impatience because he has nowhere else to go.

My eye eventually received attention. The larger discomfort remained with me as I left the hospital. And it came from seeing how quickly an institution built around care can make a person feel powerless.

That feeling should concern the administration far beyond this single incident.

Misconduct may be individual, but the response to it is institutional.

A complaint should be examined, patient handling should be taken seriously, and medical ethics should remain part of professional practice rather than a principle recalled only in textbooks.

A hospital can be understaffed, a doctor can be exhausted, and a ward can be crowded. But none of those conditions change the basic human fact that the person standing before a doctor may be frightened, hurting and depending on that encounter.

Care begins before treatment. It begins with how a patient is spoken to, examined and allowed to leave the room.

SMHS should remember that.

— The author is a practicing advocate engaged with the corporate ecosystem. She can be reached at haziqahshovekat@gmail.com.

Srinagar's Lesson in Humanity

The businessman belonged to a different faith, but his concern for his employees crossed the boundaries that often divide Kashmir.



Syed Majid Gilani

I went to a large trading firm in Srinagar one ordinary day for some official work. The business is run by a young businessman whose faith is different from that of the majority community here. His family, which is non-Kashmiri-speaking by background, has been running the business since the time of his forefathers.

We were discussing work over coffee in his spacious office. An LCD screen on one wall showed live footage from his other offices in the city. The setting felt like any busy workplace, until a young woman in an abaya entered the room.

She spoke softly and asked whether she could leave early because of something important at home.

The businessman stopped our discussion and turned towards her.

"Beta, no problem. First call your parents. I need to speak to them."

She made a call and soon handed him the phone. He spoke to her mother respectfully, addressing her as "Auntji", and explained why her daughter wanted to leave early. Her mother agreed.

I assumed that was enough.

He then asked the young woman to call her father.

She returned with her father on the line. The businessman addressed him as "Uncle ji", explained the situation again and sought his permission. The father agreed.

The businessman then asked him to call again after 15 minutes, by which time his daughter was expected to have reached home.

That small exchange made me curious.

I asked why he had taken such personal responsibility for an employee leaving work early. He smiled, picked up the remote and pointed towards the screen. The cameras showed young women working in his other offices.

He told me that around 50 to 60 young women work for him. Many are educated, hardworking and support their families.

His concern, he said, was simple. Anything can happen at any time, so he felt responsible for taking reasonable steps for their safety and honour.

He had also made a rule that outsiders could not approach or meet the women directly. Once they entered his office, he considered himself responsible for them until they reached home safely. He described that responsibility in religious terms, saying he felt answerable to God for their honour, respect and security.

I found myself thinking about the distance we often place between people through religion, language and background.

Here was a businessman from a different faith and a family with a different linguistic background, sitting in a Srinagar office and speaking to the parents of a young Kashmiri employee with the familiarity of an elder from the same community.

What struck me was the responsibility he had chosen to accept, beyond religion or faith.

I asked why he personally involved himself when he had male staff and managers who could have handled the situation.

His answer was direct. If someone genuinely wants to protect a woman's esteem and maintain discipline, he



said, responsibility cannot depend on rank, workload or convenience. He preferred to speak to the father as well because he believed a father might assess his daughter's safety differently when she was leaving work early.

I left the office thinking about how easily we speak about humanity in public and how rarely we notice it in its ordinary forms.

There was no speech or sermon, only an employer, an employee, two parents and a brief phone call.

Still, those minutes revealed something larger about the type of society we live in and the kind of society we can choose to build.

Srinagar is often described through its divisions. Faith, language, class and background can become convenient labels through which we understand one another before we have

actually met. Such labels tell us something about a person, but they tell us very little about the choices that person makes.

A young woman entered that office seeking permission to go home. Her employer could have treated it as a routine administrative request. Instead, he treated it as a responsibility involving a person's family and well-being.

That difference made me pause and ponder.

Workplaces are built around duties, salaries and hierarchies. They are also places where people spend a large part of their lives. An employer's conduct can tell an employee whether she is regarded merely as a worker or as a person whose life outside the office has value.

I walked into that office for work. I left thinking about a much older idea,

one that belongs to no single faith or community: responsibility begins when we decide that another person's well-being is partly in our hands.

The businessman did not need to know the young woman's religion to care about her. He did not need to share her family's language or background. He simply saw an employee who was also someone's daughter.

Sometimes the strongest lessons about humanity come through a phone call, a few respectful words and a person willing to take responsibility when it would have been easier to leave it to someone else.

That is what I witnessed in that Srinagar office.

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PM Meets Iranian President, Presses For Dialogue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday pressed Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to resolve the West Asia conflict through dialogue and diplomacy while highlighting the vital need for safe navigation and safety of seafarers.

Meeting for the second time in under two weeks, the two leaders discussed India-Iran relations, with the overall situation in West Asia taking centre stage.

The talks took place hours after the Iranian leader arrived in the national capital to attend the BRICS summit. This is Pezeshkian's first visit to India as the president.

His visit assumes significance as it comes amid sudden spike in overall tensions in West Asia following fresh hostilities and the US slapping new punitive economic measures against Iran.

Shortly after the meeting, Modi described Pezeshkian's trip to India as "more special because it is his first visit" to the country.

"We talked about the India-Iran friendship. We believe that we should move forward with a long-term and win-win strategy," Modi said on social media.

"The prevailing situation in the region was also discussed. India remains steadfast in its commitment to the pursuit of enduring peace," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the "two



leaders exchanged views on recent developments in West Asia".

"The Prime Minister reiterated India's consistent position that all issues must be resolved

through dialogue and diplomacy," it added.

Modi also "underscored the need for continued efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region, safeguarding freedom of navigation and commerce, and the safety and well-being of seafarers", it said in a statement.

Following the West Asia conflict that began in late February, India had to strike a delicate balance between maintaining its historic ties with Iran and extending solidarity with Arab states which were targeted by Tehran for housing US military bases.

At the same time, India has been critical of Iranian attacks on merchant vessels near the Strait of Hormuz that have killed and injured Indian seafarers.

Ten Indian seafarers are among the 16 Indians killed so far in the West Asia conflict.

The MEA said Modi and Pezeshkian discussed various aspects of the bilateral relationship and that the Prime Minister thanked Iran for its regular, high-level participation in BRICS-related meetings despite the challenging circumstances.

"He noted the potential for BRICS in building the spirit of resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability among countries in the Global South," it said.

The MEA said Modi appreciated the continued cooperation between the two sides on issues of mutual interest in multilateral organisation, including BRICS.

Modi had met the Iranian leader on the sidelines of SCO

summit in Bishkek on August 31 and conveyed that India supports all efforts toward ending the conflict.

Pezeshkian, on his part, had urged Modi to use India's extensive contacts with various parties to help them move away from the path of war and bloodshed and return to the path of dialogue and agreement.

In the talks this evening, the Indian side is learnt to have again underlined the importance of free flow of shipping.

Global oil supplies have suffered severe disruptions following Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz -- considered the world's most critical energy chokepoint, through which roughly 20 per cent of global petroleum flows.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

World Leaders

of South Africa for the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. He was received by MoS Jayant Singh at the airport. India and South Africa share warm and historic ties anchored in Strategic Partnership. Our commitment as BRICS partners to the Global South remains steadfast. #BRICS2026 #BRICSIndia2026 #IndiaBRICSChairship," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X.

On President El-Sisi's arrival, it said, "Warmly welcome President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. He was received by MoS Sanjay Seth at the airport. India and Egypt share deep bonds of friendship, as we work together to build a stronger BRICS partnership. #BRICS2026 #BRICSIndia2026 #IndiaBRICSChairship."

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

BRICS has emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

In a media statement, the MEA had said India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the theme of 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a people-centric approach rooted in the spirit of 'Humanity First'.

Russian President Putin arrived in Delhi on a three-day visit early in the morning.

"Warmly welcome President Vladimir Putin of Russia for the 18th BRICS Summit. He was received by MoS Kirtivardhan Singh at the airport. India and Russia share multifaceted and longstanding ties anchored in Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. #BRICS2026 #BRICSIndia2026 #IndiaBRICSChairship," the MEA said.

Iranian President Pezeshkian also arrived in the national capital. Besides attending the summit, he will hold bilateral talks with PM Modi to advance two-way trade and strengthen overall ties.

It is Pezeshkian's first visit to India as president. The visit assumes significance as it comes amid a sudden spike in tensions in West Asia following the US slapping new punitive economic measures against Iran.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and their counterparts from Burundi, Ethiopia and Nigeria have also reached Delhi.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, President of New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Chief Zou Jiayi have also reached the capital for the summit.

Modi Pushes BRICS

barriers, scale 100 BRICS startups into other member markets every year and build 1,000 new business partnerships annually.

The grouping, he said, should convert its growing economic weight into concrete opportunities for businesses, positioning India as a country building "economic bridges" at a time when trade barriers are rising globally.

"Global trade can only progress if sea lanes are secure, supply routes remain open, and seafarers are safe. Therefore, India is a staunch supporter of freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers," he said.

The remarks came amid wars in two theatres and geopolitical conflicts disrupting energy and other trade through vital sea lanes, raising prices and disrupting supply chains. Indian ships have been attacked during the US-Iran conflict and the country's seafarers have been abducted by pirates.

Modi highlighted the scale of the expanded BRICS grouping, saying member-countries and partners now represent around half of the world's population, 40 per cent of global GDP and more than a quarter of global trade. Over the past two decades, he said, the combined GDP of BRICS economies expanded around four-and-a-half times, compared with a roughly two-and-a-half-fold increase in global GDP.

Modi placed infrastructure and strategic technologies at the centre of India's pitch to global businesses, pointing to rapid expansion of roads, railways, ports and airports alongside new capacity in shipbuilding, semiconductors, quantum technology, critical minerals and biotechnology.

"Make in India, Innovate with India, and

Scale for the World," Modi said, presenting India as both a manufacturing base and a source of technology and innovation for global markets.

He also sought to use India's digital public infrastructure as a platform for deeper BRICS cooperation. Modi highlighted UPI's population-scale deployment and said BRICS innovators could draw on India's experience to develop digital solutions suited to their own markets.

The Prime Minister pointed to more than 200,000 startups and over 120 unicorns in India, saying BRICS should help take such innovations to global markets. Initiatives under India's chairship include the BRICS incubator network, BRICS MSME portal and BRICS Startup Innovation Fund, alongside new co-operation networks in agriculture, health care, skills and smart grids.

Trade connectivity was another central theme. Modi said India had pursued free-trade agreements with nearly 40 countries since 2014 and argued that BRICS should similarly focus on reducing barriers and expanding opportunities for businesses.

He also stressed the importance of secure sea lanes and open supply routes for global trade, reaffirming India's support for freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers.

Looking ahead, Modi challenged the BRICS Business Council to establish measurable targets rather than limit itself to dialogue: identify the bloc's top 10 trade barriers for removal, support 100 BRICS startups each year in expanding into other member markets, and create 1,000 new business partnerships annually.

"We must review our progress on these three parameters every year," he said.

The pitch came as India seeks to make its BRICS chairship centred not only on the bloc's economic weight, but on turning that weight into trade, investment, technology and business activity across member economies.

When it comes to resilience, Modi said, India has made its supply chains -- spanning sectors from energy to technology -- more diversified and reliable. It is a result of this very resilience that, even amidst global uncertainties, India today offers an assurance of growth and stability, he added.

At a time when trade barriers are rising globally, India is building economic bridges, he said, adding that since 2014 India has entered into free trade agreements with nearly 40 countries.

"Our approach within BRICS is the same: to reduce barriers and expand opportunities for businesses," he said.

The Prime Minister said that India is rapidly expanding roads, railways, ports, and airports.

"Simultaneously, we are building new capabilities in strategic sectors such as shipbuilding, semiconductors, quantum technology, critical minerals, and biotechnology. In these areas, India is emerging as a hub of new opportunities for global businesses," he said.

Modi said with over 200,000 startups and more than 120 unicorns, India is emerging as a hub for global solutions.

"Our startups are transforming education and health care through AI, working on Green Hydrogen and batteries, and breaking new ground in the defence and space sectors. Now, we must take these world-class innovations to global markets through BRICS as well," he said.

On the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), he said at present 50 per cent of the world's real-time payments take place using this technology.

"We have provided an open ecosystem to the industry and startups to develop new solutions on this digital layer. We are proud that many countries are adopting this world-class ecosystem from India. Innovators from BRICS nations can also leverage this experience to create new solutions for their own countries," he said.

Cabinet Reshuffle

expected that Omar Abdullah would effect a reshuffle-cum-expansion immediately after August 15.

He is also understood to have approached the Congress high command to ascertain whether they would avail a ministry. The Congress high command subsequently discussed the offer of the NC-led government with its J&K-based leaders.

Currently, the strength of the council of ministers in J&K is six. It can have three more ministers, as the J&K Reorganisation Act restricts the strength of the council of ministers to one-tenth of the total strength of MLAs. (KNO)

No Action On

for nearly 18 years, often performing responsibilities comparable to those of regular employees, but without a clear and sustainable framework governing their long-term service conditions.

Their major demands include revision and enhancement of salaries and remuneration, a comprehensive policy for job security, retirement benefits and social-security measures, besides resolution of other long-pending service-related issues through a transparent and time-bound mechanism.

The employees are also seeking a dignified and workable retirement benefit or "Golden Handshake" policy for those completing their service, along with welfare measures to provide financial protection after retirement.

A protesting employee said the prolonged contractual nature of their employment had created uncertainty among thousands of workers despite their years of service.

"We have served the health sector for years and performed our duties in hospitals, health centres and at the field level. Our demand is not only about salary enhancement; we want a clear policy that gives us job security, social protection and dignity after years of service," the employee said.

Another employee said NHM workers had repeatedly approached the government hoping for a permanent solution but were yet to see a concrete policy decision.

"We have received assurances at different stages, but assurances alone cannot resolve the uncertainty faced by employees and their families. We want a written, time-bound and sustainable mechanism through which these issues are finally settled," the employee said.

The Association maintained that NHM employees have remained an important component of healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during public-health emergencies, disease-control programmes and other situations requiring sustained manpower at hospitals, health centres and field institutions.

The employees said their agitation should not be viewed as being against the healthcare system or the public, asserting that their objective was to secure a sustainable future for the workforce while ensuring that the government addresses their concerns through dialogue.

The UT-Level Coordination Committee said the latest agitation followed the expiry of an ultimatum issued to the government after its September 5 meeting. It maintained that the decision to extend the strike was taken only after repeated representations and dialogue failed to result in a concrete roadmap.

The Association also pointed out that NHM employees had earlier resorted to a 48-hour strike over similar demands, but said the absence of a comprehensive resolution had compelled them to resume the agitation.

The employees have urged the government to convene a high-level meeting with their representatives and initiate a time-bound process for resolving their demands.

"We do not want confrontation. We want the government to sit with us and address the issues through a definite policy decision. If a genuine and time-bound process is initiated, we are ready for dialogue," another protesting employee said.

The Committee said the extended strike would commence from September 12 and reiterated that the protest was aimed at seeking "justice, dignity, job security and a sustainable future" for NHM employees.

The Association has appealed to the government to convert concerns already acknowledged at different levels into actual policy measures, saying further assurances without a definite roadmap would not address the problems confronting the workforce.

The Committee said it remained open to dialogue and hoped the government would initiate meaningful negotiations at the earliest to bring the prolonged agitation to an end through a concrete and time-bound resolution.

₹3,568-Cr Singhpora

The tunnel will have a nine-metre carriageway, footpaths and dedicated emergency facilities. The two tubes will be interconnected through cross-passages at intervals of about 500 metres to facilitate pedestrian movement and emergency evacuation.

As per the project documents, 20 cross-passages, each 6.1 metres wide and 18.5 metres long, have been proposed.

The tunnel will be equipped with semi-transverse ventilation, fire detection and firefighting systems, CCTV surveillance, emergency communication facilities,

traffic-control systems, lighting, drainage and waterproofing arrangements.

Fire hydrants will be installed at intervals of 250 metres, besides hose connections and fire extinguishers at shorter intervals.

The project package also includes approach roads, bridges, viaducts, culverts, drainage systems, safety installations and other ancillary works.

A total of 21 major and minor bridges, viaducts and viaduct-cum-bridge structures have been proposed, with the longest being a 1,345-metre viaduct at design chainage 139+660.

The approach roads will be developed as two-lane highways with paved shoulders. The project also provides for roadside and catch drains extending over 26 km and 28 km, respectively.

The tunnel has been proposed to comply with relevant Indian and international standards, including applicable IRC guidelines for road tunnels, CIE standards for tunnel lighting and NFPA provisions relating to fire safety.

The Vailoo-Singhpura tunnel project, approved in 2017 and reaffirmed in 2021, has faced repeated delays over the years.

Once completed, the tunnel is expected to provide a reliable all-weather alternative to the Sinthan Top route, improve connectivity between Kashmir and the Chenab Valley and reduce travel time.

The project is also expected to boost tourism, trade and economic activity in both regions while strengthening strategic and inter-regional connectivity along NH-244.

J&K Bank Wins

Irfan Kawoosa received the award on behalf of the bank at a ceremony held at Taj President, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai.

Reacting to the recognition, J&K Bank MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee said the award belonged to the entire bank family, whose commitment and adaptability had contributed to its digital transformation.

"For us, digital transformation is about simplifying banking, improving accessibility and delivering seamless, reliable services across geographies and customer segments," Chatterjee said.

He said the recognition reflected the bank's efforts to build a secure, agile and customer-centric digital banking ecosystem.

Chatterjee added that while the bank continues to modernise its technology architecture and strengthen data-driven capabilities, customer trust and information security remain central to its digital journey.

The Navabharat BFSI Summit & Awards 2026 brought together stakeholders and experts from the banking, financial services, insurance and fintech sectors to discuss emerging trends in India's BFSI ecosystem.

The summit featured sessions on digital transformation, artificial intelligence-driven compliance, digital onboarding, fintech innovation and systemic risk mitigation.

J&K Families Feel

adjoining areas on August 30 detected deficiencies in MRP display and expired products at some establishments, following which notices were issued.

Despite these measures, consumers continue to face concerns over the prices being charged at the retail counter and whether enforcement is translating into tangible relief for households.

The J&K Economic Survey 2025-26 also points to sustained price pressure during 2025. According to the Survey, combined inflation in J&K remained above the all-India rate during the year. Inflation stood at 4.8 per cent in January 2025 against 4.3 per cent nationally, while in September it was 4.4 per cent in J&K compared with 1.4 per cent across India. In December, J&K recorded inflation of 2.3 per cent against 1.3 per cent nationally.

However, official inflation figures may not fully reflect the experience of individual households because inflation is an average measure based on a broad basket of goods and services. Families spending a larger proportion of their income on food and essential commodities can experience a sharper increase in monthly expenditure when prices of those items rise.

The continuing pressure on food budgets has also been reflected in the latest Crisil household-food indicator. The cost of a home-cooked vegetarian thali rose one per cent year-on-year in August, while the non-vegetarian thali became five per cent costlier. Crisil attributed the increase mainly to onion, vegetable oil, rice and LPG prices.

For consumers in J&K, the concern therefore extends beyond whether inflation is rising or falling on paper. The focus remains on the actual prices paid for essential commodities, possible gaps between prescribed and retail prices, and the effectiveness of inspections and enforcement in preventing overcharging.

With price-monitoring mechanisms already operating across all 20 districts, consumers are likely to look to the administration for closer enforcement, greater transparency in district-wise prices and effective action wherever violations are detected. (KNT)

Ladakh Groups Drop

between the Centre and representatives of the LAB and KDA over the future governance structure of Ladakh.

The Centre has been discussing a possible special constitutional arrangement for Ladakh, including an elected UT-level body. However, the Ladakh groups have been seeking wider legislative and executive powers for the elected institution.

Dorjey said that the next meeting between the Centre and representatives of the Ladakh groups has been scheduled for the first week of October.

The demand for control over police and law and order has been among the contentious issues in discussions with the Centre. Ladakh representatives have maintained that an elected government would not be fully empowered if key areas of governance remained outside its control.

The Centre's proposed framework is still under discussion, and the final powers and structure of any elected body are yet to be settled. [KNT]

J&K to Set Up

digital platform would enable authorities to track progress, identify critical gaps and take informed decisions based on reliable data.

Dulloo also emphasised the need for a clearly defined escalation framework so that issues are addressed at the appropriate level, while matters requiring higher-level intervention are brought up without unnecessary delay.

He asked the National PMG team to conduct additional capacity-building sessions for local stakeholders to familiarise them with the system, workflow and escalation mechanism and equip them to operate the platform efficiently.

Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, R Alice Vaz, said the National PMG currently monitors 61 projects in J&K involving investments of 3.91 lakh crore, with 130 active issues under review through the National PMG portal.

The proposed JK-PMG would function under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary, with a dedicated team of project experts and a designated administrative department handling day-to-day operations and coordination.

The group would monitor identified mega and strategically important projects, track milestones and pending approvals, facilitate coordination among executing agencies and district administrations, and escalate unresolved issues for appropriate intervention.

The framework envisages fortnightly departmental-level reviews by Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments, monthly reviews chaired by the Chief Secretary, and reviews at the highest level chaired by the Chief Minister for matters requiring such consideration.

The National PMG team demonstrated that the proposed JK-PMG would use a digitised, cost-free portal with automated reporting and analytical capabilities.

Under the proposed workflow, project proponents would register projects and bottlenecks, sponsoring departments would verify the issues, while concerned district administrations and departments would take action for their resolution. Critical unresolved matters would be escalated to higher forums involving the concerned stakeholders.

Later, the National PMG team conducted a sensitisation workshop for officers and officials of the Planning Department and other concerned stakeholders, apprising them of the institutional architecture, digital workflow and escalation mechanism of the proposed JK-PMG.

The workshop focused on the roles of stakeholders in identifying, tracking and resolving project-related bottlenecks and facilitating a common understanding of the operational processes required for implementation of the mechanism in J&K.

Waste Piles near Jhelum May Soon Disappear as Baramulla Plans SWM Facility

Agencies

The long-standing solid waste management crisis in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Sopore is set for a major overhaul, with an integrated Solid Waste Management (SWM) facility proposed at Jetty in Baramulla to scientifically process waste generated by the two townships.

The proposed facility will comprise a 50-tonnes-per-day (TPD) Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and 20 TPD composting units, providing a structured mechanism for waste segregation, recovery and processing while reducing dependence on open dumping at the Jetty site.

Sources within the Urban Local Bodies told KNO that Jetty has been designated as the site for the integrated facility, which will cater to waste generated in both Baramulla and Sopore.

The development comes amid a growing waste management challenge in the two densely populated and commercially important townships. Baramulla generates around 24 metric tonnes of municipal waste daily, while Sopore produces more



than 34 metric tonnes, taking the combined waste generation to nearly 58 metric tonnes a day.

In the absence of adequate scientific processing infrastructure, a substantial portion of the waste has been transported to the Jetty site in Baramulla for disposal.

Located close to the Jhelum river, the site has over the years become a major waste accumulation point, with lakhs of metric tonnes of legacy waste currently lying there, officials said.

The accumulated waste has become a concern for residents in the surrounding areas, with large quantities of unprocessed

garbage contributing to foul smell and unhygienic conditions. The site's proximity to the Jhelum has also raised environmental concerns.

Garbage has frequently been seen scattered along roads and open spaces in and around the two townships, while civic authorities have struggled to cope with the steadily increasing volume of municipal waste.

The situation has been particularly challenging in Sopore, which generates around 34 metric tonnes of waste every day but has lacked adequate infrastructure for comprehensive processing and disposal. The

township has consequently depended on the designated Jetty site in Baramulla for waste disposal.

Officials, however, said the continued disposal at the site was primarily a consequence of the lack of alternative infrastructure.

"We are not dumping the waste there deliberately, but that is a designated site," an official, wishing anonymity, said.

The official said the government and concerned departments were now working towards establishing a systematic waste management mechanism.

"Remediation works for accumulated waste are underway, while works for the SWM plant will commence soon," the official said.

The remediation assumes significance given the huge quantity of legacy waste accumulated at Jetty. The proposed intervention is aimed at addressing both the existing waste and the daily generation of fresh municipal waste from Baramulla and Sopore.

The 50 TPD MRF will facilitate the segregation and re-

covery of recyclable materials, while the 20 TPD composting units will process biodegradable waste. The objective is to reduce the volume of waste requiring final disposal and shift the two townships towards a more scientific and sustainable waste management system.

For residents, the project could eventually bring relief from years of foul smell, visible waste piles and concerns over the accumulation of garbage near a major water body.

With remediation of the accumulated waste already underway, according to officials, and the proposed SWM plant expected to commence soon, authorities are hopeful that Jetty can eventually be transformed from a major dumping point into a scientifically managed waste processing facility.

Once completed and fully operational, the project is expected to provide a long-term waste management mechanism for Baramulla and Sopore and help address the challenge posed by the generation of nearly 58 metric tonnes of municipal waste every day. (KNO) v

Govt Considering Phased Regularisation of Daily Wagers, Workers: Dy CM

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is considering a phased approach to regularising daily wagers and workers engaged across various departments, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Friday.

Speaking on the sidelines of Kashmir Expo 2026, Choudhary said the demands of daily wagers were genuine and legitimate, but urged them to remain patient and not allow the issue to be politicised.

He said regularisation of daily wagers is a commitment made by the National Conference in its manifesto, while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had also assured the Legislative Assembly that the matter would be addressed. "Daily wagers are engaged across departments. They have the right to be regularised and deserve equal rights," Choudhary said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said a committee headed by the Chief Secretary was examining the matter and that the government was working towards a phased solution for regularisation.

He also appealed to the workers not to go on strike, saying they were an important part of the government machinery and assuring them that their genuine demands would be addressed. (KNO)

2 Killed in Road Accident in Bani's Sarthal

SRINAGAR: Two persons were killed and three others injured in a road accident in the Sarthal area of Bani tehsil in Kathua district on Friday.

An official said that the accident occurred in Sarthal when a vehicle carrying five persons was involved in an accident. Two occupants were killed, while three others sustained injuries.

The injured were shifted to Bani Hospital for treatment. Their condition was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma after receiving a phone call from Bani MLA Dalip Singh Parihar, who informed him about the accident.

In a post on X, Singh said, "Just now spoke to DC Kathua, Sh Rajesh Sharma after receiving a phone call from MLA Sh Dalip Singh Parihar informing about a road accident at Sarthal."

He said that of the five passengers travelling in the vehicle, three sustained injuries and were shifted to Bani Hospital, while two unfortunately lost their lives.

Singh said appropriate medical aid was being provided to the injured and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He added that his office was in constant touch with the district administration.

The deceased and injured are likely residents of Baderwah in Doda district. Their identities and further details are awaited.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated necessary proceedings—(KNO)

Bear Attacks Man in Shopian Apple Orchard

SRINAGAR: A 40-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a wild bear in an apple orchard in the Sedow area of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday.

An official said the incident took place when the man, identified as Sadiq Ahmad Thokar, son of Abdul Rahman and a resident of Sedow, came face-to-face with the wild animal in the orchard.

Thokar sustained injuries in the attack and was shifted to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Shopian for treatment.

The authorities have taken cognisance of the incident, while further details were awaited. (Observer News Service)

Tractor-Trolley Plunges Off Road in Reasi, Driver Killed

SRINAGAR: A 32-year-old man was killed after a tractor-trolley carrying stones veered off a road and plunged around 140-150 feet in the Fulkote Baggodass area of Chassana in Reasi district on Friday.

An official said the tractor-trolley was being used for work on a PMGSY road when it rolled off the road and fell into a deep slope at Fulkote Baggodass.

The driver, identified as Javed Ahmed, 32, son of Ali Mohammad and a resident of Manjikota, Chassana, Mahore, died in the accident.

Police reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the circumstances leading to the incident. (Observer News Service)

J&K Cong Chief Slams Abdullah Over 'Want Kashmiris In Jail' Remark In Vande Mataram Row

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Friday criticised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for saying that failure to comply with the Centre's direction on singing the full version of 'Vande Mataram' could land Kashmiris in jail, calling his remarks "highly unfortunate" and "detached from reality".

Earlier, while reacting to the controversy over the full version of the national song being played at a film festival, Abdullah asserted that it was a statutory requirement, and questioned whether the Congress wanted Kashmiris to be jailed.

In response, Karra pointed out that Keralam had decided to sing only the first two stanzas and that no one was put behind bars.

"Omar Abdullah sahib's comment is detached from reality and, therefore, highly unfortunate," he said.

Differences among the alliance partners cropped up after Congress slammed the ruling National Conference over the full rendition of the national song played at the inauguration of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) here.

Abdullah defended the move, saying that the issue was needlessly politicised.

The chief minister had said that legally, wherever the national anthem is played, all six stanzas of Vande Mataram have been made mandatory.

"This is not just for Jammu and Kashmir; it applies across the entire country. In states governed by Congress, the same will happen at government functions. This is now a statutory obligation," he said.

"Does Congress want Kashmiris to be thrown in jail on this issue?" he added.

The CM said his party had not adopted the full song and has no objection if the Congress revokes it in

the future once it comes to power.

"When Congress comes to power, and I pray they come to power as soon as possible, they can revoke this in Parliament. Let them do it, we have no objection. In fact, as a party, we have never adopted Vande Mataram, and we won't adopt it in the future either. But whatever our legal and statutory obligations are, we have to fulfill them," he said.

Pushing back at the CM's assertion, Karra questioned why Abdullah had framed the controversy around the general population.

"How did the people of Jammu & Kashmir come into the picture when our expectations were clearly and exclusively from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir?" Karra asked, asserting that the public had no role in the debate and that the onus remained squarely on the government to "stand upright."

Karra drew parallels

with other non-BJP-ruled states to challenge the chief minister's stance on statutory compliance.

"But since Omar Sahib has raised the issue, it begs two questions: One, did a single person in Kerala go to jail when its government chose to sing only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram at the Independence Day parade?"

"And second, are we wrong to expect our Hon'ble CM to be equally capable of standing up for secular and inclusive values as the CMs of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and now even Karnataka and Telangana have done by limiting Vande Mataram to first two stanzas at state events?" he asked.

Karra said the IFFJK was a "state event" organised jointly by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K, and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), and it was inaugurated by Chief Minister Abdullah himself.

Salaries of 10 Gurez Doctors Withheld over Absence

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ten doctors posted in Gurez have been issued notices by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gurez, over alleged unauthorised absence from duty and dereliction of duty, an official order said.

The notices were issued following a surprise inspection conducted on September 10 by the MLA from Gurez along with the SDM, during which the officials were allegedly found absent from duty.

It had also been reported that the doctors were "habitual" in remaining absent from their duties, the order states.

The SDM said the alleged absence had caused inconvenience to patients and adversely affected patient care.

The doctors, including a consultant and medical officers, have been directed to submit written explanations within two days explaining why disciplinary action under the relevant service rules should not be initiated against them.

No Early Dispersal on Last Working Day of Month, DSEK Directs Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department has banned schools from letting students leave early without permission on the last working day of every month.

Directorate of School Education Kashmir in a circular said that it has observed during visits to various schools in North Kashmir including Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara that in some educational institutions an unauthorized practice of dispersing students before the prescribed closing time on the last working day of every month is being followed. DSEK said that the practice of observing an unauthorized 'half-day' on the last day of every month is strictly prohibited.

"The last working day of the month is a regular working day and

the prescribed school timings shall be adhered to in letter and spirit," reads the circular.

It also said, "No Head of Institution or member of the staff shall curtail the instructional/working hours or disperse students before the prescribed closing time merely on the ground that it is the last day of the month."

The directorate further said that such practices result in loss of valuable instructional time, adversely affect the academic interests of students and reflect a serious lapse in the proper discharge of official duties.

"It has also been observed that during such curtailed hours, students may be left without meaningful academic engagement while staff may indulge in activities not connected with their assigned duties," DSEK said.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR/JAMMU.

Subject: Select list for the posts of Medical Officers (Allopathic) in Health & Medical Education Department - Online Submission of Personnel Verification Rolls (PVRs) for verification of character and antecedents thereof.

NOTICE

The Health and Medical Education Department has received a select list for the posts of Medical Officers (Allopathic) from the J&K Public Service Commission vide communication No. PSC/DR/Medical Officer (Allopathic)/H&ME/2024 dated 19.07.2024. Accordingly, all the concerned selectee Medical Officers as detailed in ANNEXURE are, hereby, informed through the medium of this notice to submit their email address & mobile number in the Health and Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu in person for registration under "Employee Verification System (EVS)" for verification of character and antecedents within a period of 07 days positively from the date of issuance of this notice in terms of Circular No. 18-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 issued by the General Administration Department.

In case, any candidate, fails to submit his/her email address & mobile number within a prescribed period of 07 days, it shall be presumed that the candidate is not willing to opt for such appointment in Health and Medical Education Department and shall forfeit the right of appointment, without any further notice.

No. HD-Gaz0Gen/597/2025-02- (E - 7677658)
Dated: 07 .09.2026

DIPK-5601-26
DT: 11/09/2026

(Neha Bakshi) JKAS
Deputy Secretary to the Government



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