

J&K Braces For Rain, Winds Over Next 2 Days

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally cloudy weather with brief spells of rain, thundershowers and gusty winds at many places on September 16 and 17, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Tuesday.

The weather department has forecast generally dry weather across the Union Territory from September 18 to 25, with brief spells of rain possible at isolated places during the period.

It has also issued an advisory for thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at a few places from September 15 to 17.

According to the advisory, farmers have been advised to safely store harvested crops and continue harvesting apples, paddy and other crops and farm operations from September 18 onwards.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 26.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.9 degrees Celsius during the past 24 hours.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 30 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 21.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 21.6 degrees Celsius and 11.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 24.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.5 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded 27.5 degrees Celsius and 12 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Kokernag recorded a maximum of 24 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.8 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded the lowest maximum temperature among the stations at 17.6 degrees Celsius. | [More on P6](#)

Major Quake Threat Looms Over Kashmir: Studies

» Active faults and accumulated strain keep the Valley at risk

» Weak buildings and liquefaction-prone soils compound danger

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Valley faces a serious earthquake threat due to active faults, accumulated tectonic strain, liquefaction-prone soils and vulnerabilities in its built environment, according to two peer-reviewed studies published in 2026.

A review published in the Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy in January said the Kashmir Valley lies in a seismically active region shaped by the continuing collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates.

The study by Waseem Qader, Irfan Maqbool Bhat and Mehran Qurashi identified a network of active faults in and around the region, including the Himalayan Frontal Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust, Main Central Thrust, Main Mantle Thrust, Kishtwar Fault and Balapur Fault.

The researchers described Kashmir as a seismic gap where tectonic strain can accumulate over long periods, raising concerns about the possibility of future high-magnitude earthquakes.

Drawing on historical earthquake records and seismological, geophysical,



geological and geodetic data, the review noted that Kashmir has experienced several destructive earthquakes, including major events recorded in 1555, 1669, 1736, 1779, 1784, 1828 and 1885.

The 1885 earthquake struck the Baramulla area, while the magnitude 7.6 Kashmir earthquake of 2005 caused more than 80,000 deaths, around 200,000 injuries and left about 3.5 million people homeless, according to the review. It also

reported that around 19,000 children died, mostly due to building collapses.

Statistical analysis cited in the review estimated about a 40 per cent probability of an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 or greater occurring within a 100-year period. It placed the recurrence interval for an M7.6 earthquake at around 200 years and for an M8 or greater event at around 380 years, while cautioning that such estimates do not predict when

an earthquake will occur.

A separate study published in February in Physics and Chemistry of the Earth also highlighted the Valley's vulnerability to major earthquakes.

The study by Ayaz Mohmood Dar analysed US Geological Survey earthquake records dating back to 1900 along with historical earthquake data. It identified around 1,000 earthquakes above magnitude 3 since 1905, including nearly 150 events above magnitude 5, with clusters of seismic activity along the NNW and SSE extensions of the Kashmir basin.

The study also examined the Balapur Fault using total magnetic intensity surveys and identified magnetic minima and linear low-magnetic zones associated by the researcher with fault-related activity.

The researchers said the possibility of a large-magnitude earthquake could not be ruled out, while the Valley's topography and tectonic setting could generate significant lateral forces on buildings during strong shaking.

Ground conditions pose another major concern.

The review noted that thick Quaternary lacustrine and fluvio-deltaic sediments

occur across parts of the Valley and can increase the likelihood of liquefaction during strong earthquakes.

Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara have been identified in cited research as areas with high to very high liquefaction potential. Relatively shallow groundwater levels combined with saturated, loose sediments can amplify shaking and contribute to ground deformation and foundation failure.

The built environment further compounds the risk. The review said much of the Valley's urban construction consists of concrete buildings with shallow foundations, while inadequate foundation assessments and weak implementation of seismic design measures remain concerns.

Simulations cited in the review found significant lateral forces acting on typical three-storey institutional and commercial buildings. In one simulation, lateral loads reached up to 749 kN in one direction, while combined base shears exceeded 11,000 kN in some cases.

The review also highlighted the declining use of traditional Kashmir construction systems | [More on P6](#)

HC Quashes 3 PSA Detention Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed three preventive detention orders passed under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), holding that authorities failed to comply with constitutional safeguards protecting personal liberty.

A bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary quashed PSA detention orders against Subzar Ahmad Ganie of Shopian, Firdous Ahmad Dar and Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, both residents of Anantnag.

In case of Ganie, the Court quashed the December 24, 2025 detention order passed by the District Magistrate, Shopian, observing that grounds of detention did not provide specific details of the alleged activities connecting him with terrorist or OGW elements. The court also held that the failure to furnish material relied upon by the Detaining Authority can deprive a detainee of the meaningful opportunity to make a representation guaranteed under Article 22(5) of the Constitution.

The Court also considered the delay in dealing with Ganie's representation. His representation was filed on January 7 this year, but was rejected only on February 24. Referring to recent Supreme Court jurisprudence, the Court reiterated that representations in preventive detention matters must be considered with utmost promptitude.

In the case of Firdous Ahmad Dar, the Court quashed a detention order after finding that the authorities had failed to satisfactorily explain the prolonged delay in executing it. The Court noted that Dar had appeared before a trial | [More on P6](#)

Bring UCC to Parliament If You Have Numbers: CM

Says Law Cannot Be Universal If Limited To BJP-Ruled States



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the BJP should bring the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill to Parliament if it has the numbers to get it passed, instead of seeking to implement it through individual states.

"If you have the numbers, bring it to Parliament. Why are you doing it through different

states?" Abdullah told reporters here.

He said the BJP should not attempt to bring the UCC "through the backdoor", noting that some of its allies within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) may not support the legislation.

"According to the news, Janata Dal (United) raised their hands and said this won't be implemented in Bihar," he said. Abdullah | [More on P6](#)

Omar, BJP Spar Over J&K Assembly Session Duration

LoP Calls Five Sittings a 'Mockery'; CM Says BJP Has No Locus Standi To Question Duration

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The upcoming autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is set to begin amid a political face-off, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma trading barbs on Tuesday over the duration of the House proceedings.

The exchange came days before the Assembly is scheduled to meet in Srinagar from September 21 to September 30, with Sharma accusing the government of making a "mockery" of public expectations | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Session from Sep 21

Observer News Service

Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday, reviewed arrangements for the forthcoming Autumn Session of the Assembly. | [More on P6](#)

After SC Rap, Govt Clears Bilquis Mir's Asian Games Trip

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday allowed international canoeing coach and umpire Bilquis Mir to travel to Japan as an official for the Asian Games after the Supreme Court came down heavily on the Union Territory administration for withholding permission for her international assignment.

The Supreme Court had last week directed the J&K government to issue all necessary orders in Mir's case on or before September 15. The order was issued by the Youth Services and Sports Department on Tuesday, the deadline set by the top court.

"Bilquis Mir, Physical Education Teacher, is hereby accorded the requisite limited NOC/permission and is relieved for the purpose of joining and discharging the remaining assignment as Coach/Chief Coach of the Indian National Kayaking and Canoeing Team and for accompanying and assisting the Indian National Team in connection with the Asian Games, 2026," the government order said. Mir has been relieved | [More on P6](#)

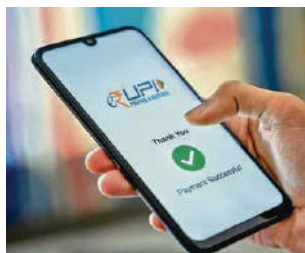
UPI Merchant Payments Above Rs 2,000 To Face 0.4% MDR

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Ending nearly six years of fully free UPI payments, the government on Tuesday introduced a 0.4 per cent fee on transfers worth more than Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the platform from October 15 while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transactions as well as small payments from any charge.

"Customers will not be required to pay any charge when making such payments through UPI," the finance ministry said in a statement, adding, "MDR is a charge within the merchant payment ecosystem. It is not a charge on customers making UPI payments."

Also, individuals will continue to have "unlimited free usage, with no monthly quotas, volume restrictions or tiered caps on free



UPI transactions", it said.

The carefully calibrated move signalled the end of an era for the world's largest real-time payments system even as the government tried to avoid alarming the hundreds of millions of daily users. The move drew sharp criticism from the opposition parties. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the levy was "once again surrender" by a "compromised" Prime Minister Narendra Modi to American pressure. The BJP hit back, accusing | [More on P6](#)

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2

IIT Madras Offers J&K Students BS Entry Without JEE

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Students in Jammu and Kashmir aspiring to study at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras can now pursue its four-year Bachelor of Science programmes without necessarily having to clear the JEE route or relocate to Chennai.

The IIT Madras BS Degree Programmes are designed to extend IIT-level education beyond the traditional campus model through technology-enabled learning, flexible academic pathways and periodic in-person assessments. IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti described the initiative as an effort to make high-quality technical education more accessible to students irrespective of geography or financial constraints.

For students in Jammu and Kashmir, where moving to a major metropolitan centre for undergraduate education can involve considerable financial and logistical challenges, the model offers an alternative route to an IIT education while allowing learners to remain at home or continue another degree or job.

No JEE required for one admission route

A key feature of the programmes is that candidates do not necessarily need a JEE score for admission, Dr Kamakoti said during an interaction with a media delegation from Srinagar on Tuesday.

According to the IIT brochure, applicants without JEE scores can enter through a structured, self-contained four-week Qualifier Process comprising recorded lectures, live interactive sessions and weekly assignments. Candidates who qualify through this process can secure admission.

Students who have qualified for JEE Advanced in the current or previous year are eligible for direct admission, the brochure says.

Admissions are offered three times a year, in January, May and September, providing multiple opportunities for students to begin their IIT journey.

This could be particularly relevant for students from J&K who may otherwise face geographical, financial or coaching-related barriers associated with conventional IIT admissions, officials at IIT



Madras said.

Four-year programmes in emerging fields The IIT, Madras, lists four BS programmes – BS in Data Science and Applications, BS in Electronic Systems, BS in Aeronautics and Space Technology, and BS in Management and Data Science.

The Data Science and Applications programme, launched in 2020, covers areas including full-stack development, data science, artificial intelligence and computing systems. Its

curriculum progresses from mathematics, statistics and Python programming at the foundation level to machine learning, databases, deep learning, generative AI, large language models, computer vision, natural language processing, MLOps and advanced algorithms.

The BS in Electronic Systems focuses on electronics, embedded systems, testing, communications, control engineering and system design. Students are exposed to subjects including digital systems, embedded C, signals and systems, sensors, VLSI testing, embedded Linux, FPGA and electronic product design, with electives in areas such as VLSI, IoT and AI/ML.

Two newer programmes, BS in Aeronautics and Space Technology and BS in Management and Data Science, were launched in February 2026. The Aeronautics and Space Technology programme takes students from engineering mathematics, mechanics and programming to aerodynamics, thermodynamics, flight dynamics, structures, computational fluid dynamics, propulsion, control systems and spacecraft dynamics. Electives include UAV/MAV design and advanced aerospace topics.

The Management and Data Science programme combines business strategy, management and data analytics. Its curriculum includes economics, accounting, organisational behaviour, HR analytics, marketing and finance analytics, operations, supply-chain analytics, Python for data analytics, generative AI for business and digital marketing.

Foundation-to-degree progression

Unlike a conventional four-year programme in which students are required to complete the entire course to obtain a qualification, the IIT Madras model is structured in multiple stages. The Foundation Level focuses on fundamentals such as mathematics, programming, analytical thinking and core subjects. Students completing it receive a Foundation Certificate from IIT Madras CODE.

The Diploma Level introduces advanced, hands-on courses and individual projects, with project evaluations involving one-to-one vivas by instructors and industry experts. Students can become eligible for internships while continuing their studies.

Read Full Story on Kashmirobserver.net

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR
Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018
E-mail: dhs-k-pa@jk.gov.in Website: www.Dhskashmir.org.
Tel. No: 0194-2493712, 0194-2493711

Subject: Final Seniority List of Senior Lab. Technicians/ Jr. Lab. Technicians/ Senior X-Ray Technicians/ Senior Dental Technicians of PM Package Employees - Kashmir Division.

CIRCULAR

Whereas, on the basis of record available in this Directorate, 1st tentative seniority list of Senior Lab. Technicians/ Jr. Lab. Technicians/ Senior X-Ray Technicians/ Senior Dental Technicians of PM Package Employees Kashmir Division was notified and circulated vide this Office Notification No. -DHSK/NG/Est-5th/NG/2989-3019, dated 24-07-2026 for obtaining objections, if any. Whereas, after circulation of 1st tentative seniority list among concerned, some representation has been received from the concerned official, which were examined and the seniority in respect of concerned among others has been updated at their appropriate place. Whereas, 2nd Tentative Seniority list was notified/issued and circulated vide this Office Notification No. -DHSK/NG/Est-4th/NG/3905-36, dated 18-08-2026 for obtaining objections, if any. Whereas, no representation has been received by this office. Now, therefore, Final Seniority List of Senior Lab. Technicians/ Jr. Lab. Technicians/ Senior X-Ray Technicians/ Senior Dental Technicians of PM Package Employees Kashmir Division, forming Annexure to this notification, is hereby notified and circulated among all the Senior Lab. Technicians/ Jr. Lab. Technicians/ Senior X-Ray Technicians/ Senior Dental Technicians of PM Package Employees - Kashmir Division for information. The date(s) of birth and category status of the officials recorded in the Seniority List shall not be taken as authentic and shall be subject to further verification with the Service records/Matriculation Certificate issued in respect of these officials by the concerned authorities.

Sd/
Director Health
Services Kashmir.

No. DHSK/NG/Est-4th/NG/4573-4603
DIPK-5709/26
Dated: 15.09.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Kath F/o Muntazir Abbas Kath R/o Agro Bagh Badamwari, Srinagar hereby declare that due to an inadvertent error the name of my son were wrongly recorded in the school records.

Incorrect Name: Muntazir Abbas
Correct Name: Muntazir Abbas Kath

if any person has any objection to the above mentioned corrections they may inform the concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice .After 7 days no objection shall be entertained

Manzoor Ahmad Kath
F/o Muntazir Abbas Kath

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th pass marks card bearing roll no: 108013282 . 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 JK BOSE Sub Office Sopore within seven Days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Baset Ramzan Lone
S/O Muhammad Ramzan Lone

fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Saeeda Begum M/o Jahangir Ahmad Tramboo R/o Kreeri for the issuance of Dependent certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above ,in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned reveals that Amir-ud-Din Tramboo S/o Habibullah Tramboo R/o Kreeri has passed away on 21/06/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Sayeeda Begum	Wife	73	H/W

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

No: 240/NJK/MN/26
fko

Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer id.0203010014226 with installation. 23811-R1 registered in the name of Tariq ahmad bhat s/o Gh mohd bhat R/o Firdous colony bemina to be transferred to Mohammad Arif beigh S/o Gh qadir dar and Rafiq Begum w/o mohd arif both resident of firdous colony bemina if any person having any objection may contact AEE sub div watakadal with in seven days

inf

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Corporate Headquarters, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi- 110003

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Airports Authority of India (AAI) invites applications for "Empanelment of Arbitrator for resolution of disputes arising out of legal issues, contract management, infrastructure projects related to AAI."

Form for online application is available on the official website of AAI from **10.09.2026 (09:30 AM) to 09.10.2026 (06:00 PM)**. The applications are invited through online mode only. For Eligibility Criteria and detailed information regarding the empanelment, please visit the Airports Authority of India website at **www.aai.aero → Career → Recruitment Dashboard**.

N-02-2026-27 (CC)

CBC 03111/11/0007/2627

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

From Office Of The Advocate

Yameen Humayun Lic. No.333/12

In the case of
Bilal Ahmad Rather
S/O Abdul Rehman Rather
R/O Ganaie Mohalla Old Barzulla Srinagar

(Caveator)

V/S PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C

The caveat has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground or Distorted facts/misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sub: Invitation of Bidders for participation in Scrap E-Auction scheduled during the month of September.

On behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Materials Manager / Northern Railway / Stores Branch / Jammu Division invites interested bidders to participate in the E-Auction of scrap materials. The materials proposed for future E-Auctions will include P-Way rails, vehicles, Old condemned Buildings, and other scrap materials available for disposal as per Railway rules.

The Scrap E-Auction is scheduled to be conducted during the month of September as per the following schedule:

Sr. No.	E-Auction Schedule No.	E-Auction Scheduled date	Scheduled Time of E-Auction
01	JAT092603	17.09.26	10:30
02	JAT092604	22.09.26	10:30
03	JAT092605	28.09.26	10:30

Terms & Conditions:

Interested bidders shall participate in the E-Auction subject to the prescribed terms and conditions. Detailed information regarding the E-Auction, including terms and conditions and other relevant details, is available on the concerned IREPS E-Auction portal. New Bidders who desire to participate against E-Auction are advised to electronically register themselves on the **www.ireps.gov.in**. For more information, bidders may contact Jammu Division at:

E-mail: **srddmjauction@gmail.com**, Mobile: 9541901242, 9541910570

Sr.DMM/JAT

3181/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

Sub Office Baramulla

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 108000070 Session: Oct-Nov -2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The Error has been committed by the Parents / Institution against my name as Sami-ullah Instead of Sami Ullah Bhat

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education new campus bemina srinagar , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificate Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Sami Ullah Bhat
Father's name: Ali Mohammad Bhat
Mother's Name: Zareefa Begum
DOB: 31-03-2011
Residence: Watapora Bandipora
Mobile no: 6005691141

fko



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shanavaza W/o Mohammad Rafiq Khanday R/o Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Shahnaza Begum" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8164-5106-6368, whereas my correct and actual name is "Shanavaza."

I have applied for publication of Gazette Notification for correction/ updation of my name in the aforesaid Aadhaar record through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having any objection in this regard 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 thereafter.

Shanavaza
W/o Mohammad Rafiq Khanday
R/o Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name & Date of Birth has been wrongly written as SADRA SHOWKAT WANI & DOB 02/08/2014 on her Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No...3989 7687 7904 while her correct name is SIDRAH SHOWKET & correct DOB is 02/08/2015 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar Authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....SHOWKET HUSSAIN WANI
F/O ...SIDRAH SHOWKET
R/O ...KREERI
BLOCK....WAGOORA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Parvaiz Ahmad Khan S/o Sonaulah Khan, R/o Kawoosa Khalisa, Tehsil Narbal, District Budgam, do hereby inform the general public that my son Morifat Ahmad Khan has passed the 8th Class Examination through Habras International School, Near General Bus Stand, Parimpora, Srinagar.

The Marks Certificate/Card of the 8th Class Examination of my ward has been lost. I have applied before the concerned School authorities for issuance of a Duplicate Marks Card in favour of my ward.

Any person having any objection in this regard 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.

Parvaiz Ahmad Khan
S/o Sonaulah Khan
R/o Kawoosa Khalisa, Tehsil Narbal, District Budgam

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ARSALAN AHMAD MALIK While as my actual name is ARSALAN NAZIR C/O NAZIR AHMAD MALIK R/O REGIPORA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

ARSALAN NAZIR
C/O :-NAZIR AHMAD MALIK
R/O :- REGIPORA , KUPWARA

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Irfan Yousuf Bhat S/o R/o Gosha Bugh, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that my daughter's name has inadvertently been recorded as "Rahmat Ji" in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4974-3193-7948, which is incorrect.

Her actual and correct name is "Rahmat Irfan Bhat". I have applied for correction of her name and publication of the same in the Government Gazette. Any person having any objection in this regard 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.

Irfan Yousuf Bhat
F/o Rahmat Irfan Bhat
R/o Gosha Bugh, Tehsil Pattan,

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ab Rahim Sheikh S/o Mohd Shaban Sheikh, R/o Mehmoodpora, Post Office Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Abdul Raheem Sheikh" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5653-0090-9618, which is incorrect.

My actual and correct name is "Ab Rahim Sheikh". I have applied for correction of my name and publication of the same in the Government Gazette. Any person having any objection in this regard 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.

Ab Rahim Sheikh
S/o Mohd Shaban Sheikh
R/o Mehmoodpora, Post Office Kunzer, Tehsil Kunze

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Hussain Rather S/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather, R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that my ward Tahira Hussain D/o Ghulam Hussain Rather, her mother's name being Fahmeeda Begum, born on 20-10-2012 at Yall, has her date of birth wrongly recorded as 29-10-2012 in the Aadhaar record.

Her correct date of birth, as per School Certificate, is 20-10-2012. I have applied for correction of her date of birth from 29-10-2012 to 20-10-2012 in the school 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 of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Hussain Rather
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather
R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK05F 9234 . 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 ARTO Sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aaqib Ahmad
S/o Wasim Ahmad Dar
R/o Baramulla

2nd owner Mohammad Ashraf Hajam

bmrg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Waseem Ahmad Lone S/o Ghulam Nabi Lone R/o Lone Mohalla, Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, do hereby declare that my daughter's name has been wrongly recorded as "Lone Haniya" in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7625-1048-0268, whereas her correct and actual name is "Haniya Waseem."

I have applied for publication of Gazette Notification for correction/ updation of her name in the aforesaid Aadhaar 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 of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Waseem Ahmad Lone
S/o Ghulam Nabi Lone
R/o Lone Mohalla, Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I wish to correct the parentage particulars of my ward, Hadi Abbas Khan, in the school records. Due to an inadvertent error, the father's name has been recorded as Amjad Ali Khan and the mother's name as Saima, whereas the correct particulars are:

• Father's Name: Amjad Khan
• Mother's Name: Saima Nazir

My ward is studying in Class 2nd-B, bearing Roll No. 21 and Admission No. 4498, at Delhi Public School, Budgam.

Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned correction may contact the concerned school authorities within a period of seven days after publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Amjad Khan F/o Hadi Abass Khan
R/o Nabidpora Gasiyar Hawal Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I wish to correct the parentage particulars of my ward, Farheen Fatima, in the school records. Due to an inadvertent error, the father's name has been recorded as Amjad Ali Khan and the mother's name as Saima, whereas the correct particulars are:

• Father's Name: Amjad Khan
• Mother's Name: Saima Nazir

My ward is studying in Class 7th-A, bearing Roll No. 13 and Admission No. 3340, at Delhi Public School, Budgam.

Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned correction may contact the concerned school authorities within a period of seven days after publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Amjad Khan F/o Farheen Fatima
R/o Nabidpora Gasiyar Hawal Srinagar



CM Omar Inaugurates IEI 'IEI GHAR' at Church Lane

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the guest house of The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), 'IEI GHAR', at Church Lane, Sonwar, here on the occasion of the 59th Engineers' Day.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk



Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, Chairman, IEI J&K State Centre, Er. Ferdous Ahad Bhat, Honorary Secretary, IEI J&K State Centre, Irfan Ahmad Reshi, members of

the Executive Committee of IEI J&K State Centre and senior engineers were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally inaugurate the facility and also took a tour of the guest house.

Appreciating the facility, the Chief Minister said that 'IEI GHAR' would provide a useful facility for

members of the engineering community visiting Jammu and Kashmir from outside the region.

He said the initiative would further facilitate professional interaction and engagement among engineers visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir Theatre Conference Ends with Call to Revive Valley's Stage

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Three days of theatre, scholarship and cultural exchange concluded in Srinagar with the Kashmir Theatre Conference calling for stronger institutional support, greater creative experimentation and more opportunities for young artists and theatre practitioners.

Organised by ACT FOR A BETTER TOMORROW, the conference brought together eminent theatre practitioners, scholars, writers, actors, artists and cultural enthusiasts to celebrate Kashmir's rich theatrical heritage and deliberate on its creative future.

The concluding day began at 11 am with an academic paper-reading and presentation session, followed by an interactive brainstorming discussion on "The Future Prospects of Theatre in Kashmir."

The academic sessions featured paper presentations and discussions by eminent theatre scholars, writers and practitioners, including Hasrat Gadda, Gouri Shankar Raina, Bhawani Basheer Yasir, Dr

Aiyash Arif, Ravi Kemmu, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Prof Farooq Fayyaz, Lalit Pari-moo, Majeed Khan, Shaikh Haneef, Shah-e-Jahan Ahmad Bhagat, Javaid Khan, Raees Wathoori, Nisar Naseem, Arshad Mushtaq, Reshi Rasheed, Hassan Javaid, M.Y. Shaheen, Ha-keem Javaid, Ameen Bhat, Gulzar Fighter, Shaikh Altaf, Mir Sarwar, S. Humayun Qaisar and Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan.

The deliberations explored the evolution and development of theatre in Kashmir, its contemporary challenges and future prospects. Speakers highlighted the need for institutional support, creative experimentation, professional development, audience engagement and greater efforts towards the long-term sustainability of theatre in the region.

The concluding and felicitation function commenced at 4 pm with introductory remarks by Seyad Humayun Qaisar, who welcomed the distinguished guests, dignitaries, participants, collaborators, sponsors and audience members.



Ulema Meet Calls for Collective Action on Drugs, Suicide, Environment

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday held a major Ulema meet in Srinagar, bringing together more than 70 religious scholars and Mashai-kh from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to deliberate on emerging social, moral and religious challenges.

The One-Day Ulema Meet and Seerat Conference, chaired by Mir-waiz Umar Farooq, concluded with the adoption of two broad resolutions—one focusing on contemporary social and environmental challenges and the role of religious institutions in addressing them, and the other stressing unity within the Muslim Ummah, sectarian harmony and mutual respect among different schools of thought.

Ulema from various districts of Kashmir participated in the conference, while scholars from Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Kargil and Doda travelled to Srinagar to attend the event.

The first resolution expressed concern over drug and substance abuse, suicides and self-harm, mental and emotional distress among youth, irresponsible use of social media, weakening family bonds, moral decline and the growing disconnect between young people and religious and community institutions.

The participants particularly expressed concern over the rising incidence of suicide and self-harm among young people, stressing that condemnation or silence alone could not address the issue.

The conference called for a more compassionate and supportive approach by Ulema, Imams, mosques and madrasas, with religious institutions encouraged to create spaces where young people and families can discuss emotional distress, loneliness, anxiety, family pressures and related concerns without fear of stigma.

It stressed that Imams and Ulema should help communities recognise signs of distress, encourage families to respond with greater understanding and guide those in need towards appropriate counselling and professional mental-health support.

The participants emphasised that serious mental-health concerns require trained professional care, while mosques and madrasas can complement such services by serving as accessible centres of guidance, support and referral.

The conference decided that the concerns identified during the meeting should not remain confined to occasional seminars or sermons. It proposed that, on designated Fridays, a common social issue be taken up in Friday sermons across participating mosques, enabling Ulema across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to collectively highlight issues requiring urgent social attention.

The MMU also resolved to endeavour to hold regular meetings, preferably every month, in different districts and areas to engage local Ulema, Imams, mosques and madrasas and identify and respond to issues specific to individual communities. The conference stressed that mosques and madrasas

should increasingly function as centres of guidance, youth engagement, family support, counselling and community welfare alongside their core religious and educational responsibilities.

On drug addiction, the participants called for a consistent approach towards all forms of addiction and expressed concern over what they described as the simultaneous normalisation and expansion of alcohol availability.

The conference observed that efforts against narcotics and substance abuse could be undermined if alcohol availability was expanded under the banner of tourism. It called upon the government to reconsider policies involving the further promotion and expansion of alcohol availability.

The resolution also underlined the responsibility of religious institutions towards environmental protection. Ulema were urged to use Friday sermons and mosque-based programmes to discourage the use of plastic and polythene, littering and dumping of waste into rivers, lakes and other water bodies.

Particular concern was expressed over the condition and protection of Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Nigeen Lake, wetlands and other water bodies, with participants stressing that protecting nature, maintaining cleanliness and safeguarding shared natural resources constituted an important moral and religious responsibility.

The second resolution focused on unity within the Muslim Ummah and the responsibility of Ulema to maintain mutual respect despite differences of Maslak and interpretation.

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
03 Rabi-ul-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 50
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	4: 53
Magrib	6: 42
ISHA	8: 02

This Day In History

- 1970 - King Hussein of Jordan forms military government
- 1971 - West German chancellor Willy Brandt meets with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev
- 1974 - US President Gerald Ford announces conditional amnesty for US Vietnam War deserters
- 1974 - US General Haig becomes NATO supreme commander in Europe
- 1975 - The first prototype of the MiG-31 interceptor makes its maiden flight.
- 1976 - Egyptian president Sadat re-elected
- 1977 - Seattle beats Royals, 4-1, to end KC's winning streak at 16 games
- 1978 25,000 die in 7.7 earthquake in Tabar, Iran
- 1979 - Coup in Afghanistan under Hafizullah Amin
- 1982 - Massacre of 1000+ Palestinian refugees at Chatila & Sabra begins
- 1987 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1987 - Pope John Paul II's ends his Los Angeles tour with an interfaith meeting at Dodger Stadium with leaders of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism
- 1988 - Javed Miandad completes 211, his 5th Test Cricket double, v Australia
- 1990 - Iraq televises an 8 minute uncensored speech from George H. W. Bush
- 1997 - Apple Computer Inc names co-founder Steve Jobs interim CEO

From KO Archives

India, US To Showcase New Ties

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The White House will showcase a "new" era in India-US ties by welcoming Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee this week, but tough issues like arms control and war-torn Kashmir will lurk beneath the bonhomie.

Vajpayee, who arrives in Washington on Wednesday after attending the UN Millennium Summit, will meet President Bill Clinton and deliver a landmark address to a joint session of Congress. His invitation, which was issued during Clinton's stay in India earlier this year, further cements a drive by both sides to end decades of frosty ties between Washington and New Delhi. "The president's visit brought us into a qualitatively new relationship with the Indians," a State Department official told AFP.

Vajpayee's visit will stress blossoming links between the two countries in computer technology, trade and science, said India's national security advisor Brajesh Mishra during a visit to Washington in July.

Indian-US ties have warmed considerably on Clinton's watch, largely due to a reshuffling of US diplomatic priorities after the Cold War, a period when Washington scorned New Delhi for its links to the Soviet Union. The attempt by both sides to consign old suspicions to the past was interrupted in 1998 when India's nuclear arms tests triggered a tit-for-tat response by its arch-rival Pakistan.

Fearing that periodic conflicts over the divided Kashmir could boil over into full scale nuclear war, the United States has since been trying to ease tensions on the subcontinent. But it has been confined to treating the symptoms of the conflict, rather than their cause due to debate Kashmir seemingly unbridgeable differences between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan is crying out for international mediation in a dispute which has triggered two out of three wars between the neighbours. But India, has refused and accused Islamabad of fomenting an insurgency that has claimed more than 30,000 lives in the Indian zone of the divided state since.

"Vajpayee is likely to insist in the US that 'India will not engage Pakistan (in talks) unless it puts an end to its cross-border terrorism,'" Indian analyst Raja Mohan told AFP in New Delhi.

Stressing that the United States did not see itself as a mediator, the State Department official said the dispute could only be solved by the two rivals.

"What we are doing is trying to push both the Indians and Pakistanis to talks," he said.

"You have to do what you can with the tools you have — a direct intervention would probably do more harm than good."

Vajpayee arrives as a campaign gathers pace in the US Congress for the lifting of the sanctions, but there is no sign the administration is ready to relax the pressure.

His tour of the US was delayed several days due to concerns over his health and members of the Indian diaspora in the high technology corridor in California were disappointed he would be unable to visit them.

A powerful business delegation is however travelling with Vajpayee, hoping to scoop billions of dollars of US investment for India's flagship hi-tech industry.

As well as meeting Clinton, Vajpayee is scheduled to meet Vice President Al Gore, who is now himself running for the White House, and members of both parties in Congress.

(Kashmir Observer, September 16, 2000)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ab Majid Ganai S/o Abdul Rahim Ganai, R/o Yall, Post Office Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Ab Majeed Ganai" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2799-670-4842, whereas my correct and actual name is "Ab Majid Ganai".

I have applied for publication of the Gazette Notification regarding correction of my name in the aforesaid Aadhaar 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 of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Ab Majid Ganai

S/o Abdul Rahim Ganai

R/o Yall, P.O. Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with Consumer ID 0202040001898 & Installation No. 77205-R1/L- 1500 registered in the name of MOHAMMAD SHAFI WANI S/o LATE GHULAM MOHAMMAD WANI R/o MAIN ROAD STATION PAMPOSH COLONY NATIPORA SRINAGAR is to be transferred in favour of AJAZ SHAFI WANI S/o Late MOHD SHAFI WANI R/o MAIN ROAD STATION PAMPOSH COLONY NATIPORA SRINAGAR. If anybody having any Objections, if to the same must reach Sub. Div (Chanapora) within a week at the most

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shoruq, hereby declare that I intend to change my name from Shoruq (Old Name) to Shoruq Mujahid (New Name), as per my previous passport.

I further intend to correct the spelling of my father's name from Shakil Ahmed Mujahid (Old Name) to Shakil Ahmad Mujahid (New Name). Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned changes may submit the same in writing to the Office of the Passport Officer, Srinagar, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

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Shoruq Mujahid

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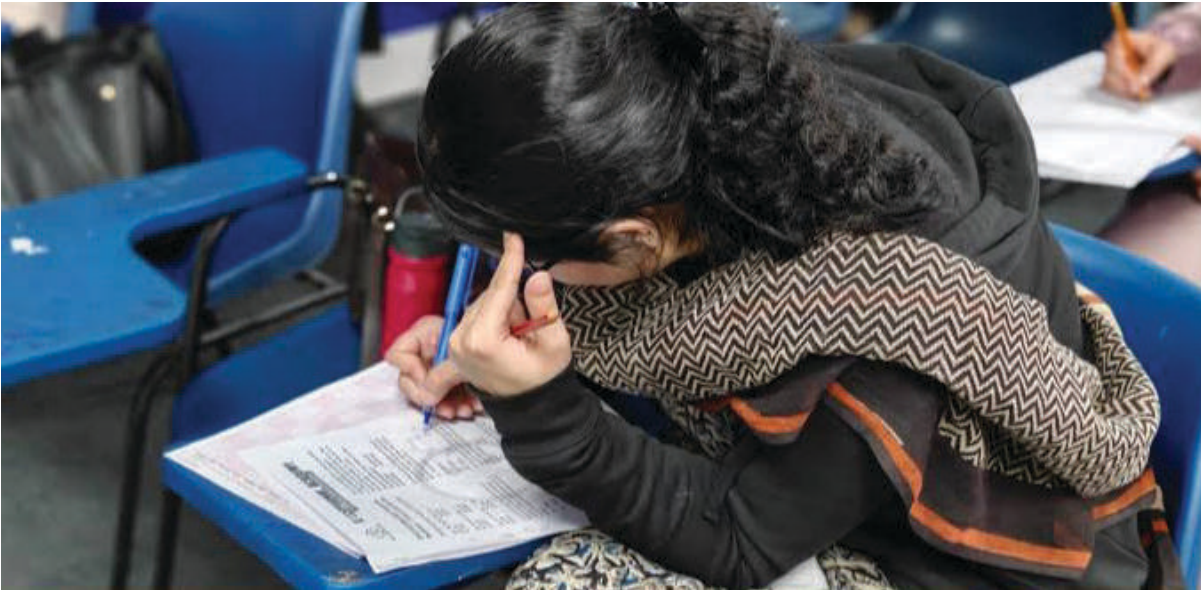
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The 32-Year Wall

Kashmir's brightest graduates spend their twenties preparing for one exam, then discover the real test is how young they still are when they finally sit for it.



Sahil Parray



KO VIEW

A Sicker Kashmir

The latest health figures from Jammu and Kashmir tell a story that should concern a society proud of its food, farms and long walks through mountain towns.

About 13 percent of women and 11.3 percent of men aged 15 and above in J&K now have high blood sugar or take medicine to control it.

The figures come from NFHS-6, based on data collected in 2023-24. The previous survey put the corresponding figures at 8.7 percent for women and 8 percent for men.

The change is too large to dismiss as a statistical detail.

Another number tells the same story. Nearly 37 percent of women aged 15 to 49 in J&K are overweight or obese. Among men, the figure is 27 percent. Urban women have reached 48.7 percent.

Kashmir's health problem is moving beyond infections and acute illness. Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and kidney disease are becoming a larger part of what doctors will have to treat in the coming years.

The roots of this change can be seen in ordinary life.

People spend more time sitting at work. Short journeys that once meant walking now often happen by car. Processed food, sugary drinks and restaurant meals have become easier to find. Physical activity has become something people schedule rather than something built into the day.

The numbers on blood pressure add another warning.

NFHS-6 puts elevated blood pressure or treatment for it at 25 percent among adults in J&K.

High blood pressure and high blood sugar rarely remain isolated problems. They raise the risk of heart attacks, strokes and kidney disease. A health system that focuses heavily on treating patients after complications appear will face rising costs and crowded hospitals.

Kashmir already has signs of this pressure.

The answer cannot rest with hospitals alone. Primary health centres need regular screening for blood pressure and blood sugar. Families need clear advice on food and physical activity. Schools can give children more time for sport. Cities can make walking and cycling easier. Doctors can identify high-risk patients before diabetes or hypertension causes lasting damage. The larger lesson is simple: Kashmir's health gains cannot be measured only through hospitals, vaccinations or maternal care.

A healthier future also depends on what happens at the dining table, in schools, at workplaces and on the streets.

Think of a graduate in Srinagar, books open at midnight, preparing for the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service exam.

She races her own birth certificate more than the syllabus.

Clear the exam before she turns 33, and a career in public service opens wide. Miss that window, however strong her performance, and the door closes for good.

Six attempts, one hard ceiling, and that's the whole equation.

The ceiling used to sit higher once upon a time.

Before 2018, Open Merit candidates could sit the JKAS exam until age 37, with unlimited attempts along the way.

Then, on 23 February 2018, an order called SRO-103 rewrote both numbers together.

The age limit dropped to 32, attempts fell to a cap of six, and the government promised something concrete in exchange: an annual exam cycle, run the way the UPSC runs its own.

Aspirants say that promise appeared in patches, while the tighter age rule remained unchanged.

What followed looked like a government making it up as it went.

Chief Secretaries issued one-time relaxations that pushed the limit back to 37 in 2018 and 2021, then to 35 for 2022, 2023 and 2024, discretionary orders renewed on a near-annual basis but left out of permanent law.

Ahead of the 2025 exam, that pattern of last-minute fixes collapsed completely.

Admit cards went out for a preliminary test set for 7 December, and the relaxation order remained stuck in file movement between offices.

The Chief Minister's office said the file had gone to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval. Lok Bhavan said the file came back four days earlier with a question about whether such changes were even workable that late, and silence followed from the Chief Minister's side.

Flight cancellations piled onto the confusion.

A day before the exam, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah asked the Commission to postpone it, citing the travel chaos and the stalled re-

laxation proposal.

The Commission held the test anyway, on schedule, at the unrelaxed limit of 32, while the two offices traded public blame over who caused the holdup.

Nine months later, the limit still sits at 32. Aspirants call it an administrative anomaly.

In an August representation, they asked for the 37-year limit to return permanently, and for the six-attempt cap to disappear altogether.

Compare that number with what neighbouring states allow, and 32 starts to look like an outlier all its own.

Punjab lets general-category candidates sit its exam until 37. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh go up to 37 and 40, with the age cutoff alone doing the work of limiting attempts. Rajasthan sets the bar at 40. Madhya Pradesh allows 40 with unlimited attempts. Haryana and Uttarakhand both go to 42. Jammu and Kashmir's own pre-2018 rule allowed 37 with unlimited tries.

The UPSC's General category, open to applicants from the entire country competing for a national civil service, sits at 32 with six attempts, the exact numbers now applied to a small union territory filling a handful of local posts.

Even inside the same government, the rules pull in opposite directions.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, which fills thousands of health, education and technical jobs, allows Open Merit candidates up to age 40. One recruiting body treats a 40-year-old as someone with plenty left to give. Another treats a 33-year-old as finished.

The official reasoning behind the tighter rule, that younger officers make for a better administration, collapses under its own logic once you fol-

low it through.

Reserved-category candidates already get relaxed age limits up to 37 or 40, paired with a friendlier attempt structure.

A 36-year-old officer from a reserved category walks into the job with full stamina and drive, and the system treats that as settled fact. Competence remains constant regardless of which category box a candidate ticks.

Meanwhile, the pool open to Open Merit candidates keeps shrinking on its own.

Reservations covering Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, OBCs, residents of backward areas, people near the Line of Control, and Economically Weaker Sections climbed to roughly 70 percent of government seats by 2024-25, leaving about 30 percent open to unreserved competition, a slice reserved candidates can also contest.

Census data puts the Open Merit share of the population at close to 70 percent. In Kashmir specifically, nearly 90 percent of young people fall into that category. Recent JKAS final select lists make the imbalance plain: out of roughly 90 positions, only a handful went to Open Merit candidates.

Aspirants point to what actually filled these years.

The abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 brought a long communications shutdown. Months later, the pandemic shut down libraries, coaching centres and exam halls everywhere. JKAS exams stayed suspended through both 2019 and 2020.

The years since brought cancelled recruitment drives, a paper-leak scandal, and court battles: in the 2023 exam alone, results for eleven candidates stayed withheld pending court orders, and 77 others sat the Mains only after the Central Administrative Tribunal

stepped in.

Other states facing far shorter disruptions responded with real relief.

Madhya Pradesh extended its exam age limit by three years in 2022 because of pandemic losses alone. Karnataka granted a blanket relaxation across all categories in 2025. The UPSC itself once gave permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir a five-year age concession, recognizing the region's difficult conditions, a provision that has since vanished from recent notifications.

Leave the rule as it stands, and the damage builds slowly rather than announcing itself.

An administration fills up with whoever happened to be young enough at the right moment, in a region where government work remains one of the few real paths to a stable career.

A case now sits before the Jammu and Kashmir High Court asking whether reservations exceeding the Supreme Court's 50 percent ceiling can stand at all.

That question and the age-limit question run on separate tracks, but they stay tied together: however that case resolves will decide how large a share Open Merit candidates end up fighting over in the first place.

Until both get settled, the aspirants lining up outside power centres, admit cards in hand, keep learning that clearing the exam turned out to be the easiest part of this fight.

The author is a student activist from Jammu and Kashmir and heads the Open Merit Students Association. He writes on education policy, reservation, youth unemployment, and institutional fairness in J&K.

The New Business Class of Kashmir

Getting a business off the ground has become easier for young Kashmiris, but keeping it alive, financing its growth and reaching bigger markets remain tougher challenges.



Yasir Altaf Zargar

A generation of Kashmiri twenty-somethings has stopped waiting for a government stamp to define its future.

Walk the fruit market in Sopore or a handicraft workshop in Budgam and you will meet founders selling honey and Pashmina shawls through WhatsApp catalogues, running D2C labels that ship into Delhi and Mumbai, or building agri-tech ventures off a single smartphone.

Jammu and Kashmir now counts close to 1,400 registered start-ups, and the administration wants that number doubled, then doubled again, within a couple of years.

The change has already begun, while much of the coverage still tells Kashmir's story through strife and job stress.

The old script was simple and unforgiving. A government job was the prize, and failing that, a private job outside the Union Territory. Reaching either meant years of preparation with no guarantee of a result. Backdoor ap-

pointments could also favour those with a relative inside a department over someone who had simply studied harder.

Kashmiris have always had the will to work. What they needed was a path where taking a chance on themselves could lead to opportunity.

Three things broke that pattern loose.

Cheap data and the smartphone gave an orchard owner's son in Shopian more market reach than most valley businesses had fifteen years ago. YouTube became a classroom, UPI turned a phone into a cash counter, and a shawl seller no longer needed a storefront to begin earning, only a reliable courier.

A generation raised without the old fear stopped assuming that leaving Kashmir was the only route to security, watching young founders build wealth without packing a bag.

And policy finally reached the ground: the J&K Start-up Policy, JKEDI's incubation support, Mission YUVA's mentorship and seed money, RSETI and DDU-GKY's free bank-sponsored training, NRLM for rural women, and NULM for urban women.

The Chief Minister has staked political weight on producing the valley's first unicorns.

But none of this should be mistaken for a finished story. Horticulture and handicrafts, the region's oldest industries, still operate on infrastructure that has not caught up to the young people trying to modernize it.



The saffron fields, the orchards, and the craftspeople of the valley held economic potential long before this generation was born. What has changed is a refusal to sit behind an exam form for ten years before touching it.

A founder with a strong internet connection plays an entirely different game from one without, and that difference decides who gets to compete before a single product is even made.

Credit remains the sharpest edge of the problem: a bank here will rarely take a chance on an unproven idea the way a Delhi investor might back a college dropout on pitch alone.

And for every exporter who reaches a summit stage, there are ventures that closed without ceremony, failures that never make it into an op-ed like this one.

Survivorship bias does real work in determining how this moment gets told.

The honest question now is whether the institutions supporting Kashmiri youth can match the scale of their ambitions and help this new economic story grow.

That question matters because unemployment remains a major concern in the valley.

A WhatsApp catalogue can connect a young entrepreneur with customers, but a business also needs reliable supply chains and access to capital. For many founders, the real test begins when they need a loan, expand production or reach a larger market.

What has changed is that alternatives now exist inside every district, without the decade-long wait a government exam still demands.

RSETIs and DDU-GKY run free training in food processing, beekeeping and mobile repair, with help opening bank accounts and securing

loans afterward.

PMEGP and JKREGP provide subsidized credit. Kisan Credit Cards, wrongly assumed to serve only older farmers, are open to young agri-entrepreneurs too.

Most of it comes with proper documents and at least one rejected application before anything works.

Calling this a revolution overstates what is happening on the ground. It looks closer to a slow correction of an old assumption, the belief that opportunity for a Kashmiri exists only somewhere else, or inside a government office.

The saffron fields, the orchards, and the craftspeople of the valley held economic potential long before this generation was born. What has changed is a refusal to sit behind an exam form for ten years before touching it.

That refusal, repeated by hundreds of founders from Sopore to Pulwama to Anantnag, is not a small thing. But it will only outlast this moment if the credit lines widen, the internet reaches the last village as reliably as the first, and the state keeps building what its young people have already decided to believe in.

The founders are ready, but the house they are building on is still under construction.

The author works with a local bank on Rural Self-Employment, and can be reached at zargaryasir@gmail.com.

We Are Raising Lonely Children

A world of constant connection is leaving children and adults struggling with loneliness, comparison and distorted ideas of themselves.



Khushboo Javed

A relative of my friend gets diagnosed with a heart condition. The doctor suggests that they need a child in the house. The relative becomes a grandfather and that improves his health.

This is a child, without exaggeration, the concrete representation of beauty, divine and innocent. It does not matter whether it is a privileged child of my friend or the one trying to sell pens at a traffic signal.

We have robbed children in many ways and given them altered existence. We sent them to schools too early, we gave them gadgets, we told them crafty stories that they are incapable of understanding, we fed them half-truths, we taught them to compare and compete.

In a dysfunctional marital setting, parents find it in their interest to deliver individually and not as a team. A mother tries her best to become a father as well. A father tries his best to become the mother too. And sometimes they do it by planting hatred for the other parent into the child's mind by means of manipulative methods.

No parent has a right to rob the child of the other parent when that parent is trying too. In the ego battle between two parents, children lose and nobody wins. I wish we could all keep our differences to ourselves. I cannot stand children being stripped naked of their rights. No I cannot.

As this emotionally deprived



child reaches their late twenties, they realize that something fundamental has been stolen from them. "The first five years have everything to do with how the next 80 turn out." This isn't just a saying; it is a plain scientific fact.

My archaeological suggestion: If there is anything you fail to understand about yourself, look into your childhood. It is a kingdom buried in the deep recesses of your mind with answers to most crucial questions. That deprived child is still fighting for oxygen inside you. It is alive, waiting for you to recognize it.

Access to social media and the intellectual and materialistic competition have made it very difficult for youngsters to be themselves. Social media has become a challenge, generating anxiety at an impossible rate. It is a misleading mirror in which our children are looking for their reflection. Adults

My archaeological suggestion: If there is anything you fail to understand about yourself, look into your childhood. It is a kingdom buried in the deep recesses of your mind with answers to most crucial questions. That deprived child is still fighting for oxygen inside you. It is alive, waiting for you to recognize it.

struggle with distorted images of themselves that social media shows them, let alone a child. That's why, Australia's new law

banning under-16 social media usage is commendable. But just look at the irony: While I will try to avoid confrontations in real life, a

comment online will get me kick-started and I will be arguing boastfully, bloating with confidence, with anyone I know nothing about - where they come from, the beliefs in which they were brought up, their mental state and sometimes the good side to them as well.

I grew up as a person who lived most of her life in isolation, someone conscious of physical fitness and not mental health. I was ignorant about the fact that I was a social animal. The harm it did to me took quite some courageous undoing in my adulthood years.

Online sessions with my therapist are easy but they cannot replace the experience of getting in a cab, getting to know the road, the cab-fare, the people around me. Yes, there are other people besides me in the world. Getting to know the prices of the fruits and which other shops are around, sitting



Saying 'Hi' and sending hearts to my friend on WhatsApp cannot compensate for the necessity of human touch through a hug or a handshake or a smile.

with my therapist who can by the look on my face, the expressions on my face, the way I have chosen to carry myself today deduce a few things about my progress.

Saying 'Hi' and sending hearts to my friend on WhatsApp cannot compensate for the necessity of human touch through a hug or a handshake or a smile.

We live in a fast-paced global village with access to superficial and superfluous information that triggers unhealthy curiosity and insidious insecurities. A small village where technologia very significantly has increased the gap between two individuals. It has dealt a blow to everyone's mental state - children, adolescents, adults alike. We are an emotionally unavailable age. Adults need to be the pioneers in setting a new narrative and experts need to get on board.

My science-fiction plot is set 5 years down the line where a human has a refined AI clone of themselves, perhaps in the opposite gender to generate a keener interest, which they speak, sit and sleep with in an echo-chamber of their own making. Echo-chambers scare me.

— The author can be reached at khushboojaved3@gmail.com.

The Last Songs of Autumn

Cicadas, falling leaves and empty fields summon memories of a childhood influenced by nature and wonder.



Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

Autumn arrives like an unexpected guest: swift, untimely, almost startling.

It slips through the days like sand through my fingers, leaving behind only a faint shimmer of a season I once lived in fully, now remembered in fragments.

Time seems to dissolve in this light, leaving memories as golden as the leaves beneath the willows.

Along the village path, cicadas performed their trembling orchestra. Their chorus was piercing yet intimate, a herald of the equinox.

There is a magic in autumn that always feels deliberate: the way trees shed emerald silks for crimson tatters, a reminder that beauty, however radiant, visits and departs.

I wandered past paddy fields where the stream once glistened like molten glass. Now, burdened with plastic waste, it murmurs like a tired vein of the earth. Still, the air carries the scent of rain, cool and sharp. The willows stand as solemn sentinels beneath a pale sky, their leaves falling one by one, soft farewells stitched into the wind.

Above, cicadas continue their stubborn devotion. Some sing with abandon, intoxicated by

the moment. Others fall silent, guarding secrets only the trees understand.

I lifted my phone, hoping to trap the sound, the motion, the season, in a frame. The effort feels absurd. Some moments resist capture.

Perhaps it is nostalgia that pulls me. In childhood, these insects were companions. My friends and I would cup them in our palms, startled when they baptized us with sudden sprays of their strange "cicada rain," then watch them vault into the sky with a defiant hum.

Their small lives taught awe in ways no classroom could replicate. Even now, their chorus threads me back to the boy I once was, to the unbroken rhythm of seasons that turn and return.

We once thought cicadas wept when caught. Time and study taught me otherwise: it was merely the aftermath of their sap feast. Understanding the science never diminished their wonder. It amplified it. Their empty shells fascinated us too: papery husks clinging to willow bark like tiny reliquaries.

We imagined them as sleeping bodies, waiting for a miracle. The miracle, I realize now, had already happened: the evidence of transformation, a reminder that even the smallest lives carry grandeur.

Autumn brings harvests, and the rhythm of labourers in golden fields fills the air. I remember emerald grasshoppers clinging to my trousers, chosen companions in childhood games.

My brother and I, with a wild parade of friends, turned the fields into arenas. We captured grasshoppers, hid them in bottles, crowned them as champions, and celebrated with tape reels from my father's old cassette bag, now wings for our tiny athletes.

Grasshoppers would leap, ribbons trailing like comets, and we cheered, defending them from swooping birds. Those fields were our worlds, each moment a small ritual of joy.

Sundays carried another harvest ritual.

After the farmers threshed the fields, grains of paddy shimmered like scattered jewels. We combed the stubble with polythene bags, gathering treasure, which our mothers winnowed with a grace that felt sacred, separating grain from dust like priestesses at ancient altars.

Chestnut sellers wandered through the village, baskets brimming with crisp promise. Sometimes we bartered paddy for

their fruit. Other times, clay pots.

I can still taste that chestnut - sweet, earthy, sharp with freshness - a flavor from a world without money, where trade was communion.

After the harvest, the skies belonged to kites. I remember Aijaz Bhaya, a boy who ruled the skies with parrot-coloured wings. I watched him, envy braided with awe, until he gifted me a kite. It refused to fly. I stitched my own from newspaper, headlines forming wings.

And then, at last, it rose. I ran beneath it, breathless, children trailing behind me, launching fragments of our souls into the astonished sky. Crows shrieked, eagles wheeled, the heavens alive with rivalry, yet it was not battle. It was freedom.

Now, when I walk those fields, the laughter is gone. Hardly any string twists in poplars, no scraps of paper drift in hedges. Only the wind moves through empty space. Where did that autumn go? Where did the sky lose its song?

Willows remain, cicadas still sing, though fewer stop to listen. Children wander the fields, perhaps without tape reels or sacred dreams hidden in insect wings.

Somewhere between rustling leaves and the murmuring stream, I search for the boy who saw divinity in tree bark, raced grasshoppers, and tasted joy in muddy handfuls of paddy.

Each autumn returns, bringing nostalgia, and yet the world feels smaller, less miraculous.

Where did it all go? Where did that autumn go?

— The author writes about memory, nature, and the rhythms of village life. He can be reached at ehsaanamy133@gmail.com.

The Last Baand

As Kashmir's folk theatre loses its audience, one son must decide whether to inherit his father's fading legacy.



Ansar Hussain

The story begins in a small village in Kashmir, where Gani Bhagat, a dedicated folk theatre artist, prepares to take the stage for what may be his final performance.

His son, Akhtar, stands in the shadows, torn between ambition and obligation.

This is Baand, a musical journey directed by Ali Emran that offers a profound reflection on cultural survival.

Baand-e-Pather, the centuries-old folk theatre form, has long been a vessel of collective storytelling in Kashmir, performed in the open fields and village squares.

Once a thriving medium that united communities through song, dance, and drama, the tradition now teeters on the edge of extinction.

Emran's film doesn't sentimentalize this decline. It presents it with sober honesty.

The story of Gani and Akhtar stands for an entire generation of artists grappling with irrelevance in a world racing toward digital screens and city lights.

What makes Baand stand out is its raw authenticity.

Emran cast real folk performers instead of professional actors, allowing their lived experience to permeate the screen. The performances feel effortless, grounded in decades of tradition.

Gani's rough hands, the tired faces of the baands, and the slow, steady way they speak bring life to a world often ignored by mainstream cinema.

The narrative unfolds deliberately,

resisting the temptation of melodrama. Instead, it leans into subtle tension.

Akhtar's ambivalence toward his father's legacy unfolds gradually. Early in the film, he is restless, frustrated by the community's fading respect for their ancient art. As the story progresses, his internal conflict sharpens. Watching his father perform, frail yet determined, stirs something he cannot ignore.

The final scene, where Gani dies mid-performance, serves as a heartbreaking culmination, a surrender and an awakening all at once.

Music, woven seamlessly into the narrative, acts as the film's heartbeat. Traditional Kashmiri folk tunes mingle with understated modern compositions, capturing the valley's melancholy and resilience. Each song feels carefully placed, reflecting the tension between past and present.

The film's sound design is meticulous, capturing the crisp rustle of paper scripts, the echo of ancient instruments, and the murmur of an audience struggling to stay engaged.

Visually, Baand is an ode to Kashmir's rugged beauty. The camera lingers on expansive meadows, mist-laden mountains, and dilapidated village stages. These are not picturesque backdrops but characters in their own right, silent witnesses to the unfolding drama.

The cinematography avoids flashy techniques, opting instead for natural light and steady framing, creating an atmosphere that feels both intimate and epic.

Ali Emran's signature philosophical depth anchors the film. His direction observes. He understands that the tension between tradition and modernity is a slow, inevitable transformation.

Baand suggests that the future of folk theatre lies in adaptation rather than preservation.

The film ends with a tentative hope: Akhtar's decision to carry forward the tradition signals both personal reconciliation and cultural resilience.

— The author is a Multimedia Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Major Quake

such as Taq and Dhajji Dewari, which incorporate timber framing and have demonstrated better performance against lateral earthquake forces.

Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology and an earth scientist, has repeatedly warned about Jammu and Kashmir's vulnerability to a major earthquake and called for greater public preparedness.

"We do not have a culture of disaster preparedness here," Romshoo said, stressing the need to create greater "disaster consciousness" in society.

He has argued that preparedness cannot remain confined to government agencies and technical institutions, saying politicians, religious scholars and community leaders must also discuss disaster safety at the grassroots level.

Romshoo has particularly called for Imams to use Friday sermons and mosques to educate people about earthquake preparedness and basic safety measures.

A peer-reviewed vulnerability assessment co-authored by Romshoo found that around 98 per cent of Srinagar's buildings are masonry structures with extremely poor seismic resistance. The assessment identified downtown Srinagar as particularly vulnerable because of dense construction, limited open spaces and narrow roads.

Romshoo has also warned that schools and hospitals in the region are largely not earthquake-resistant.

"Earthquakes cannot currently be predicted," he said, stressing that reducing casualties depends on preparedness measures, including strict implementation of earthquake-resistant building codes, regular drills and greater disaster awareness.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has also acknowledged the scale of the seismic risk. Earlier this year, it told the Legislative Assembly that the entire Union Territory had been placed in Seismic Zone VI, the highest risk category, under the newly notified IS 1893 (Part 1):2025. The revised classification treats all districts uniformly without internal gradation.

Structural audits are also under way, with more than 11,600 school buildings assessed following the 2025 floods. The government has constituted a committee for a comprehensive Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, while an earthquake early-warning system remains at a nascent stage.

The studies and expert warnings point to a combination of factors rather than a single source of danger: active faults, a long history of earthquakes, accumulated tectonic strain, liquefaction-prone sediments, dense urbanisation and buildings that may not withstand stronger lateral shaking.

Researchers have called for stronger seismic design and enforcement of building codes, structural retrofiting, improved hazard assessment, early-warning systems, regular public drills and greater community awareness to reduce potential loss of life when a major earthquake occurs. -With inputs from KNO

HC Quashes

court on June 30, 2022, in a criminal case that had itself been relied upon as a basis for his detention. The authorities, the court said, also failed to demonstrate that effective measures under Section 12 of the PSA had been taken on the allegation that he was absconding.

The Court further took note of Dar's acquittal in FIR No. 384/2007 in 2018 and the grant of bail in other criminal cases, observing that relevant intervening developments could not simply be ignored while forming the subjective satisfaction required for preventive detention.

In Ishfaq Ahmad Wani's case, the Court quashed the April 29, 2025 detention order, holding that the authority had failed to meaningfully consider the fact that FIR No. 60/2016 had culminated in bail. The Court also found substantial similarity between the police dossier and the grounds of detention, raising concerns that the Detaining Authority had merely adopted the police version rather than independently evaluating the material.

In three cases, the Court stressed that preventive detention was an extraordinary and preventive, rather than punitive, measure. While courts cannot substitute their own satisfaction for that of the Detaining Authority, the Bench said that judicial review remains available where the satisfaction is based on irrelevant or stale material, there is non-application of mind, the grounds are vague, or constitutional and statutory safeguards are breached.

The Court consequently directed the authorities to release the detainees forthwith, subject to their custody not being required in any other criminal case.

J&K Braces For

while its minimum temperature settled at 8.6 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Banihal recorded 25.3 degrees Celsius and 17.2 degrees Celsius, Batote 26.7 degrees Celsius and 17.6 degrees Celsius, Katra 26.6 degrees Celsius and 20.4 degrees Celsius, and Baderwah 26.6 degrees Celsius and 16.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The weather department said the latest forecast indicated a return to generally dry conditions across Jammu and Kashmir from September 18, although isolated brief spells of rain could still occur.

The MeT department advised people, particularly farmers, to remain cautious during the period of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds and to plan agricultural activities accordingly.

Bring UCC to

questioned the idea of implementing the UCC only in states ruled by the BJP, saying such a law could not be described as "universal" if it did not apply across the country.

"The whole country is not a BJP-ruled state. There are a number of states and territories that the BJP does not rule. Therefore, if you apply it only to BJP states, it is not a universal [law]," he said.

He said legislation of such a nature should be decided at the national level rather than separately by individual states.

"Something that is of this nature should not be decided by individual states; it has to be decided by the country as a whole. The country as a whole is represented not in the states, but in Parliament," Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister also accused the BJP of not

bringing some of the major legislations it had spoken about in Parliament.

"Up until now, whatever legislation they spoke about -- whether it was 'One Nation, One Election' or reservation -- they did not bring those to Parliament. Now, for this one as well, they are talking about bringing it through the states," he said.

Welcomes LAC de-escalation
On the reported de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Abdullah said any move that reduces tensions was welcome, particularly for people living close to the border.

"Anything that reduces tension on the Line of Control or the Line of Actual Control is a good step," he said.

Abdullah said people living near the LoC and LAC had faced considerable difficulties and expressed hope that the situation would improve along the Line of Control as well.

"Similarly, we hope, over time, that along the Line of Control also, things will get better," he said.

Says India need not seek validation on foreign policy

Reacting to China's positive remarks about India's foreign policy, Abdullah said New Delhi's foreign policy was independent and should not depend on the approval or criticism of other countries.

"Our foreign policy is our own. Why do we look for other countries' certificates?" he said.

He cautioned against attaching excessive importance to favourable statements from other countries, arguing that the same countries could make opposing comments in the future.

"The danger with something like this is that tomorrow were China to say something against our foreign policy, then what will you do?" Abdullah said.

He said India should maintain the same approach whether another country praised or criticised its foreign policy.

"We should not give too much importance to what other countries say about our foreign policy, whether positive or negative, because we can't cherry-pick," he said.

BRICS condemnation of Pahalgam attack a success: Omar

Abdullah also described the condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack at the BRICS summit as a significant achievement for India's foreign policy.

"The fact that Pahalgam itself was condemned (at BRICS summit) is a big thing," he said.

Pointing to the presence of countries considered close to Pakistan at the summit, Abdullah said the fact that the Pahalgam attack was mentioned by name was particularly significant.

"Please see how many allies of Pakistan were in that room. Therefore, for even Pahalgam to be mentioned by name, that in itself is a success of our foreign policy," he said.

Omar, BJP Spar

by limiting the session to what he described as only five effective sittings.

"By limiting the J&K Assembly session to just five effective sittings, the government is making a mockery of the expectations of the people," Sharma said.

He urged Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to reconsider the schedule and extend the proceedings by 30 days, saying the Assembly was the only institutional platform available to people to raise their concerns.

"The Speaker should reconsider and extend the session by 30 days because there is no other place or platform where the people can raise their voices," Sharma said.

The BJP leader said the opposition was taking the session seriously because it intended to raise issues concerning the people.

"As the main opposition party, we are taking this very seriously because we are very serious about the issues of the people," he said.

Sharma said the opposition had expected the government to take public concerns seriously and provide sufficient time in the House for discussion and debate.

Omar, however, rejected the criticism and questioned how the government could be accused of being "non-serious" when the Assembly had been summoned for seven sitting days.

"What is non-serious about it? It is a seven-day session. It would have been non-serious if we had followed the path shown by the BJP in their states, where they have held one- or two-day sessions," Omar told reporters here.

The Assembly calendar covers the period from September 21 to September 30. However, September 23 has been designated a holiday on account of Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday. September 26 is an off day and September 27 falls on a Sunday. As a result, the House has seven sitting days.

Omar said the government had remained present throughout the proceedings in previous sessions and accused the BJP of lacking the standing to question the seriousness of the J&K government.

"We sit in the Assembly from morning and leave in the evening. There is no such day when we ourselves are not present in the Assembly," he said.

He also took a swipe at BJP members over their attendance in Parliament.

"These people never come to Parliament. They are never seen in Parliament," Omar said.

"Look at Parliament. Look at who sits for how long. Then you tell me who is taking it seriously and who is not," he added.

The Chief Minister also said he would not engage in a daily exchange of statements with political opponents.

"Don't expect me to answer every statement. You said it today; now I will react to the next statement after a month. I will react to one of their statements every month. Not every day," he said.

Omar says not worried about MLAs switching sides

Asked about speculation regarding political stability in Jammu and Kashmir and whether he was concerned that some of his legislators could switch sides, Omar said he had complete confidence in his MLAs.

"Am I worried that some of my MLAs might slip away? Not in the least. I have full faith in my people," he said.

He also criticised individuals whom he alleged were attempting to create speculation about the stability of his government.

"As for those stirring this up, I know exactly who is behind it. It is just one or two individuals who collect their envelopes from agency offices on Gupkar Road," Omar alleged.

He claimed that some of those behind such speculation had approached him soon after the government was formed seeking appointments or positions.

"These are the same individuals who came to my office in Jammu the moment the government was formed, asking to be adjusted somewhere. I did not open my mouth out of respect for them," he said.

Omar said the visitor records at his office would reveal the identities of those now engaged in counting MLAs and discussing the government's stability.

"Just check the visitor records of who visits my office, and you will find the names of the very people busy counting MLAs today," he said.

He further alleged that some individuals had turned against the government after failing to secure jobs or positions.

"Just because such persons were not provided a job by my administration, they have started writing against us," he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to a commentator whom he alleged was using social media to criticise the government after not receiving government accommodation.

"Or take the commentator who didn't receive a government accommodation and now uses social media against the government. Had I given him a flat in Jawahar Nagar, would he dare write like this?" Omar said.

He described such criticism as driven by self-interest and said he was not bothered by it.

Recruitment process underway

On recruitment, Omar said vacancies were being filled gradually across government departments and maintained that the administration would prioritise transparency and due procedure over speed.

"We could rush the process, but we have often seen that haste does not yield good outcomes," he said.

The Chief Minister said hurried recruitment could leave room for grievances and questions over the process later.

"That is why I have instructed the recruiting agencies that even if it takes an extra month or two, transparency must be maintained, and proper procedures must be followed so that tomorrow no one has complaints about the process," he said.

He added that the recruitment process was actively underway and appointments were being made wherever required across departments.

New JKAS, Accounts officers join administration
Earlier, addressing an appointment-order distribution function for newly selected officers, Abdullah said a new batch of JKAS and Accounts Gazetted Service officers had joined the J&K administration.

He said the officers would spend the next 20 to 30 years of their careers in public service and expressed hope that they would use the period to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir effectively.

Abdullah said the appointment marked a new beginning for the officers and urged them to discharge their responsibilities with commitment, integrity and a strong sense of public service.

The verbal exchange between the government and the opposition comes ahead of the Assembly session, with the BJP and other opposition parties preparing to raise a range of public and governance-related issues in the House.

J&K Assembly

scheduled to commence on September 21 in Srinagar, and directed all concerned departments to ensure complete preparedness for its smooth conduct.

Rather convened a meeting with senior officers from the General Administration Department, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Information Technology, security, traffic, health, hospitality and protocol, estates, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Fire and Emergency Services and other departments to finalise arrangements for the session.

The Speaker stressed the need for close coordination, advance planning and administrative preparedness, noting that even minor issues could create major problems if not addressed in time.

Security arrangements at the Assembly Secretariat and MLA Hostel were discussed in detail, with Rather directing authorities to ensure comprehensive and foolproof security and effective coordination among security and administrative agencies.

On legislative business, he directed the General Administration Department to ensure that departments furnish replies to Assembly questions within the prescribed timelines. Departments were also asked to designate nodal officers to coordinate with the Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Rather reviewed arrangements for transportation and parking and directed authorities to facilitate the movement of legislators while minimising inconvenience to the public. He also called for government bills to be submitted to the Assembly Secretariat well in advance for timely processing and scheduling.

The meeting was informed about the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) on a hybrid model. The Speaker directed the IT Department to ensure reliable Wi-Fi, internet connectivity and technical support throughout the session.

He also stressed effective traffic management around the Assembly premises and other identified areas to ensure that public movement is not adversely affected.

Reviewing civic and utility services, Rather directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply during the session. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was asked to maintain sanitation and cleanliness around the Assembly premises and MLA Hostel.

The Health and AYUSH departments were directed to make adequate medical facilities, including requisite medical and AYUSH stalls, available at the Assembly premises for members, staff and visitors.

The Information Department was asked to make comprehensive arrangements for media and press coverage of the proceedings and ensure proper coordination of media-related arrangements.

Rather called upon all departments to maintain close coordination with the Assembly Secretariat, adhere strictly to timelines and complete all arrangements well before the session begins.

He said the objective was to ensure a smooth, orderly, productive and dignified conduct of the legislative session in keeping with the responsibilities of the Legislature and the expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

After SC Rap,

from her duties as a physical education teacher for the duration of the Games in Aichi-Nagoya and has been directed to report back to her parent department immediately after completing the assignment.

The order said the period during which she remains away from her ordinary place of posting pursuant to the permission would not be treated as unauthorised absence, in accordance with the Supreme Court judgment.

The government had denied Mir permission for foreign sporting assignments on June 19, citing an ongoing departmental inquiry concerning her appointment qualifications and past international visits, as well as the absence of vigilance clearance.

Mir had missed two international sporting events after being denied permission and has been engaged in legal battles with the J&K administration since 2023.

The dispute reached the Supreme Court after proceedings before the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. The High Court, while hearing Mir's contempt petition, had moved towards summoning officials in person. The department subsequently challenged the matter before a Division Bench, which upheld the government's decision, prompting Mir and the concerned federation to approach the Supreme Court.

On September 10, the Supreme Court set aside the High Court order and quashed the June 19 order of the J&K administration that had denied Mir permission to travel.

The top court emphasised the time-sensitive nature of competitive sports, observing that sports administration necessarily involves strict timelines.

It said selection, training camps, qualifying events and international competitions operate according to fixed schedules that cannot be postponed pending completion of ordinary administrative processes.

The Supreme Court also held that the High Court had erred in treating the matter as an ordinary service dispute instead of recognising the urgent nature of a national sports assignment.

"The error in the impugned judgment lies in holding that the subsequent administrative order dated 19.06.2026 rendered the earlier delay inconsequential," the bench said.

A source in the Union Sports Ministry said Mir would be travelling as an official and described her as an international umpire.

Mir has also faced legal proceedings in connection with an Anti-Corruption Bureau case registered in 2023. The case was dismissed by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in July 2025.

While quashing the FIR, the High Court had criticised the authorities and said it appeared that those at the helm of affairs were "leaving no stone unturned in harassing such talented people".

The court had further observed that the ACB's conduct "smacks of wreaking vengeance" against Mir and described the proceedings as a "witch-hunt" allegedly launched by vested interests.

The J&K government subsequently approached the Supreme Court against the quashing of the FIR. The top court, while condoning the delay in filing the appeal, dismissed the plea.

According to documents placed before the High Court by the J&K administration, an internal departmental inquiry was also initiated against Mir in July 2025.

With Tuesday's order, Mir has now been formally permitted to join the Indian national kayaking and canoeing contingent for her assignment at the Asian Games in Japan.

UPI Merchant Payments

the Congress of spreading "fake news", saying the government had made it absolutely clear that MDR charges would not be levied on consumers.

From October 15, a 0.4 per cent Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be levied on person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions above Rs 2,000 through UPI (Unified Payments Interface), capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above.

Essential and thin-margin sectors -- railways, telecom, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs -- will pay a flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction above Rs 2,000, intended to keep costs predictable for critical services; these categories account for nearly 17 per cent of P2M transaction volume but roughly 46 per cent of P2M transaction value.

The same flat-fee treatment extends to government utility bill collection (electricity, water, piped gas) and educational fee payments such as school tuition and university fees above Rs 2,000, both similarly exempted below that threshold.

Payments into mutual funds, securities and through stockbrokers and dealers will attract a lighter 0.02 per cent MDR, capped at Rs 300 -- a rate designed to keep the cost of investing low and encourage retail participation in formal financial markets.

Person-to-person (P2P) transfers -- which make up 37 per cent of UPI's transaction volume and 70 per cent of its transaction value -- will continue to attract zero charges, irrespective of size. Small-value transactions up to Rs 2,000, which the government said account for more than 95 per cent of total P2M volume, remain untouched.

The charges so collected will be distributed among the firms facilitating the transactions and are being introduced to bolster investment into infrastructure resilience, innovation, cybersecurity and customer service, the National Payments Corporation of India said.

"Charges will apply only to person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions exceeding Rs 2,000," the finance ministry said in a statement. "A nominal merchant discount rate of 0.4 per cent will be levied on P2M transactions above Rs 2,000. This commission will be shared amongst the payment ecosystem partners including banks and app providers."

The government has also moved to prevent the new charges from being quietly passed on to consumers; UPI app providers are barred from levying platform fees or hidden charges, and banks have been directed to ensure merchants do not pass MDR costs on to customers.

There will be no monthly quotas or volume limits for free UPI transactions for individuals.

The framework layers different rates across categories of transactions rather than applying a blanket charge. On a Rs 3,000 purchase, the 0.4 per cent rate works out to a Rs 12 fee paid by the merchant to its acquiring bank; on a Rs 50,000 purchase, it comes to Rs 200. On a Rs 1,00,000 purchase, the percentage calculation would otherwise total Rs 400, but the fixed Rs 300 ceiling applies instead -- a structure designed to keep

high-value transaction costs predictable.

The MDR applies only to direct user-account-to-merchant-account UPI payments; credit-linked transactions such as RuPay Credit Cards on UPI or pre-sanctioned credit lines follow separate card rules, and automated recurring payments -- UPI Mandates or AutoPay used for utility bills, OTT subscriptions and recurring investments -- carry no MDR at all.

Small merchants remain the most protected category. Vendors receiving up to Rs 1 lakh a month via UPI QR codes -- classified under a Person-to-Person-Merchant (P2PM) framework -- will continue to pay zero MDR on all transactions, with no requirement to register for GST or upgrade existing QR infrastructure.

Acquiring banks will track inward payments via a velocity check, and merchants exceeding Rs 1 lakh a month for three consecutive months move into the standard P2M category. Zero MDR under this framework also extends to rural and semi-urban QR payments, an area the government has flagged as a core policy priority.

Overall, government data analysis suggests only about 4 per cent of merchant transactions will actually be touched by the new MDR, since most fall below the Rs 2,000 threshold or qualify for the P2PM exemption.

Officials argue merchants typically absorb such processing costs as a standard operational overhead, offset by higher transaction volumes.

Existing daily transaction limits of Rs 1-5 lakh, the government stressed, remain purely risk-management tools rather than a backdoor charge structure.

"UPI app providers are explicitly prohibited from levying platform fees or hidden charges," the statement said. "Banks have been advised to ensure that merchants do not pass MDR charges to customers for UPI payments."

There will be no monthly quotas, volume limits, or tiered caps on free UPI transactions for individuals.

"Daily transaction limits enforced by banks and NPCI (Rs 1-5 lakh depending on category) are purely risk-management measures, not commercial charge tiers," it said.

Industry pressure to reintroduce charges has been building for years. The Payments Council of India -- whose members include Airtel Payments Bank, Amazon Pay, Google Pay, Cashfree and Jio Payments Bank -- wrote to the Prime Minister's Office seeking reconsideration of zero MDR, while banks separately pushed for fees on merchants with annual turnover above Rs 40 lakh. The Reserve Bank of India and NPCI have also previously urged the government to revisit the policy.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, addressing the issue after a recent monetary policy announcement, said plainly that "someone has to pay the cost", while noting that the final call on MDR rests with the government rather than the central bank.

The zero-MDR era coincided with UPI's transformation into the backbone of Indian retail payments -- the network processed 2,451 crore transactions worth Rs 29.9 lakh crore in August 2026 alone, according to the government -- but it also left banks, payment service providers and fintech companies without a direct revenue stream from the system they built and maintained.

The government has plugged that gap since 2021 through a budgetary incentive scheme rather than merchant fees, but officials say that model has run its course: industry estimates put the annual cost of maintaining UPI's operations, server bandwidth, fraud-prevention systems and bank technical support at around Rs 20,000 crore, a bill the government says fiscal allocations alone can no longer reliably cover.

Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance, in its 32nd report, warned that the zero-MDR regime "puts pressure on government finances" and limits the ecosystem's ability to invest in long-term infrastructure, urging that "establishing a viable revenue mechanism is critical to ensuring the UPI ecosystem achieves financial sustainability without perpetually straining the government exchequer". The panel had flagged that the government was providing roughly Rs 2,000 crore a year to support the incentive scheme built around the zero-MDR policy.

IUST Organises Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

Awantipora: A blood donation camp was organised at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in a collaborative effort by the University Health Centre, Rotary Club of Kashmir, Centre for Mental Health and Wellness and District Hospital Pulwama.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teaching and non-teaching staff, and other members of the university community, with nearly 85 units of blood collected during the camp.

The camp was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, in the presence of Registrar IUST, Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah; Dr. Ab Hamid Dar, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Pulwama; Dr. Touseef A. Bhat, President, Rotary Club of Kashmir; Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer and Secretary, Rotary Club of Kashmir; Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach; and Dr. Asifa Baba, Director, Centre for Mental Health and Wellness, along with other members of RCK, doctors, staff members, students and blood donors.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo appreciated the collaborative effort behind the camp and the enthusiastic participation of the university community. He said that blood donation is a simple yet significant act of community service that can help save lives. He also appreciated the students and staff for coming forward to contribute to the cause.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zahida Rasool, Medical Officer, IUST, said that the University Health Centre organises a blood donation camp every year and that two such camps have been organised this year. She appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the university community.

Dr. Humaira Bashir and Dr. Sameer, In-charge, Blood Bank, District Hospital Pulwama, were also present and coordinated the camp.

Women Patients Seek Female Staff for ECG Services at Hospitals

Cite privacy concerns, urge Health Department to ensure trained female technicians remain available

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Women patients at government hospitals in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir have raised concerns over the absence of female staff in ECG rooms, saying the situation can make them uncomfortable while undergoing the diagnostic procedure and, in some cases, may lead to delays.

The patients and attendants told KNO that ECG is an important investigation, particularly for those reporting chest pain, breathlessness or other symptoms requiring immediate cardiac assessment. However, they said women who are uncomfortable undergoing the procedure in the presence of male technicians should have the option of being assisted by trained female staff.

A woman patient who recently visited a district hospital in South Kashmir said she delayed the test after finding that only a male technician was available.

"I was advised to undergo an ECG immediately, but I was uncomfortable proceeding with a male technician. I waited for some time hoping that a female



staff member would become available. For a patient who is already anxious about her health, having to wait in such circumstances makes the situation more difficult," she said.

Similarly, a woman from North Kashmir, who spoke about her experience at a government healthcare facility, said privacy becomes a major concern for many female patients during the procedure.

"Women patients should not be placed in a situation where they have to choose between their privacy and an important medical test. Some women may feel hesitant because the proce-

cedure requires access to the chest area. If a trained female technician is available, patients can undergo the test without unnecessary hesitation," she said.

An attendant at a hospital in Pulwama said the issue could be addressed through a simple duty roster without requiring major changes to hospital infrastructure.

"Female staff are already working in different hospital departments. If a female technician or another trained female healthcare worker is available in the ECG section during duty hours, it can provide considerable comfort to women pa-

tients. This is about dignity and privacy, not about making the procedure difficult," she said.

A senior physician, requesting anonymity, said hospitals should ensure that privacy concerns do not interfere with timely diagnostic assessment.

"ECG is a quick and important investigation and, in suspected cardiac emergencies, the findings can assist doctors in making immediate clinical decisions. If a patient postpones the investigation because of discomfort, it can potentially delay diagnosis and treatment," the doctor said.

The physician, however, said the concern should be addressed sensitively and without creating unnecessary barriers to emergency care.

"Male technicians are trained professionals, but hospitals must also recognise that some patients, particularly women, may have genuine privacy concerns. Wherever feasible, a trained female staff member should be available to assist female patients who request one," the doctor said.

Patients said the requirement was particularly important in district and sub-district

hospitals, where women from rural and far-flung areas frequently depend on government facilities for diagnostic services.

They appealed to the Health and Medical Education Department to review the staffing arrangements in ECG units and consider a mechanism under which trained female technicians or other qualified female healthcare personnel could be made available for women patients.

"We are not asking for a separate facility everywhere. Even a proper duty roster ensuring the availability of female staff when required would provide reassurance to women patients," an attendant from Pulwama said.

The patients have urged Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo to examine the matter and issue appropriate directions to government hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

They said ensuring adequate female staff in ECG units would help hospitals provide diagnostic services in a manner that protects patient privacy and dignity while also preventing avoidable delays in medical investigations—(KNO)

Bus Adda Shifting Hits Business Activities in Chadoora

BUDGAM: Shopkeepers of the Main Market in Chadoora on Tuesday held a peaceful protest over the shifting of the town's bus adda, saying the move has created difficulties for commuters and adversely affected business activity in the market.

The shopkeepers said that they welcome the shifting of the bus adda and consider it a positive decision; however, they said the new location has created inconvenience for passengers, particularly those who have to walk a considerable distance to reach the new bus stand.

They said the relocation has also affected the footfall in the Main Market, consequently impacting their businesses.

Nazir Ahmad, one of the shopkeepers, said the shifting of the bus adda has significantly affected the market. "Since the bus adda was shifted, people are not coming to the market for shopping like before. The footfall has reduced considerably and many shopkeepers have been badly hit. Our businesses depend on the movement of people in the market, and we are facing difficulties," he said.

The shopkeepers appealed to the administration to allow some passenger vehicles to enter the main market, one at a time, to facilitate the boarding and dropping off of passengers before proceeding towards the new bus adda.

They said such an arrangement would provide relief to commuters while also helping maintain business activity in the Main Market.

Speaking to KNO, SDM Chadoora Primroze Bashir said, "The bus adda has been shifted recently and administration would look into the issues being faced by the shopkeepers and commuters."

He said the arrangements would gradually improve with time and assured that the administration would also explore possible alternatives to address the concerns raised by the shopkeepers.

The SDM said efforts would be made to ensure that the public gets necessary facilities while the interests of the local business community are also taken into consideration—(KNO)

Bear Mauls Two Siblings in Dooru

ANANTNAG: Two siblings were injured after being attacked by a wild bear at Kralmad in the Dooru area of Anantnag district, officials said.

An official said that the siblings were attacked by a wild bear in Dooru, following which locals shifted them to SDH Dooru for treatment.

He said they were later shifted to GMC Anantnag for specialised care. The injured were identified as Abid Nazir (15) and his sister Sehraish Nazir (16), both residents of Kralmad.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and started an investigation to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the attack—(KNO)

Man Found Dead near NH in Nowshera

RAJOURI: A man was found dead near the National Highway at Lamberi in the Nowshera area of Rajouri district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the body was spotted by passersby, who informed the police. A police team subsequently reached the spot and took the body into custody.

He said the body has been kept for identification, while further legal formalities are being carried out.

Meanwhile, police have appealed to people who may have information about the deceased to come forward and help establish his identity—(KNO)

VDG Member Sustains Gunshot Wound in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: A Village Defence Guard (VDG) member sustained a gunshot wound to his abdomen after his rifle went off accidentally in the Majalta area of Udhampur district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the VDG member was injured after his rifle went off accidentally in Majalta, Udhampur, causing a gunshot wound to his abdomen.

He was soon shifted to a hospital for treatment, while his condition was not immediately known. He was later identified as Parshotam Lal, a resident of Chore Panjian in Majalta.

Meanwhile, an investigation has begun, while the exact circumstances leading to the incident are being ascertained—(KNO)

Trust Your Parents, Teachers; Reject Easy Pleasures: IGP Kashmir to Students

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Asking students to trust their parents, teachers and coaches and prepare themselves for a "great future," Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, on Tuesday advised them to reject shortcuts and "easy pleasures" in life to become responsible citizens.

Addressing students, parents and dignitaries at an event organised by Tyndale Biscoe and Malinson schools, the IGP, as per KNO cautioned youngsters against drugs, online betting, social-media traps and fraud.

"Young people have all the capabilities, imagination and strength required to succeed, but needed to resist temptations that offer instant gratification," he said, adding, "As a police officer, my message to you all is never, never say never again. You have all the capabilities, imagination, all the strength, so fight, fight with your desires, fight with your illegitimate wishes, and be hard, be strong."

"Follow the directions of your teacher, have faith in your parents, and anything that comes very easily, say no to them. Any pleasure that is very, very easy to achieve, it will take you to the doors of hell," the IGP said.

He cautioned students



against the growing influence of harmful online activities, including betting and fraud, saying social media could become a trap for young people.

"Many types of nets in today's date, a demon, a ghost, a jinn is roaming on social media, who will trap you in the net. To get out of this, you have to move forward in a strong direction," he said.

Urging students to remain focused and disciplined, IGP Kumar said they should draw strength from their teachers and coaches and prepare themselves to face the future.

"So gather your strength and with the help of good guidance of your teachers and coaches, just be ready to future, to storm into a great future," he said.

The IGP also invoked the words of noted poet Nida

Fazli while speaking about the role of children and education.

Recalling Fazli's lines, he said, "Let the little hands of the children touch the moon and stars with the students. Otherwise, they will become like us after reading a few books."

Reflecting on the institution's history, the IGP Kashmir said the school was started by its first principal, J.H. Nollis, with just five students in 1890.

He also recalled the contribution of Canon C.S. Tyndale Biscoe, saying that after he joined the school, its strength grew from around 200 to 1,000 students, describing the journey as one of "success, hard work, dedication, and what not".

Recalling a lesson from his school days, IGP Kumar said his teacher had explained that humankind had two major aspects—civilisation and culture.

"He taught me that civilisation is like a rose in your garden, and culture is the fragrance of that rose, that flower. You can cut the rose from its branches, but you can't cut its fragrance from the rose, from the flower," he said.

IGP Kumar said the culture represented at the event reflected the "fragrance" of two great Himalayan valleys—Shimla and Kashmir.

"The great fusion of cul-

tures we have witnessed today, it shall be remembered always," he said.

Welcoming parents and dignitaries who had travelled from outside Jammu and Kashmir, the IGP said J&K had a strong cultural identity and expressed confidence in the role of teachers in shaping the future of its children.

"J&K has a fragrance, a strong fragrance of its culture. And I have seen that this fragrant power in the soil is in the hands of very talented teachers today. And through these children, our future is moving in a very good direction," he said.

IGP Kumar said preserving this cultural foundation was also important for protecting children from emerging social challenges. "I am very peaceful and hopeful that as long as this fragrance of culture continues to flow, our children will continue to be safe," he said.

The IGP referred to drugs and several "online diseases", including betting, getting caught in the web of social media and becoming victims of fraud.

IGP Kumar also referred to IPS officer Neha Jain, who is serving as an SP in Kashmir, saying that the manner in which she had faced challenges in the region reflected the culture and civilisation she came from.

ACB Registers FIR against Former ACR Jammu, Four Private Beneficiaries



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), J&K, has registered an FIR against former Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Jammu and four private beneficiaries for allegedly granting illegal permissions for the transfer of Gair Mumkin Khad land in Jammu.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the ACB, J&K, has registered FIR No. 12/2026 at Police Station ACB Central, Jammu, against Nisar Ahmad Shad, the then Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Jammu, and four private beneficiaries.

He said the FIR was registered on the outcome of Preliminary Enquiry No. PE-JSK-17/2019, which prima facie disclosed that the accused public servant, during the period from 23.05.2018 to 11.07.2018, while functioning as Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Jammu, allegedly abused his official position by granting nine permissions for the alienation/transfer of Gair Mumkin Khad land situated at Chowadi and Deeli, Jammu.

The spokesperson said the permissions were allegedly granted in violation of the applicable revenue laws, government orders and directions of the Hon'ble High Court concerning land recorded as "Gair Mumkin Khad".

"The enquiry further revealed that the permissions were shown to have been granted with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu. However, verification conducted with the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, revealed that no such approval, note sheet or formal delegation order was available on record."

Accordingly, the FIR has been registered under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Sections 120-B, 467, 468 and 471 RPC. Further investigation into the matter is in progress.



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GOVT. NURSING COLLEGE, AKHNOOR

E-MAIL: gncakhnoor@gmail.com

Website: <https://gncakhnoor.wixsite.com/gnm-gnc-akhnoor>

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Invitation of offline applications for admission to left over seats of B.Sc. Nursing at Govt. Nursing College Akhnoor (Session 2026-27)

References:

i)

S.O. 333 of 2024 Dated: 13/06/2024

ii)

J&K BOPEE Letter No: BOPEE/Adm/53/2026 Dated: 05-08-2026

iii)

J&K BOPEE Letter No: BOPEE/Exam/116/2025 Dated: 09-09-2026

iv)

JKNC-26/157/1400-09 Dated 11-09-2026

Offline applications are invited from the eligible candidates to fill the left over seats of B.Sc. Nursing. The institute shall follow the eligibility criteria as notified by the J&K Nursing Council and by the J&K BOPEE on its website for session 2026-27.

Terms and Conditions:

For preparing the merit list, the merit of the entrance test as conducted by J&K BOPEE for admission to B.Sc. Nursing Course for session 2026-27 shall only be taken into consideration.

Minimum qualifying criteria shall remain as follows:

1.

General Category - 50th Percentile

2.

PWD-General Category - 45th Percentile

3.

SC/ST/OBC - 40th Percentile

4.

Applications to be submitted in physical form from 16-09-2026 to 19-09-2026.

Copies of documents required:

1.

JKBOPEE merit list/score card for 2026-27.

2.

10th, 12th mark sheet and Domicile certificate (J&K UT Only)

3.

Category Certificate, if any

4.

One Colour Photograph

Note: The candidates are advised to visit the college website for any further updates.

Website: gncakhnoor.wixsite.com

No: GNC/Akh/345-50

Dated: 15-09-2026

Principal

Govt. Nursing College

Akhnoor

DIPK-5755-26

DT: 15/09/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT ANMT SCHOOL BARAMULLA

Tel: 01952351001

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE SESSION 2026-27

The Application are invited on the prescribed format undergoing FMPHW course at ANMT School Baramulla for session 2026-27 as Notified by President J&K Nursing Council, Government Medical college Jammu/Srinagar vide No. JKNC-26/157/1400-1409 dated: 11-09-2026. The eligible candidates should submit their application forms complete in all respects by or before 21th September 2026 till 4PM to the office of undersigned along with the attested copies of the certificates.

Terms and Conditions

1. Eligibility for Admission.

Candidates applying for Admission to 10th based Female Multipurpose Health Worker (FMPHW) Diploma Course must fulfill the following eligibility criteria.

A candidate must:

be a Domicile of UT of J&K.

have passed 10th class or equivalent examination from a recognized Board.

have not crossed upper age as 35 years upto 01-01-2026 have a valid certificate if applicable.

2.

The candidates applying for this training must attach Photostat copies of the following certificates.

1.

Domicile Certificate.

2.

Date of Birth 10th.

3.

Marks certificate 10th.

4.

Reserve Category if any

5.

2 passport size Photographs duly attested and affixed with the form

3.

Selection will be purely made on merit basis i.e marks obtained in 10th class.

4.

If upon verification any certificate is found ineligible her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio.

The details of the course/Duration/Intake/eligibility for admission are given below as under:

S.NO	Name of Course	Duration of the training course	Total leftover Seats	OM	EWS	SC	OBC	ALC/IB	ST1	RBA	ST2
01.	F.M.P.H.W	18 Months	62	26	6	5	5	3	6	6	6

Note:

The application form can be obtained from office of the undersigned.

Incomplete application forms will not be accepted in any case.

No. ANMT/BLA/2026-27/468-474

Dated: 15-09-2026

DIPK-5713-26

DT: 15-09-2026

Principal

Govt. ANMT School

Baramulla

US Shifts Military Aid From Europe, Mideast to Americas

AP

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration is stripping tens of millions of dollars in US military assistance to countries in Europe and the Middle East to support conservative-leaning governments in Central and South America.

The State Department on Tuesday notified Congress that it will reprogramme USD 52 million in foreign military financing from Slovakia, North Macedonia, Tunisia and Iraq to Panama, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Colombia, Ecuador and Peru last week and pledged them additional support as the Trump administration has prioritised the Western Hemisphere in its foreign policy with an emphasis on combating drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Foreign military financing provides recipient countries with US taxpayer dollars to allow them to purchase military equipment from American defence contractors.

The State Department said the funds would be used to "combat narcoterrorism in our backyard and help continue to secure the Panama Canal", adding that the Western Hemisphere has been historically neglected in US military assistance.

"These funds will prevent adversaries from establishing strategic footholds in our hemisphere," the department said in a veiled jab at China, which has increasingly sought to boost its presence in Latin America.

The shift of money does not eliminate foreign military financing for Tunisia, Iraq, North Macedonia or Slovakia, although the exact amount remaining for those countries was not immediately clear.

The State Department said, though, that the current distribution of financing does "not align with the administration's prioritisation of" the Western Hemisphere."



Border, Waugh Join Plea for Imran Khan's Humanitarian Release

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY, SEP 15 (PTI) Seven former Australia captains, including Greg Chappell, Allan Border, and Steve Waugh, on Tuesday urged the Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong to take up the issue of the imprisoned former Pakistan Prime Minister and World Cup-winning captain Imran Khan's welfare with the country's authorities.

Chappell has spearheaded multiple open letters and appeals urging humane treatment, proper medical care, and due process for the 1992 World Cup-winning Pakistan captain.

Former Australia captains Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Kim Hughes, and Mark Taylor are the other signatories to the letter addressed to Wong.

The former Australia captains said their appeal was not about the legal or political proceedings against Khan, but concerned the conditions under which he is being held.

"We take no position on the legal or political case against him. That is Pakistan's business. But the treatment of any person in detention is a matter of basic humanity, whatever



their politics," stated the letter according to Cricbuzz.

Khan, 73, has been in prison since 2022 after being convicted in multiple corruption cases. He has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

The signatories said concerns over his treatment had been raised repeatedly in recent months, with reports suggesting that his condition has not improved.

"This is not the first time international captains have raised this concern. It has been brought to public attention on two separate occasions in the past six months, and the reports since then - now echoed by his own family - suggest the situation has not improved," added the letter.

"We would be grateful if the Australian Government

could raise this directly with the relevant Pakistani authorities."

The latest appeal follows an interview given by Khan's sons, Sulaiman and Kasim, to former England captain Michael Atherton, which was broadcast by Sky Sports during the second England-Pakistan Test at Lord's last month.

The brothers spoke about their father's deteriorating health and alleged conditions in detention.

Several international cricket figures have previously appealed for Khan's welfare.

Earlier this month, legendary West Indies batter Brian Lara had joined a group of former international captains in calling for proper medical treatment of the former Pakistan leader.

PM Modi Tells Xi India-China Ties Need 'Three Mutuals'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 15 (PTI) In his bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that both sides must show sensitivity to each other's core issues and let relations be guided by "three mutuals" - mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

The two leaders met on Saturday on the margins of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi during Xi's first visit to India in seven years.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal acknowledged that issues such as Taiwan and Tibet figured in the talks between the two leaders, as mentioned a Chinese readout.

During the meeting, Modi told Xi that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remain an "essential" basis for the development of India-China relations, even as the two leaders welcomed "steady progress" in bilateral ties.

"The prime minister referred to Indian concerns as well, and underlined that both sides should show sensitivity to each other's



core concerns and be guided by three mutuals - mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity," Jaiswal said.

The spokesperson was asked to comment on the Congress' criticism that New Delhi had not taken up the border situation with the Chinese side strongly while seeking to expand bilateral economic engagement. Jaiswal said that issues relating to Taiwan and Tibet came up during the meeting.

The Chinese readout of the Modi-Xi meeting said that "India's policy and position on issues relating to Taiwan and Tibet remain unchanged, and it will not allow any force to engage in anti-China activities on its territory".

On Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's remarks that Modi and Xi reached

an "important consensus" that India and China should be partners, Jaiswal said the Indian side had already issued a detailed readout on the discussions.

In their talks, the two leaders reaffirmed that both countries should take a strategic and long-term perspective on their ties and that differences should not become disputes, the MEA had said on Saturday.

"The prime minister emphasised that peace and tranquillity in the border areas remain an essential basis for the continued development of bilateral relations," it said.

The Modi-Xi meeting took place amid efforts by the two sides to repair the ties that came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh military standoff between the two sides.

Needle Found in Child's Body, Case Filed

Press Trust of India

KOTTAYAM (KERALAM), SEP 15 (PTI) A case was registered following a complaint that a needle was found lodged in the body of a one-and-a-quarter-year-old child who had undergone treatment at Kottayam Medical College Hospital.

The child's mother, Anju Vineesh, lodged the complaint alleging medical negligence. Police registered the case under Section 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Women and Child Development Department are also conducting separate inquiries into the incident.

Anju gave birth to the child at Kottayam Medical College Hospital on June 24, 2025. The baby was admitted to the NICU on the second day after birth after developing fever and symptoms of jaundice.

The family alleged that the needle was left inside the child's body during her treatment at Kottayam Medical College Hospital.

The needle was detected near the child's right ribs during an examination at Kozhikode Medical College

Hospital in July 2026 and was subsequently removed through surgery, the family said.

Meanwhile, a team of doctors constituted by the hospital has submitted its inquiry report to the superintendent. The report, submitted last week, said there was no lapse in treatment and that the needle was unlikely to have entered the child's body at Kottayam Medical College Hospital.

The child was subjected to an ultrasound scan at the hospital, but no needle was detected at the time. The inquiry team also recorded the statements of doctors and staff of the Neonatology Department. The report said the parents had not produced the discharge card from Kozhikode Medical College.

The needle, measuring about one inch, was found lodged in the body of Advika, daughter of T T Vineesh and Anju of Naddoola in Chathamangalam, Chooloor, Kozhikode. The parents had earlier complained that the needle had entered the child's body while she was undergoing treatment at Kottayam Medical College Hospital and sought an inquiry.



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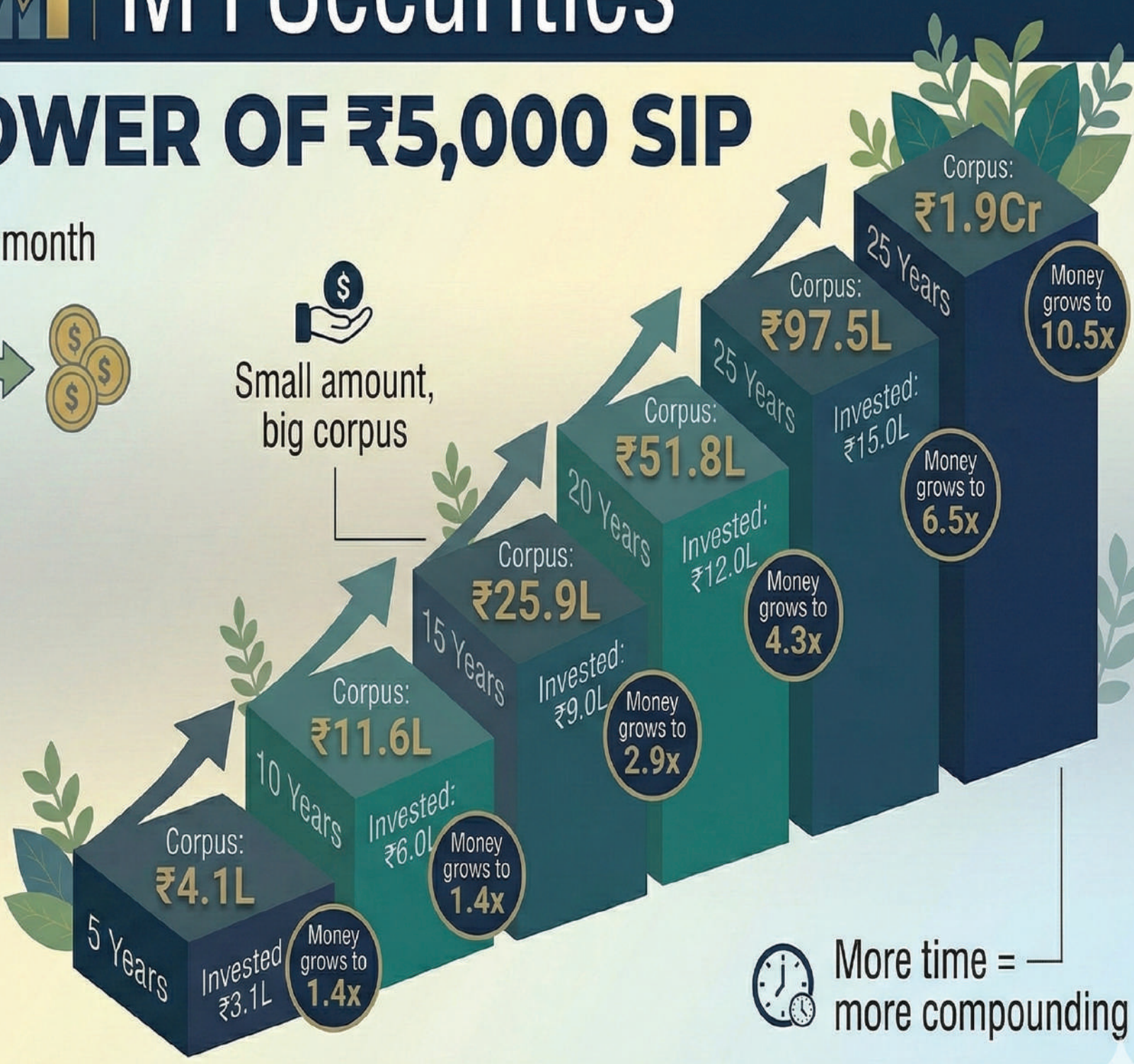
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30	18.0L

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15 Years	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
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