

Remain Vigilant Against Divisive Elements: LG

Says Unity, Harmony Key To India's Journey Towards Developed Nation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday urged society to remain vigilant against divisive elements, asserting that unity is India's greatest strength and calling upon saints and enlightened members of society to contribute towards the country's development.

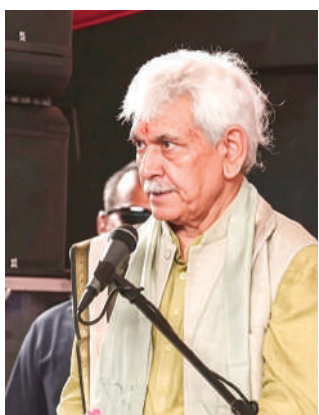
Sinha made the remarks while attending the Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha in Raebareli in the presence of Pandit Pradeep Mishra.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor described the teachings of Lord Shiva as a "sacred pilgrimage" for seekers of truth and underlined the role of spiritual gatherings in strengthening values of harmony and collective welfare.

He expressed gratitude to Uttar Pradesh Minister Manoj Kumar Pandey for organising the spiritual gathering, saying it had infused new vitality among the people.

Drawing an analogy between spiritual growth and the refining of gold, Sinha said that just as gold is purified by fire, holy company helps rekindle and purify spiritual energy within individuals.

The Lieutenant Governor said Sanatana Dharma has historically emphasised the principles of unity, harmony and universal welfare.



He said these principles were also reflected in the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, meaning "the world is one family".

Sinha said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India was seeking to present this philosophy on the global stage.

Referring to the recent BRICS Summit in Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor said the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam was increasingly finding resonance among countries seeking peace, harmony and collective welfare.

"What our ancestors envisioned millennia ago is now being embraced by nations worldwide, as they step forward to adopt this philosophy for peace and harmony," he said.

Sinha urged people to remain alert against [More on P6](#)



A houseboat lies partially submerged amid dense weed growth at Dalgate in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Govt Orders Eviction From Nazool Land Over Expired Leases

Polo View, Rajbagh Properties Among Those Served Eviction Notices

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the eviction of occupants from several properties built on Nazool, or state, land in Srinagar, citing expired leases and the absence of valid renewal or extension orders.

The properties facing eviction notices include commercial and other establishments in



prime areas such as Polo View near Lal Chowk, Rajbagh and

Karan Nagar.

Among those served an eviction notice is the iconic white building of the Mohi-ud-Din Trust at Polo View. The order issued by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner Nazool/Estates Officer, Srinagar, directs the Trust to vacate the premises and hand over possession by September 21.

According to the order, the Trust had earlier [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt Okays Free Transport For Differently-Abled

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday sanctioned free public transport services for differently-abled persons across the Union Territory, fulfilling a key announcement made in the government's Budget presented in March this year.

The Chief Minister's Office said the facility will provide free ridership to differently-abled persons on public transport services operated by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC).

The benefit will also extend to e-buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

"Fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March this year, the Government has sanctioned free ridership for differently-abled persons in public transport," the CMO said in a post on X.

The government said the initiative is aimed at improving accessibility and ease of [More on P6](#)

Govt Sets Deadlines For 6,000 PM Package Flats

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government has fixed specific deadlines for completion of balance works and phased handover of 6,000 flats approved for accommodation of PM Package employees at 20 locations across Kashmir Valley.

The decision was taken at a meeting convened to review ongoing and new projects of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and

Reconstruction (DMRR&R), jointly chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Anil Kumar Singh and Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti.

Officials informed the meeting that 5,176 of the 6,000 approved flats have been completed. Allied works, including installation of lifts, construction of internal roads, drainage and community halls, are also nearing completion at most locations.

The meeting directed the concerned [More on P6](#)

Plug-and-Play Industrial Park In 'Flood Zone': HC Seeks Response

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has sought a response from the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir on concerns raised over industrialisation in "flood-prone" areas including the proposed Rs 104.02-crore "Plug-and-Play" Industrial Park at Nowgam here.

While hearing a batch of petitions concerning environmental protection and the river Jhelum, a Division Bench of Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rajnesh Oswal took note of an affidavit filed by Environmental Policy Group (EPG), last month, which raised what it described as "critical" issues relating to industrialisation in flood-zone areas.

The Bench directed that a response to the affidavit be filed within one week and listed the matter for October 29.

"The affidavit dated 27.08.2026 has been filed on behalf of the petitioner (EPG). The affidavit raises certain critical issues, including industrialization in the flood zone area, which would require an immediate response from the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir," the court said, adding, "It is directed that the response to the affidavit be filed within a period of one week from today."

In its affidavit, EPG has drawn the Court's attention to the proposed industrial park at Nowgam, spread over approximately 50 acres. The group claimed that the site appears to fall within the Pantha Chowk-Nowgam stretch of the [More on P6](#)

Govt Ready For 7-Day Assembly Session: CM

MLAs To Raise Public Issues; CM Says No UPI Charge On P2P Transfers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the upcoming seven-day session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will take up several issues concerning the people, with the government committed to ensuring the smooth functioning of the House and providing satisfactory replies to legislators.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function, Omar said the session would comprise government legislative business as well as issues raised by MLAs from both the Treasury and Opposition benches.

"There are two types of agendas in the session. One is



the government's own business, legislative. That is less in the Union Territory than in the state, but still, there is some legislative business which will be presented to the House by the government," he said.

The Chief Minister said legislators [More on P6](#)

Omar To Ladakh Leaders: Seek Centre's Promises In Writing

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah advised the leadership of Ladakh not to rely on the Centre's verbal assurances regarding their struggle for constitutional safeguards with regard [More on P6](#)

SHAH KUL ENCROACHMENTS

HC Raps Authorities; Asks Div Com To Coordinate Efforts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Expressing dissatisfaction over the progress made in restoring the Shah Kul to its original shape despite repeated orders, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to coordinate the efforts of the J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) and all other concerned departments for removal of encroachment from the historic "canal-feeding channel of Dal Lake".

A Division Bench



comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the directions while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking restoration of the centuries-old canal and removal of encroachments from its original alignment.

The Court expressed dissatisfaction over the progress made by the authorities despite repeated orders and compliance reports submitted in the matter. It observed that although encroachments had been demarcated and efforts had been initiated for their removal, the drive had yet to achieve the "desired" results.

The Court noted that the J&K LCMA had earlier placed a compliance report on record, including details of steps proposed to be taken for restoration of Shah Kul, also known as "Gupt Ganga". However,

Directs 'Stringent Exercise' For Restoring Historic Canal To 'Original' Position

it said the Authority had not been able to act at the pace required considering the "critical" importance of the canal and the statutory mechanism available with the government for its restoration.

The Court accordingly directed the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to supervise and coordinate the efforts of the LCMA and other connected departments for removal of all encroachments from the area comprising Shah Koul.

At the same time, the Division Bench directed that [More on P6](#)

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2

PM2.5 Identified As Leading Air Pollutant Driving Global Cancer Burden: Study

Press Trust Of India

A study that analysed global cancer burden with a long-term exposure to common air pollutants across 952 locations found that PM2.5 is the dominant contributor. Particulate matter sized under 2.5 microns or 0.0025 millimetres (PM2.5) accounted for 8.82 million cases of the total 109 million cases identified between 2000 and 2020, according to findings published in the journal Nature Health.

Research, including those from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, also found that globally, each 10 microgram per cubic metre increase in PM2.5, ozone and nitrous oxide levels was associated with an increased risk of cancer by 16 per cent, 4.23 per cent and 11.7 per cent, respectively. Exposure to nitrous oxide was attributable to 6.67 million incident cases, while exposure to ozone was attributable to about



2.6 million incident cases during the study period. Women were found to be consistently more vulnerable for most malignancies. Almost the entire global population (99 per cent) breathes air containing pollutant levels exceeding the World Health Organization's air quality guidelines, with the highest exposures seen in low and middle-income countries, the researchers said.

Air pollution adversely affects nearly every organ system in the body, they said. "This study evaluated the effects of long-term exposure to PM2.5, O3 (ozone) and NO2 (nitrous oxide) on cancer incidence and quantified their attributable burdens worldwide, encompassing 109 million cases from 952 locations between 2000 and 2020," the authors wrote. "PM2.5 emerged as the dominant

contributor to the global cancer burden, accounting for approximately 8.82 million attributable cases during the study period," they said. About 17.9 per cent of tracheal, bronchial and lung cancer cases could be prevented if exposure to PM2.5 was removed or addressed, the study found. The results reinforce the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) -- the United

Nations' cancer agency -- group 1 classification of PM2.5 as a carcinogen, particularly for lung cancer, signifying the existence of definitive, sufficient evidence of PM2.5's carcinogenic properties, the researchers said. However, the study also showed that PM2.5's cancer-inducing gene mutations extend beyond the respiratory system, particularly cancers of the thyroid, oesophagus, colon and rectal, and breast. Further, each 10 microgram per cubic metre increase in PM2.5 was found to correspond with a 17.9 per cent higher risk of kidney cancer and a 21.1 per cent higher risk of bladder cancer. Biologically, PM2.5 exerts broad cancer-related impacts, possibly due to its small size and driving multiple processes, including systemic oxidative stress, DNA damage and immune dysregulation, the researchers said. The study uses high-quality, globally representative cancer datasets involving populations from low, middle and high-income countries and therefore, ensures a generalisability of the findings, they said. The findings provide critical evidence to inform air quality policies, the team added.

In the Court of Mr. Varun Kumar 3rd Additional Munsiff Srinagar

Execution/1670/2025

Syed Asifa
Vs
Syed Mairaj Din

To,
Syed Ashfaq
S/O Late Syed Haji Mairaj Din
R/O Koolipora, Khanyar.

Whereas, Syed Asifa has instituted the above titled execution petition against you for enforcement of judgement and decree.
You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the 29th day of September, 2026 at 10:30 O'clock, in the forenoon, to answer the claim and you are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of defense, failing which the application will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 16/09/2026.
The Summon for service by 3rd Additional Munsiff Srinagar Advertised in two local daily newspaper having circulation in the area.

fko
3rd Additional Munsiff
Srinagar

Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 874849424090 the name is entered as URVESH MATTOO while my actual name is URVESH KOUL. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
URVESH KOUL W/O RAHUL MATTOO
R/o VINAYAK NAGAR MUTHI JAMMU

mcb

Public Notice

I have lost a Red Coloured Back Pack on 10 september 2026 at about 4.00 pm while Travelling From Hyder Beigh To Hanjiwera in a Tavera Vehicle . The bag contains an e-pos device of sale centre, wanigam bala along with important official documents. Anyone who has found the bag or has any information regarding it is requested to kindly contact ON 9596594155 | 7006079259
Majid Ali

BMG

Public Notice

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, 11th) under Roll No.: 121011021, 221003244 Session: Annual/ Bi- Annul Year 2023 /2025 respectively through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error has been committed against my father's name as GulamMohammad Kumar Instead of Ghulam Mohammad Kumar
Now, I have applied for correction/ rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Magam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Rehana Gul
Father's name: Ghulam Mohammad Kumar
Mother's Name: Haleema
DOB: 02-06-2008
Residence: Kralpora Magam
Mobile no: 9320645647



bmg

Public Notice

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, 11th ,12th) under Roll No.: 2406483 , 22404315, 32404284 Session: Bi-Annual/Annual/ Annual Year 2019, 2020, 2021 respectively through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error has been committed against my father's name as GulamMohammad Kumar Instead of Ghulam Mohammad Kumar
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Magam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Nasreena Gul
Father's name: Ghulam Mohammad Kumar
Mother's Name: Haleema
DOB: 25-09-2005
Residence: Kralpora Magam
Mobile no: 9320645647



bmg

Public Notice

I have lost the number plae of my vehicle bearing regd no; jk01AR 3625. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the RTO Srinagar within seven days.After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Rashid Khan
S/O Mohammad Ayoub Khan
R/O Lawaypora Srinagar
2Nd Owner Fayaz Ahmd Gojri
S/O Mohammad Shaban Gojri R/O Dhoibiwani Kunzer

bmg

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Abdul Ahad Paray, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Paray, R/o Waripora Bangil, Kawarhama, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, have been issued a Passport bearing No. N8929690, dated 22.06.2016, which expired on 21.06.2026.
That in the said passport, my caste/community has inadvertently been mentioned as "PARAH", whereas my correct caste/community is "PARAY". I hereby intend to rectify/correct the said entry from "PARAH" to "PARAY" in the passport records and also intend to apply for issuance of a fresh passport.
Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction/rectification may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

bmg

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION) CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR/JAMMU.

**

Subject: Final seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Economics as on 01.09.2026.

Government Order No. 376 JK (Edu) of 2026
Dated: 16.09.2026

WHEREAS, the tentative seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Economics was issued vide Notice dated 07.07.2026 for inviting objections, if any, from the members of the service; AND WHEREAS, after issuance of the tentative seniority, the Department received various representations through the concerned Directorates for inclusion of members /up-dation of service particulars in the seniority list; AND WHEREAS, the representations received with regard to additions / deletions /corrections have been examined thoroughly in the Department and the genuine objections have been entertained; AND WHEREAS, the incumbents who have obtained their PG degrees through distance/private mode during service, without obtaining proper permission/leave from the competent authority and in whose favour recommendations of the Designated Committee in light of Government Order No. 188-JK (Edu) of 2024, dated 15.03.2024 have not been received till date, have also been incorporated in the final seniority list, with the stipulation that their inclusion in the seniority list is subject to the condition that their cases are recommended by the Committees constituted vide Government Order No. 188-JK (Edu) of 2024 dated 15.03.2024. In case recommendations are not received in their favour, their names shall be deemed to have been deleted from the seniority list ab-initio; Now, therefore, in terms of Rule 24 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, the final seniority list in respect of PG Masters/PG Teachers in the discipline of Economics, forming Annexure-A to this Government order, is hereby issued. The dates of birth of the incumbents recorded in the seniority list are subject to further verification from their service records and also with reference to the original Matriculation Certificates of all the concerned. Further, the places of postings mentioned against the incumbents shall also not be taken as final which may have changed over time during the processing of up-dation of the seniority. Moreover, 23 incumbents have been included afresh in this final seniority list at appropriate places as detailed in Annexure-B & Annexure-C and 06 incumbents have been deleted from the previous seniority list as detailed in Annexure-D to this Government Order for the reasons as shown against each. The seniority list so issued is subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before any Competent courts of Law. Any member of the service who is either not included or is aggrieved with the position assigned to him/her in this final seniority list can file a review petition within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this updated final seniority list along with supporting documents, through the concerned Directorates which shall be decided on case-to-case basis, on merits. No petition shall be entertained directly from any member or after the expiry of stipulated time period. The final seniority list is also available on the official website of School Education Department (i.e. <https://schooleducation.jk.gov.in>).

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Sharma), IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department.

No. Edu-HRM/87/2021-01 (38835)
DIPK-5795/26
Dated: 16.09.2026.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu.

Subject: Extension of the Validity of Government Order No. 52-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 16.05.2020 regarding Registration of Bona-fide Migrants/Displaced Persons for the Purpose of Issuance of Domicile Certificate Only- for a Further Period of One Year, i.e., up to 14.05.2027.

Government Order No.59-JK (DMRRR) of 2026
Dated: 02-09-2026

Sanction is hereby accorded to the extension in the validity of Government Order 52-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 16.05.2020, which was previously extended vide Government Order No. 44-JK(DMRRR) of 2021 dated 22.06.2021, Government Order No. 30-JK(DMRRR) of 2022 dated 10.06.2022, Government Order No. 56-JK(DMRRR) of 2023 dated 17.08.2023, Government Order No. 78-JK(DMRRR) of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 and Government Order No.26-JK (DMRRR) of 2025 Dated: 13-05-2025 for a further period of one year, i.e., up to 14.05.2027 with the following conditions that:

- The validity of Government Order No. 52-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 16.05.2020 may be extended for a further period of one year beyond 15.05.2026.
- The registration process shall continue to be governed by the existing eligibility conditions and procedure prescribed under Government Order No. 52-JK(DMRRR) of 2020, as amended from time to time.
- The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu shall continue to undertake awareness measures through the Relief Organisation, Migrant Associations and other appropriate communication channels to facilitate registration of all eligible beneficiaries.
- The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu shall maintain year-wise data regarding registrations and domicile certificates issued and, as far as practicable, progressively compile State/UT-wise details of applicants to facilitate future policy review.
- The implementation of the registration process shall be reviewed before expiry of the proposed extended period for taking an appropriate policy decision regarding its further continuation or modification.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-
Chandraker Bharti (IAS)
Principal Secretary to the Government.

No: DMRRR-MR/49/2021
DIPK-5761/26
Dated: 16.09.2026

Public Notice

I MAHENDRA SANKHALA Resident of No 1 Airmen Mess Airforce Station Srinagar have changed my son's name from NEERAJ SANKHALA as per service documents to NAKSH SANKHALA vide Affidavit dated 14 09 2026 before sub District Court Awantipora
if anybody has any objection he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. X

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 21/01/2026. 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.

fko Naib Tehsildar

Public Notice

I, Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, have changed my daughter's name from Saamin Bashir to Adeeba Bashir and intend to incorporate the same change in her school records at Al Noor Model School, Dhoibwan Kunzer.
Any person having any objection to the said change may file the same in the office of Al Noor Model School, Dhoibwan Kunzer, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
Bashir Ahmad Dar
S/o Ab Aziz Dar
R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, Baramulla

zk

Public Notice

I have lost my Provisional Cum Character Certificate bearing admission no: 2427 issued by Govt Higher Secondary School Sherabad Singhpora Pattan. 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 above mentioned school within seven days. after that no objection shall be entertained.
Soubiya Shabir
D/o Shabir Ahmad Lone
R/o Zangam Pattan

fko

Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in School records the name, fathers name and mothers name of my ward is entered as HUMRA ASLAM, fathers name MOHAMMAD ASLAM DAR mothers name AMINA while actual name is HAMRAH ASLAM fathers name MOHAMMAD ASLAM DAR mothers name AMINA AKHTER. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact PRINCIPAL JK PUBLIC SCHOOL HUMHAMA with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
MOHAMMAD ASLAM DAR
F/o HAMRAH ASLAM
R/O NEW AIRPORT ROAD HUMHAMA BUDGAM

mcb

Public Notice

I have lost the number plae of my vehicle bearing regd no; JK04C 7403. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the RTO Budgam within seven days.After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohamamd Ramzan Mir
S/o Gh Hussain Mir
R/o Agar dangerpora Magam

bmg

CM Omar Inaugurates Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley, marking the beginning of a new Rotary presence dedicated to community service and social development in the Valley.

The Rotary International District 3141, which covers Mumbai and has over 100 member clubs, has extended its activities to Jammu &



Kashmir through the Rotary Club of Dahanu by sponsoring the founding of the new Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister welcomed the establishment of the new Rotary platform and appreciated the initiative of Rotary International District 3141 and the Rotary Club of

Dahanu in extending their community-service activities to the Valley.

The Chief Minister highlighted Rotary's long-standing contribution in areas including healthcare, education, sanitation, environmental protection and community development.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of supporting Kashmiri artisans and preserving the region's traditional handicrafts through skill development, innovation, better market access and livelihood opportunities.

He said Rotary could also contribute to the tourism and hospitality sectors through professional training, youth engagement and initiatives promoting responsible tourism.

The Chief Minister encouraged the newly installed Board to identify local needs, engage with communities and develop sustainable projects in coordination with relevant government departments and institutions.

Referring to Rotary International's theme, "Create Lasting Impact", he said sustained, community-oriented service has an important role in creating long-term social benefits.

Brari Nambal Restoration Incomplete as Vehicles Remain on Filled Lagoon Area

Agencies

Srinagar: The landfilling carried out along a portion of the Brari Nambal lagoon in Srinagar has only been partially removed despite the intervention of the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), with a fresh visit to the site showing vehicles still parked on the remaining filled portion of the waterbody.

The issue had come to light after landfilling was noticed along the lagoon,

following which the LCMA used machinery to remove the filled material from the affected area.

However, still a substantial portion of the filled area remains, while several vehicles continue to be parked on the reclaimed portion.

The development raises a fresh question over whether the removal operation has been completed, or whether the remaining filled material is also to be removed and the affected portion restored to its earlier water-holding condition.(KNT)



Dal Lake Records Just Eight Fish Species in Six-Month Survey

'Iconic lake losing its sheen as sewage, agricultural runoff, overfishing, invasive species threatening its ecosystem'

Agencies

Srinagar: Dal Lake recorded only eight fish species during a six-month survey, with researchers flagging a significant decline in fish diversity and calling for urgent conservation measures.

The study, published in the July 2026 issue of the Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR), accessed by KNO examined the fish diversity and conservation status of the iconic Kashmir lake.

Researchers from Government Degree College Bemina and Government Degree College Utersoo collected fish samples from three locations -- Hazratbal, Nehru Park and Nishat -- every fortnight between January and June 2025, with the help of local fishermen.

Only eight species were recorded during the study, the researchers said, compared with more than 14 species reported in earlier studies.

The survey found Cyprinus carpio specularis to be the most abundant species across all three sites, followed

by *Cyprinus carpio communis.

Native snow trout species, including Schizothorax niger and Schizothorax curvifrons, were among the least abundant fish recorded.

The researchers reported seven Schizothorax niger at both Hazratbal and Nehru Park and five at Nishat. Schizothorax curvifrons numbers were four, seven and four respectively at the three sites.

The study also recorded Carassius carassius, Crossochellus diplochilus, Puntius conchonus and Gambusia holbrooki at the three sampling locations.

Researchers said some fish species reported in previous studies were not found during their survey, which they described as an indication of declining ichthyofaunal diversity.

DECLINE DUE TO SEVERAL PRESSURES

The study attributed the decline to several pressures, including untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, eutrophication, introduction of exotic species, overfishing and loss of fish breeding grounds.

It also raised concern over the reported presence of alligator gar, an invasive predatory fish, saying it could prey on the fry and fingerlings of native Schizothorax species.

The researchers recommended controlling untreated sewage and agricultural runoff entering the lake, managing aquatic weeds and regulating human activities around the urban water body.

They also called for restocking native and endemic fish species, preventing the introduction of exotic invasive species and imposing measures against overfishing.

The study said fish are an important component of Dal Lake's ecosystem as well as a source of food and income for communities dependent on fisheries.

The researchers further said that the lake's fish diversity has been substantially affected and said immediate conservation measures were needed to prevent further loss of its aquatic biodiversity—(KNO)

Man Killed in Auto-Rickshaw, Car Collision

Agencies

Srinagar: A 58-year-old man was killed after an auto-rickshaw and a Venue car collided in Raj Bagh area of Srinagar on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the man was injured in the collision and shifted to SMHS Hospital

Srinagar in critical condition, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was identified as Abdullah Rehman Dar (58), son of Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of Beerwah, Budgam.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and further investigation is underway—(KNO)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER,

POSHAN PROJECT ACHABAL

Achabal Near State Bank Of India

Tele/Fax:019322-292707

E-mail:cdpo-achabal@jk.gov.in

NOTICE

Subject: Publication of Selection List of Anganwadi Helpers (Sahaykas) for Anganwadi Centre Ashajipora-A (Ward-No :24) , Mominabad (Ward No:25) , Monghall-C (Ward No: 04) Kadpora-A (Ward No: 03) , C S Pora D Ward No: 04-- Invitation of Objections Thereon.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned candidates that the following candidates have been selected for engagement as Anganwadi Helpers (Sahayikas) for Anganwadi Centres with Wards mentioned against each as shown below, subject to verification of eligibility, certificates, and other requisite documents as per the prescribed norms.

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Residence	D.O.B	Ward/ Locality	Merit Points
01.	Salma Jan	D/o Abdul Gani Mir	Ashajipora	20-06-2006	M C Ward No:24	62.80
02.	Dani Mohidin	W/o Younis Ahmad Bhat	Mominabad	20-10-1996	M C Ward No: 25	61.80
03.	Samaiya Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad Itoo	Monghall	04-10-1999	Panch Ward No: 04	62.00
04.	Muneera Jan	W/o Mohd Hussain Itoo	Kadpora	02-01-1995	Panch Ward No:03	49.20
05.	Gurmeet Kour	W/o Ravinder Pal Singh	C S pora	07-03-1990	Panch Ward No: 04	38.60

Any person having any objection regarding the tentative/provisional selection of the above-mentioned candidate may submit the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence before the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained. In case no objection is received within the prescribed period, the selection shall be treated as final, subject to fulfillment of all eligibility conditions and verification of original documents.

Sd/-
Child Dev. Project Officer,
Poshan Project Achabal
Dated:16 -09-2026.

NO--CDPO/ACH/Estt/2026-27/465-467

DIPK-5807/26

DATED: 16-09-22026

اِنَّكُم رَّاكُم اَجْعُوْا

"Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return."

With profound grief, we inform you of the passing away of

Ghulam Mohammad Pathan

S/o Ghulam Ahmad pathan

R/o Eidgah

Syedpora Aiwa Kadal Srinagar

who departed for heavenly abode on

15-September-2026 (Tuesday)

Taziyat will be observed for three days only

Ijtimaye Fateh Khawani will be held on

18 September 2026 (Friday), at 9:00 AM at ancestors graveyard

May Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen.

BEREAVED Javaid Pathan (Son)

9682369669



Media Line

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-C/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders against the below-mentioned works and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date **06.10.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids only up to the closing date and time. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments towards the tender document cost and Earnest Money only through the payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal, like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card, etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit Receipt, FDR, etc. are not allowed. For more information, log on to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System		
Open	Works	Single Packet System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
14.09.2026	22.09.2026	06.10.2026 15:00 Hrs		
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	146-2026-27-Sr-DEN-C-FZR	Supply of 60,000 cum 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Mechanically broken) and loading into rail rakes/BOBs at the goods siding, Hoshiarpur on JRC-HSX section under ADEN/JRC.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money(Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	71443800.00	1428900.00	60 Days	08 Months
Similar nature of work: "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for Railways/Highway/Roads"				

Notet1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

Tender No.: 146-2026-27-Sr-DEN-C-FZR

Date: 14.09.2026

3196/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

04 Rabi-ul-Sani

1448

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 642 - Arab forces under Amr ibn al-'As conquer Alexandria
- 1462 - The Battle of wiceno (or Battle of arnowiec) is fought during Thirteen Years' War.
- 1598 - Dutch sailors discover island of Mauritius
- 1644 - French troops occupy Mainz
- 1678 - France & Spain sign Treaties of Nijmegen
- 1778 - 1st treaty between the US & Indian tribes signed (Fort Pitt)
- 1809 - Peace between Sweden and Russia in the Finnish War. The territory to become Finland is ceded to Russia by the Treaty of Fredrikshamn.
- 1862 Battle of Mumfordsville, Kentucky, US Col J Wilder surrenders city
- 1862 - American Civil War: The Allegheny Arsenal explosion results in the single largest civilian disaster during the war; 78 workers killed.
- 1899 - 1st British troops leave Bombay for South Africa
- 1916 - WWI flying ace The Red Baron of the German Luftstreitkräfte, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France
- 1924 - Italy signs treaty of Rapallo
- 1934 - USSR joins League of Nations (Netherland, Switzerland & Portugal vote no)
- 1939 - German U-29 sinks British aircraft carrier Courageous, 519 die
- 1939 - Soviet Union invades Eastern Poland allowing Germans to advance West, taking 217,000 Poles prisoner, without a formal declaration of war
- 1940 - Adolf Hitler indefinitely postpones Operation Sealion, the planned German invasion of Great Britain
- 1941 - World War II: A decree issued by the Soviet State Committee of Defense, restoring Vsevoluch "Universal compulsory military training of the citizens of the USSR" in the face of the "Great Patriotic War"

From KO Archives

CM Strips Ministers Of Security

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has ordered his ministers and senior officers of the administration not to use pilot jeeps, except when they are on tour outside Jammu and Srinagar cities.

The Chief Minister also ordered the measures to economise manpower and to reduce inconvenience to general public. The CM's order states there shall be only one escort jeep for ministers and chief secretary while other senior officers shall be given only a PSO and a gunman for their security.

"Sirens on official vehicle would not be used henceforth," an official press release said here this evening. The ministers and senior officers have been asked not to use flags within Jammu and Srinagar cities.

Only the vehicles of ministers and chief secretary would use red lights. The CM has also directed to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the interest of general public with due regard to security aspect.

(Kashmir Observer, September 17, 1998)

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of the wife of Mirza Ashiq Hussain, resident of Nawab Bagh, Baghwanpora, Srinagar, who passed away on Wednesday, 16th September 2026.

Her Congregational Fateha Khawani will be held on Friday, 18th September 2026, at 7:00 AM at their graveyard in Baghwanpora, Srinagar.

Thereafter, a day-long condolence meeting will be held at Bargah-e-Imam Mehdi (A.S.), Nawab Bagh, Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar, Srinagar.

BEREAVED FAMILY:
Haji Mirza Abdul Hasan
Mirza Ashiq Hussain
Aga Syed Aijaz Hussain Qazmi
Dr. Aga Syed Muhammad Qazmi
Haji Ali Muhammad Mir

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

El Niño Hits Kashmir

Kashmir is heading toward a winter driven by a climate pattern thousands of kilometres away.
The latest forecast points to a strengthening El Niño that could persist into early 2027, while Jammu and Kashmir meteorologists expect warmer-than-normal conditions.
The U.S. Climate Prediction Center now puts the chance of a very strong El Niño during the Northern Hemisphere autumn and winter above 90 percent.
That sounds like a straightforward recipe for a mild, dry Kashmir winter, but the science tells a more complicated story.
Jammu and Kashmir Meteorological Centre Director Mukhtar Ahmad says the coming winter could remain relatively mild and dry, although one or two strong western disturbances could change the seasonal picture quickly. Climatologist Sonam Lotus has also cautioned that El Niño alone cannot determine Kashmir's winter.
The frequency and strength of western disturbances, the position of the jet stream and other atmospheric patterns will decide how much snow the valley actually receives.
A 2025 study in Advances in Atmospheric Sciences helps explain why this matters.
Researchers found that western disturbances account for 32 percent of winter precipitation in the western Himalaya and coincide with 97 percent of recorded extreme precipitation events in the region.
During El Niño years, these disturbances were 6 percent less frequent than during La Niña years, but they were 4 percent stronger. Their moisture transport was also 17 percent higher, producing twice as many extreme precipitation events as during La Niña periods.
That finding changes the way Kashmir should read this winter forecast. A warmer seasonal average can coexist with a few powerful snowfall events. A long dry spell can be followed by a major western disturbance that brings heavy snow or rain within days.
The same El Niño signal can therefore produce a winter that feels unusually warm while still delivering episodes of dangerous weather.
The stakes extend well beyond whether tourists find snow on the mountains. Snow acts as a natural store of water for Kashmir's streams, springs, rivers and groundwater. It also supports horticulture, agriculture and hydropower. Scientists at the National Institute of Hydrology have warned that a warmer, drier winter could put additional pressure on these systems.
Kashmir has already experienced several mild winters with fewer cold days and longer dry periods. Another warm winter would therefore add to a pattern that needs closer attention rather than being treated as a one-season weather anomaly.
The coming months demand better questions. How much snow will Kashmir store at high elevations? When will that snow melt? How will springs respond in summer? What happens to apple orchards and hydropower if winter precipitation arrives late or falls as rain?
El Niño may begin the story, but Kashmir's real test will come with the water left behind when winter ends.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi



Will Kashmir's academics reclaim research as a calling? Will institutions enforce standards that make inquiry essential rather than optional? The answers will shape not only higher education but the trajectory of a place long defined by ideas, poetry, and scholarship.

Kashmir's Research Crisis

Bureaucratic workloads, weak infrastructure and limited accountability are pushing research to the margins of academic life.

Many academics stop publishing, mentoring, or pursuing research the moment their jobs become permanent in Kashmir.
Assistant Professors in Government Degree Colleges and some universities show energy and curiosity during probation years. Once promotions are assured, enthusiasm fades.
Research becomes optional, curiosity drifts, and the institutions meant to nurture knowledge grow stagnant.
The system makes this possible. Unlike universities abroad, where research output is monitored and rewarded, Kashmiri institutions rarely enforce meaningful standards.
The Career Advancement Scheme measures promotion eligibility by the number of publications rather than their quality. Faculty often meet requirements by publishing in obscure or predatory journals. Securing a permanent post sends an unspoken message: research is not mandatory.
Several forces accelerate the decline. Job security removes urgency. Most colleges lack laboratories, libraries, journal subscriptions, or administrative support for grants and fieldwork. Faculty spend long hours on NAAC files, compliance reports, student records, and organizing college events.
These bureaucratic tasks leave little mental space for creative thinking. Many professors are stationed in remote colleges, isolated from peers, conferences, and research networks. Academic life becomes solitary and uninspiring.
Culture compounds the problem. Faculty meetings rarely include research presentations. College websites hardly list ongoing projects. Students graduate without seeing teachers contribute new knowledge. Inquiry fades when the institutions themselves do not value it.
The consequences extend beyond campus walls.
Teaching suffers when instructors rely on outdated materials. Institutions lose credibility and fail to attract funding, partnerships, or talent. Society misses insights that could tackle Kashmir's urgent challenges, from climate adaptation and mental health to education reform and gender justice. Younger academics absorb the message that research is neither expected nor rewarded. Promotions hinge on paperwork, not intellectual contribution.
Despite these obstacles, some academics persist. They publish in reputable journals, mentor PhD candidates, secure grants, and present at conferences. They work because curiosity, early mentorship, or exposure to global academia drives them. They continue in spite of indifference, demonstrating that scholarly excellence is possible even when the environment discourages it.
Reversing the trend requires structural and cultural change. Annual research reports tracking publications, projects, and citations can foster transparency. Promotions should emphasize quality over quantity. Financial incentives, reduced teaching loads, and travel grants can motivate serious research. Departments can create research cells where faculty exchange ideas, review work, and support one another.
Leadership appointments should consider research track records, not seniority alone. College-university collaborations can expand access to labs, mentorship, and interdisciplinary dialogue. Student research projects and independent modules can ignite interest in inquiry among both teachers and learners.
Government investment in infrastructure, including new campuses, digital classrooms, additional colleges, has been significant. Hardware exists, but the software, like rigour, accountability, and a culture of inquiry, lags.

Civil society, media, and students must start asking the right questions: how many ideas were tested, how many papers contributed new knowledge, how many solutions reached the community?
Kashmir's academic landscape stands at a crossroads. One path leads to routine and comfort, cushioned by permanent positions. The other demands reflection, curiosity, and public contribution, offering a life of meaningful scholarship. The choice will shape the future of higher education here and the future of Kashmir itself.
Permanent positions were meant to foster stability and encourage growth, but without systemic accountability and a culture that values inquiry, they often signal retirement from research.
The region cannot afford that. Its unique socio-political, ecological, and developmental challenges demand fresh ideas, rigorous investigation, and bold solutions. Faculty who continue to research set an example, but they cannot carry the burden alone.
The solution lies in rewarding curiosity, fostering collaboration, and linking academic performance to societal impact.
Kashmir's future depends on knowledge production, not mere job security. Institutions, faculty, students, and society must act together to cultivate an academic culture that mirrors the region's resilience, complexity, and potential.
Will Kashmir's academics reclaim research as a calling? Will institutions enforce standards that make inquiry essential rather than optional?
The answers will shape not only higher education but the trajectory of a place long defined by ideas, poetry, and scholarship.

The author is Assistant Professor
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Awantipora, and can be reached at
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The Future Is in the Field

Agriculture can give jobless Kashmiri graduates a career, a business and a stake in the land.



Dr. Waseem Ahmad

A man with no degree is growing something bigger than crops in Kashmir's fertile land. He's essentially building a future.
Every morning he's in the field by sunrise, sowing seeds, tending soil, and making decisions that will feed his family, and likely others too. He didn't sit through lectures on soil science or write papers on climate-resilient farming. He just did the work. And the land responded.
Meanwhile, many graduates with degrees in agriculture are miles away from the field, literally and figuratively. They're in banks, stamping passports at airports, working retail counters or stuck behind government desks. Their education was rooted in agriculture, but their careers are not.
It's not just about individual choices. There's a deeper problem in how agriculture is taught, perceived, and practiced.
Start with the classrooms. Agricultural education still leans heavily on textbooks, formulas, and the occasional field trip. Students know how to calculate irrigation needs or

write a pest control plan, but many have never actually run a farm, sold produce, or faced a failed crop. They're trained to be technicians, not entrepreneurs.
That difference between knowledge and real-world readiness is widening. When these graduates step out, the idea of starting a farm feels risky and unfamiliar. So they chase what feels safer: government exams, salaried roles, and the stability of office jobs. Even if that means leaving their field of study behind entirely.
It doesn't help that farming still carries a stigma in many parts of India, including Kashmir. It's often seen as a last resort, not a bold first step. Parents push their children toward "respectable" careers. Society sees agriculture as the domain of the undereducated, not the ambitious.
But here's the truth: farming today is as much about innovation as it is about tradition. It's a business that demands planning, investment, marketing, and resilience. It involves data and drones, logistics and branding.
From vertical farms to organic labels, from direct-to-customer supply chains to precision irrigation, agriculture is changing fast. And it needs people who understand both the science and the business.
Institutions like SKUAST-K are beginning to shift that narrative.
There's growing emphasis on agripreneurship, on building start-ups around farm technology, sustainable practices, and smart food systems. But we still have a long way to go.
Most students graduate with knowledge,



The land doesn't check your CV. It doesn't care about your GPA. It responds to work. It rewards persistence. And in a time when global food systems are under strain, the value of that work has never been higher.

but little mentorship or hands-on business experience. Many don't see farming as a viable enterprise, because no one showed them how to turn an idea into income.
And yet, back on the ground, local farmers without degrees are doing just that. They're adapting to market shifts, experimenting with methods, and quietly growing small-scale empires from their soil. They don't have pitch decks or prototypes. But they have instincts, grit, and direct feedback from the land.
This is where education must meet experience. Graduates need to see that farming is not the fallback plan. It's the frontier. Climate change, food insecurity, and sustainable development are global challenges, and agriculture is central to all three. That means the field is

wide open for smart, motivated young people to make a real impact.
It also means we need structural changes. Universities must embed real-life farming challenges into their curriculum. Incubators and innovation labs need to move closer to the soil. Grants and seed funding should target student-led agricultural ventures. Mentorship programmes must pair graduates with experienced farmers who've learned by doing.
Most of all, the mindset needs to shift. Farming isn't about waiting for ideal conditions. It's about starting small, solving problems, and growing into it, season after season.
The land doesn't check your CV. It doesn't care about your GPA. It responds to work. It rewards persistence. And in a time when global food systems are under strain, the value of that work has never been higher.
To the agriculture graduates who feel stuck: don't let your degree gather dust. Collaborate with those already in the field. Learn what they know. Bring your science to their system. Build something.
And to the policymakers and educators: don't waste this generation's potential. Equip them with tools, not just theories. Give them land access, business training, and most importantly, belief.
Because agriculture is not yesterday's industry. It's tomorrow's opportunity. And the land is ready.
Are we?
The author is an Agricultural Analyst writing on farming, climate and culture. He can be reached at waseembhataspn@yahoo.com.

Kashmir's Charity Queues Never Seem to Shrink

Season after season, Srinagar's ration kits land on the same doorsteps, and hardly anyone asks why the list refuses to shrink.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

I attend the same charity function year after year, and I keep spotting the same faces in the crowd.

The kits get handed out, someone takes a photograph, a list gets read aloud, and among the names called I recognise families from last year, and the year before that too.

There is a hotel that went up near my childhood home in Srinagar, and I still think about the man who built it.

He sat on a wooden chair through the whole construction, watching the fittings go in one by one, planning a future he could already picture.

He died before it opened. I have watched this happen again since, in smaller ways: men spending decades building a house meant to hold their old age, and never living long enough to sit in it.

The only time we actually hold is the one right now, and what we do with it, for someone else, is the part that lasts.

That instinct lies behind Ramzan packs and winter kits too, and it is a good instinct.

Nobody should go hungry during a sacred month, or any month. But an organisation that hands the same parcels to the same households, year after year, is running a maintenance schedule rather than solving poverty.

Relief has a habit of turning into routine if nobody interrupts it.

A household gets rice and oil, survives another month, then waits for the next delivery. The giver feels good about having helped. The receiver feels relief at having eaten. Nothing else moves.

When this type of generosity continues without a real plan, it starts to feel less like charity and more like a permanent arrangement between poor families and those who feed them.

Fixing this means giving with a bigger purpose. Before the parcel leaves the warehouse, we need to ask a different question.

Rather than calculating how much rice a family needs to survive winter, an organisation could work out what it would take to get that family off the list altogether.

What capital starts a small shop, and what training turns a labourer into a tailor, a widow into a shopkeeper, and a young man with idle hands into someone running his own small business.

Then someone could check back after three months, and again after six, and again at year's end, and publish the honest result: last year we supported a hundred families, and sixty two of them no longer need us.

That second figure is the one worth clapping for.

The first figure, the headcount of people served, tells you almost



Charitable groups can keep doing what they already do well. The next step is to keep a different ledger, one that tracks income generated, loans repaid and elderly people who gain support, alongside the blankets distributed and photographs circulated.

nothing about whether anyone's situation actually changed. Pensioners get left out of this

whole picture almost completely, and their situation is its own kind of silent injustice. They are not idle,

and they are not incapable. Their pensions simply land late, while medicine bills and electricity meters refuse to wait for government documents.

So they borrow, often at interest, against money that already belongs to them, and the interest eats into the very support meant to keep them upright.

An organisation could break this cycle without much money at all, setting up an interest free bridge fund offering short loans of thirty to forty five days, repaid automatically once the pension lands.

It would just take discipline and a ledger anyone could check, rather than a large budget.

Then there is a poverty that has nothing to do with money at all.

Elderly people end up locked inside empty houses while their children work long hours or have moved abroad, going entire days without a real word exchanged or a hand on the shoulder.

A day care centre providing meals, company, and basic medical attention would cost far less than most charity drives, and it would treat a harm that ration bags cannot touch.

Isolation kills as surely as illness does, and almost nobody treats it as their problem to solve.

Charitable groups can keep doing what they already do well. The next step is to keep a different ledger, one that tracks income generated, loans repaid and elderly people who gain support, alongside the blankets distributed and photographs circulated.

When the same families keep showing up at the same function, the problem is ours, for calling repetition kindness.

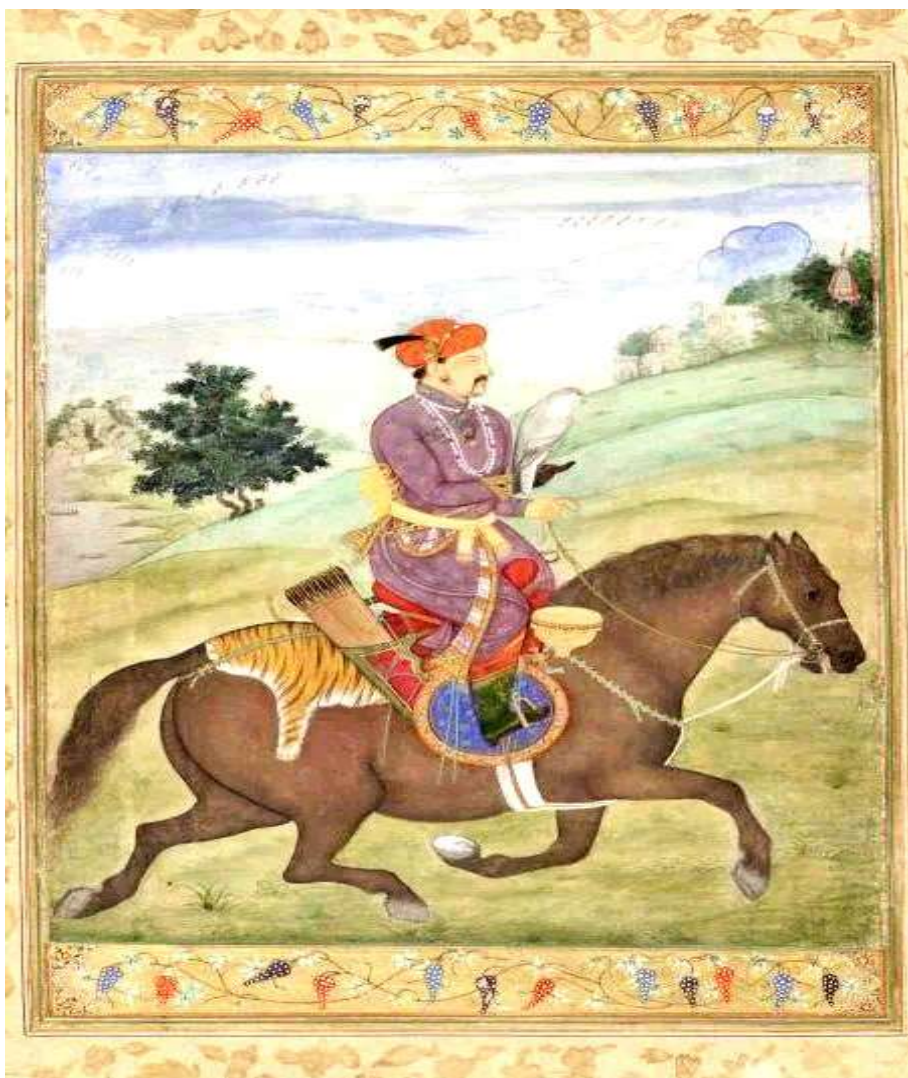
A former recipient who becomes, even in a small way, a donor is the only real proof that any of it worked.

Until charitable organisations start publishing that number next to the one they are already proud of, they are simply getting efficient at managing poverty in Kashmir rather than ending it.

— The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir. He can be reached at mbhatilys@gmail.com.

Luckier Than Jahangir

A journey from Delhi to Kashmir reveals how technology has transformed privileges once reserved for emperors.



Vikas Thakur

As the sunlight from the airplane window hit me in the face, I squinted and looked out.

The clouds had disappeared and sky was azure blue.

I was mesmerized by the beautiful alpine meadows interspersed with glaciers giving birth to slivers of milk white streams and exquisite lakes strewn across the heavenly canvas of himalayan vista.

I was flying from Delhi to Srinagar.

In one and a half hours, I would be transported from burning plains of North India to the 'Paradise on Earth' as extolled by Amir Khusro and anyone who has been fortunate to experience the beautiful vale.

The valley, for much of its history, was a Shangrila secluded by geography.

The mighty Pirpanjals, cut it off from Indian plains whereas Greater Himalayas guarded it from North.

To reach it, one had to brave the inhospitable terrain and inclement weather over long uninhabited stretch.

However, like a beautiful maiden, it attracted many suitors including the great Mughal, Akbar, who wrested it from the last native rulers, the Chaks, in 1587, by not entirely fair

Traveling from Agra to Kashmir in 16th and 17th century was hardly a cakewalk. It took months via Lahore, Rajouri, Poonch and then over Peer ki Gali into Shopian. Its called Mughal Road now.

means.

He and subsequent Mughals remained smitten by the valley and made multiple holiday trips to its cool climes.

Jahangir, son of Akbar and next emperor, was especially enamoured by Kashmir. He, with his formidable wife, Nurjahan, the beauty with brain, came to Kashmir a number of times and is credited with laying out many of the famous gardens of Kashmir including Shalimar and Verinag.

On his deathbed, while returning to Lahore from Kashmir, on being asked what he desired, he famously replied: 'Kashmir and nothing else.'

Traveling from Agra to Kashmir in 16th

and 17th century was hardly a cakewalk. It took months via Lahore, Rajouri, Poonch and then over Peer ki Gali into Shopian. Its called Mughal Road now.

Preparations started months in advance and included repair of tracks and maintenance of serais enroute.

Thousands of men were pressed into service to make the royal procession comfortable. It is said that the total strength of Mughal entourage used to be around a lakh people.

It took months for 'Nur-ud-din Muhammad Jahangir Badshah Gazi' (Light of the Faith, Conqueror of the World) to reach Kashmir.

And here I was!

Reaching the same place in less than two hours, and that too, flying! As if on some magic carpet straight out of Arabian Nights.

In a way, I felt mightier than the mighty Mughal.

How lucky to be born in this era! How happy I should be, to be more endowed than the once most important man of my land.

I wonder what Jahangir would give to have the privileges we take for granted today.

It was a tremendously gratifying thought that lifted my mood like never before!

We are so lucky to have the boons of technology, freedom, equality and opportunity at our feet.

It's upto us how to appreciate, celebrate and enjoy these perks.

Afterall, the aim of human life is pursuit of happiness.

There's really no better time than the one we are living in, of course, if we do it sustainably.

But the truth is, we will feel at peace only when we stop, acknowledge what we have, and learn to be grateful.

— The author is the writer of the recently published memoir *Pax Kashmir*, and can be reached at vtthakurthakur@gmail.com.

Will Confine To Constitutional Validity Of ‘Forest’ Definition Under 2023 Law: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would confine itself to the challenge to the constitutional validity of definition of “forests” under the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act of 2023 and made it clear that disputes related to individual parcels of land will be dealt with by high courts.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana made the remarks while considering a plea of retired forest officer Ashok Sharma, who has challenged the validity of definition of “forests” under the 2023 law on the ground it has a diluting effect on the definition given by the apex court in 1996.

“We are going by the definition of forests given by this court in 1996 in TN Godavarman

case. Though Parliament in its domain has power to come with their own definition. We respect that and this is the area in which we will have to look whether there is any contradiction,” the bench said.

The petitioners contended that according to the order in the TN Godavarman case, the definition of “forest” has to be understood in the dictionary sense but section 1A of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 restricts the definition of forest and exclude the category of forest, as understood in accordance with the dictionary sense, from the ambit of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

They further contended that the Centre, states and Union territories would be using the land, which in fact is a forest but not recorded as forest like the denuded forest or the private

forest etc., for compensatory afforestation and as a result there would be loss of forest coverage.

The bench directed the states and Union territories which have not constituted an expert panel to constitute it for preparing a consolidated record of lands, including forest like areas, unclassified and community forest lands.

It said the exercise as required under Rule 16 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 needs to be completed.

It noted that the rule 16 (1) required all the states and Union territories to prepare a consolidated record of such lands, including forest like areas identified by the expert committee, unclassified forest lands and community forest lands to which the provisions of the 2023 forest conservation law would be applicable.

The bench referred a matter involving 59 acres of land in Tamil Nadu, which the petitioners claimed was purchased as agricultural and plantation land but continues to be recorded as private forest under a 1922 notification, to the Madras High Court.

It said similar disputes related to individual parcels of land will be adjudicated by the high courts which will look into the historical use, geographical location and other relevant factors.

The top court also referred to separate pleas by the Maharashtra government for establishing a zoo in Chandrapur to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), where petitioners can raise their objections.

In February, 2024, the top court took note of the submission that the definition of forest

under the 2023 amended law on conservation left out nearly 1.99 lakh sq km of forest land from the ambit of “forests” and made it available for other purposes.

It had directed the state governments and union territories to provide the details of forest land within their jurisdiction to the Centre by March 31, 2024.

The top court had said the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change would put all the details on “forest like area, unclassified forest land and community forest land”, to be provided by the states and Union territories, on its website by April 15, 2024.

On November 30, 2023, the Centre had told the court that there was no intention to dilute the scope of forest, as defined/ held in the judgment of this court in the TN Godavarman case in 1996.

Govt Extends MoU With Art Of Living Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan



Observer News Service

New Delhi : The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, on Wednesday extended its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the non-profit, spiritual, educational and humanitarian organisation The Art of Living under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

The MoU was signed at the

Ministry’s office in the national capital in the presence of Union Minister Dr Virendra Kumar.

The renewed partnership is aimed at strengthening awareness, prevention and community mobilisation against substance abuse under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

The extension of the MoU marks a renewed partnership between the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and The Art of Living under the national campaign.

India's Academic Freedom 'Severely Restricted': Report

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Academic freedom in India is “severely restricted”, with growing government authority over higher education influencing university governance and curbs on student expression and protests, according to a report by Scholars at Risk, an international network that monitors attacks on higher education.

Documenting 382 attacks on higher education communities in 59 countries and territories from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, the report titled ‘Free to Think 2026’ warns of government campaigns to silence dissent and enforce political compliance in higher education.

According to the 2026 Academic Freedom Index (AFI), academic freedom declined significantly in 50 of the 179 countries analysed over the past decade, registering improvements in only nine.

The six countries listed under the “severely restricted” category in the report are Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the West Bank and Ukraine.

The report’s lowest category, “completely restricted”, includes Afghanistan, China, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Syria, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Gaza.

“India’s Central government expanded its authority over higher education, influencing university governance, leadership appointments, and

academic priorities. University administrators took actions that stifled campus discourse, including dismissing faculty members, cancelling academic events, and enforcing new policies restricting student expression.

“Both students and police committed acts of violence at protests or other campus gatherings. Academic freedom was ‘severely restricted’ in 2026,” the report said.

It also alleged that the ruling BJP continued to deploy the University Grants Commission (UGC) as a “primary vehicle for state influence” over higher education.

“The UGC faced scrutiny in recent years for policies perceived to tighten government control

over universities, including loosening academic qualification requirements for vice-chancellors and accelerating the casualisation of academic labour by removing the 10 per cent cap on non-permanent, contract faculty,” it said.

India’s AFI score has fallen sharply in recent years, from 0.38 in 2022 to 0.14 in 2025, according to AFI data.

However, the decline is not limited to India. The 2026 AFI data shows significant declines in academic freedom in 50 of 179 countries over the past decade, while only nine recorded improvements.

In the US, institutional autonomy fell from 3.3 in 2019 to 1.7 in 2025, with the score dropping

from 2.4 in 2024 alone.

The report cited several recent cases of “suppressing dissent” among faculty members.

For instance, it highlighted the 2025 termination of South Asian University professor Snehashish Bhattacharya for “misconduct against university interests”.

Bhattacharya and 14 other faculty members had signed a November 2022 letter expressing concern over the university’s handling of student protests in October that year.

It also cited the firing of Lora Santhakumar, an assistant professor at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology in Tamil Nadu, in 2025 over a social media post on Indian military

action in Pakistan.

On May 7, 2025, Santhakumar shared a series of WhatsApp status updates opposing calls for war. One post read: “Say NO to war. And don’t be afraid to say so, even if it is not the popular opinion.”

Her phone number and photo subsequently circulated rapidly on social media, triggering online abuse and death threats. The university suspended her on May 8 and terminated her services on December 9, 2025.

“When universities justified event cancellations, they often pointed to the content of the event or extramural statements made by the invited speakers. Student protesters on Indian campuses faced pressure from

university authorities, police, and opposing student factions.

“Policy shifts, academic decisions and debates about national identity, caste, religion and historical interpretation led to student protests. In some instances, demonstrations resulted in clashes between opposing student factions,” the report said.

It also said that national and state government actors took actions that constrained freedom of research, teaching and publication.

For instance, it said, the Supreme Court issued a “life ban” on March 11, 2026, barring three academics from receiving public funding for curriculum development.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Remain Vigilant

forces seeking to create divisions in society and stressed the importance of preserving unity.

He said Sanatana culture nurtures diversity, harmony and human welfare, adding that these principles have remained integral to Indian civilisation.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon saints and other enlightened members of society to play a greater role in guiding the country towards comprehensive development.

“A time has come when we shall guide the world and saints and enlightened members of society will play a vital role and bear great responsibility in this mission,” Sinha said.

He expressed confidence that collective strength and national unity would help India achieve the goal of becoming a developed nation.

“The power of unity and its spirit will once again make India a developed nation, and I am fully confident that we shall regain our ancient glory,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Govt Orders

been served a notice on August 5 and asked to produce documentary evidence establishing its authorisation to occupy the property.

The material submitted by the Trust, however, failed to establish the existence of a subsisting lease or any order issued by the competent authority for its renewal or extension, the government said.

The Estates Officer, exercising powers under Section 5(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1988, subsequently ordered the eviction of the Mohi-ud-Din Trust from the public premises.

The Trust has been directed to vacate the property and hand over peaceful possession to the Estates Officer on or before September 21.

The order further warns that failure to comply within the stipulated period would lead to action for eviction and taking over of the public premises.

Officials familiar with the matter said similar eviction notices have been issued to establishments in Rajbagh and Karan Nagar that occupy Nazool land and have allegedly defaulted on rent.

Nazool land refers to government-owned land held under lease or other authorised arrangements. The latest action comes amid efforts by the administration to address occupancy of such properties where leases have expired or rental obligations have not been met.

Across Jammu and Kashmir, more than 58,000 kanals of government land is classified as Nazool land. Of this, over 50,000 kanals are in Jammu division and more than 7,000 kanals in Kashmir division.

In Srinagar and Jammu cities, commercial establishments collectively occupy more than 5,600 kanals of Nazool land.

Govt Sets Deadlines

agencies to adhere to the fixed timelines and hand over completed flats to eligible PM Package employees in a phased manner according to allotments already made under government norms.

The meeting also reviewed major repair and renovation works at migrant camps in Jammu, for which the government has approved Rs 82.45 crore. Officials said tender formalities have been completed and the works are expected to commence shortly.

Directions were also issued for finalisation of a detailed project for upgrading infrastructure at migrant camps, including migrant schools, health dispensaries, internal roads and parks.

The construction of PoJK Bhawan at Suketara was also reviewed, with the concerned authorities directed to complete the project in all respects within the current financial year.

Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Jammu informed the meeting that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of additional flats for Kashmiri migrants at Purkhoo, Jammu, is being finalised.

He further informed that the Multipurpose Community Hall at Jagti, estimated to cost Rs 6.50 crore, has been completed.

For new projects estimated at around Rs 20 crore at the migrant camps in Purkhoo, Nagrota, Muthi and Jagti during the current financial year, tender formalities are currently in progress.

The department is also preparing DPRs for projects proposed for the next financial year. These include e-learning centres, digital libraries and reading rooms, career counselling and guidance centres, skill development and vocational training centres, entrepreneurship facilitation centres, sports infrastructure and solar power and water conservation projects.

The meeting was attended by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Chief Engineers of PW(R&B) North, Central and South Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDC, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Jammu and senior officers from the PW(R&B), DMRR&R, Jal Shakti Department and Divisional Administration Kashmir.

J&K Govt Okays

travel for persons with disabilities and promoting inclusive mobility across Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating Transport Minister Satish Sharma on the initiative, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the decision reflected the government’s commitment to social justice.

The CMO said the measure marks a step towards ensuring greater accessibility and inclusive mobility for differently-abled persons across the Union Territory.

The Omar-led government had earlier introduced free public transport for women across Jammu and Kashmir soon after assuming office.

Govt Ready For

would have the opportunity to raise questions concerning their respective constituencies and issues affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Some bills and resolutions come, and the government tries to answer these things. It is a seven-day session. Many issues will be brought to the House,” he said.

Omar said the government would make every effort to ensure the House functions properly and legislators receive satisfactory responses on the matters raised by them.

No UPI Charge On P2P Transfers

Asked about reports of charges being

imposed on UPI transactions, the Chief Minister said person-to-person money transfers would not attract any charge.

“First of all, there is no charge on the person-to-person money transfer. After that, there will be no charge on individual consumers until you cross a ceiling,” he said.

Omar acknowledged that operating the UPI system involves substantial costs, but said the Centre should avoid burdening ordinary consumers with charges.

“As far as I understand, running this UPI system is not cheap. It takes a lot of money to run it. And the truth is that we do not appreciate what we get for free,” he said.

“The Government of India should try not to impose charges on the common people. If there is a charge on a company, I have no objection to it because the company earns better than the UPI anyway,” he added.

‘Water Bodies Issue Is A Legacy Problem’

On the condition of water bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, Omar said the issue had developed over a long period and could not be resolved overnight.

“This is a legacy issue. We will not be able to deal with it overnight. But we are working on it,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the government was implementing various schemes aimed at protecting and expanding water bodies across the Union Territory.

“We are working on different schemes, whether it is in Sasi or other schemes. We are trying to not only save our water bodies, but also increase them,” he said.

Omar To Ladakh

to land and jobs.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has been a victim of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre’s verbal assurances.

“Ladakh has its own issues, our issues are separate. However, as a friend and a well-wisher, I can only advice the leadership of Ladakh not to rely on any verbal assurances from the central government unless they provide those in writing and officially signed,” Omar told reporters in Pulwama district.

He was in the south Kashmir district to review development projects.

“We ourselves have been victims of this. We too were given verbal assurances that statehood would be restored immediately after the (Assembly) election. Almost two years have passed since and that promise has not materialised.

“Therefore, with folded hands, my humble request to the leaders of Ladakh and Kargil is not to trust verbal commitments from the Centre until they receive something in writing, perhaps in the form of a formal affidavit,” Omar said.

The chief minister also said in terms of execution of development projects and expenditure of the allocated funds, Pulwama would likely rank among the top five among all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

“The deputy commissioner and his team have delivered good performance. Now, I have only asked them that during the two to three months remaining in our current working season, they should push further to utilise as much of the funds as possible. If, after that,

reallocation is required, once their entire budget is utilised, I can arrange for additional funds from other avenues,” he added.

Omar said the developmental activities are running smoothly across every constituency of the district.

“Projects worth around Rs 100 crore in Pulwama district were either inaugurated or had their foundation stones laid on Wednesday. These include road projects, school projects, hospital works, some bridges under construction and a dairy-processing village that is being established. In almost every sector in Pulwama, visible progress is evident on the ground,” he said.

Responding to a question on the strike by NHM employees, Omar said while protest is a democratic right, his government will talk on their demands only after the agitation is called off.

“My earnest request to them would be to kindly choose the path of dialogue because, ultimately, a solution will emerge only through discussion. We cannot hold talks while protests are ongoing. If attempts are made to extract demands under the pressure of agitation, it sets a precedent where everyone else will take to the streets in protest. Therefore, as long as an agitation continues, we will not be able to engage in dialogue,” he added.

The chief minister refused to react to Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma’s statement on the short duration of the Assembly.

“I will only respond to one statement per month from the leader of opposition. He makes statements daily and I do not have enough free time to reply to him on an everyday basis. I responded to one yesterday, the next response will come in October,” he said.

Plug-and-Play Industrial

National Highway Bypass, an area it says was specifically protected from development under the Srinagar Master Plan-2035.

According to EPG, while approving the Master Plan-2035 through State Administrative Council Decision No. 40/5/2019 dated February 13, 2019, the SAC directed that no development or construction activity be permitted along the National Highway Bypass from Pantha Chowk to Nowgam as the area formed part of a flood-absorption basin.

EPG has sought maintenance of status quo at the proposed site and asked the authorities to place before the Court the exact cadastral boundaries of the project overlaid on the protected zone, along with the legal basis, if any, for proposing development there.

Referring to waterlogging during the July 2026 rains, the group said the entry of water into residential houses, shops, commercial establishments and the ground floor of the Civil Secretariat highlighted the need for long-term drainage planning rather than continued reliance on emergency dewatering measures.

EPG has also called for identification and restoration of lost nullahs, ponds, depressions and open flood-storage areas as part of a city-wide “Blue-Green Infrastructure Network”. It has proposed an audit of road, plinth and drainage levels, stating that future road projects should ensure that raised road levels do not divert floodwater towards adjoining properties.

It has also sought an independent hydrological assessment of the site’s flood-storage and

flood-conveyance functions and has proposed that, if the protected status is confirmed, an alternative location be considered for the project.

The affidavit has also urged the Government to formulate an Integrated Jhelum Basin-Urban Resilience and Flood Management Programme, covering the catchment, tributaries, River Jhelum, floodplains, wetlands, Wular Lake, urban drainage and built-up areas.

EPG has sought a technically independent hydraulic audit of the Jhelum, including mapping of historical and present cross-sections, bed-level changes, silt deposits, constricted reaches, weak embankments, encroachments and hydraulic obstructions.

It has further proposed a Jhelum Catchment Conservation and Restoration Plan to address deforestation, unregulated grazing, land-use changes, soil erosion and accelerated runoff through measures such as afforestation, slope stabilisation and erosion control.

The group has called for statutory floodplain zoning for Srinagar and other vulnerable settlements, with areas categorised according to flood risk and corresponding restrictions incorporated into Master Plans, development plans and building regulations.

It has also urged that filling, reclamation and permanent construction be restricted in identified natural flood-storage areas, including the flood-absorption belt along the National Highway Bypass.

On urban flooding, EPG has sought a comprehensive Srinagar Storm-Water Drainage Master Plan covering natural drainage channels, storm drains, culverts, outfalls, pumping stations and low-lying flood-prone areas.

HC Raps Authorities

claims, if any, regarding property rights over the affected land be examined by an appropriate Revenue authority under the supervision of the Divisional Commissioner. It made clear that anyone aggrieved by the proposed removal drive, including the private respondents, could submit their claims before the competent authority.

The authorities have been directed to consider all such claims and issues brought to their notice within seven days from the date of the order (read September 15). Thereafter, the Court ordered that a “stringent exercise” for removal of encroachments be undertaken and Shah Kul restored to its original shape. The matter has been listed for further hearing on October 13.

The PIL, filed in 2023 by one Mir Mohammad Shafi, seeks removal of alleged illegal encroachments and restoration of the historic canal, which has traditionally served as a water-feeding channel for the Mughal-era Nishat Garden.

The petitioner has also placed on record a 2004 communication of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to the Directorate of Land Records, stating that Shah Koul had been encroached upon, resulting in financial losses as water required for Nishat Garden was being supplied through mechanical pumps.

The PIL further seeks restoration of adjoining roads allegedly affected by encroachments and has sought investigation into the alleged mismanagement by officials, including through appropriate investigating agencies.

NHM Employees Seek Talks As Stir Enters 8th Day

Pay Parity, Job Security, Regularisation Top Demands

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The ongoing agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees across Jammu and Kashmir entered its eighth consecutive day on Wednesday, with the protesting workforce seeking government intervention to address their demands of pay parity, job security, regularisation and social security benefits.

The agitation, spearheaded by the Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA), entered its second week amid calls from employees for formal dialogue with the government and a concrete, time-bound mechanism to resolve their long-pending concerns.

The employees had on Monday extended their 72-hour protest by another 72 hours from Tuesday, saying the decision followed the absence of a concrete resolution to their demands.

The protesting employees are seeking pay parity with NHM workers in other states, a comprehensive policy for job security and regularisation, besides benefits including Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), insurance coverage and post-retirement support.

With NHM personnel continuing to remain away from routine duties, several programmes and services supported by the mission have been affected at different levels across



Jammu and Kashmir. Employees said their absence was also placing additional pressure on regular staff in several health institutions.

An NHM employee said the agitation was the result of years of uncertainty over employment and service conditions.

"We have been working in the health sector for years and have continued our duties during difficult situations. Despite this, there is still no clear policy regarding our future. We want the

government to frame a proper mechanism that recognises our service and provides us with employment security," the employee told the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Another protesting employee said NHM workers in J&K faced disparities in remuneration and benefits compared to their counterparts in other states despite performing similar responsibilities.

"Our responsibilities are almost the same, but there is a disparity in remuneration and

benefits. We are only seeking a fair and dignified wage structure," he said.

A female NHM employee said the prolonged uncertainty had created difficulties for workers who had spent several years working under the mission.

"Many of us have devoted a major part of our working lives to NHM services. We have families and financial responsibilities, but there is still no certainty about our future," she said.

Another employee stressed the need for social security ben-

efits, saying EPF, ESI and insurance were basic forms of protection for workers.

"These issues need a concrete response rather than repeated assurances," the employee said.

The employees maintained that they were conscious of the impact of the agitation on healthcare delivery and did not want patients to face inconvenience.

"We understand that healthcare is an essential service. But our demands have also remained unresolved for years. We are ready to sit across the table with the government and discuss every issue if there is a clear and time-bound roadmap," another protesting employee said.

The association has been urging the administration to convene talks with its representatives and work towards a comprehensive settlement of the issues.

The employees said the continuation of the agitation was intended to draw attention to their longstanding grievances rather than inconvenience the public.

As the strike entered its eighth day, the employees said they would continue their peaceful agitation while awaiting concrete steps from the government. They appealed to the administration to initiate dialogue at the earliest and formulate a structured, time-bound mechanism to address their demands.

Kashmir's Fishermen Struggle to Make Living from Traditional Livelihoods

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Fishermen communities in Kashmir continue to face low incomes, limited education, inadequate infrastructure and weak institutional support despite the region's extensive aquatic resources, according to a review of existing research.

The review, titled "Socio-Economic Status of Fishermen Community in Kashmir: A Review", according to KNO, examines the demographic characteristics, education, occupations, income patterns, housing conditions, gender participation, fish marketing systems and constraints faced by fishing households in the Valley.

It draws on previous studies, government reports and other published literature on fisheries and fishing communities in Kashmir.

A study of the fishing community around Dal Lake, cited in the review, found that 65.6 per cent of 180 respondents earned less than Rs 15,000 a month from fishing, while the average monthly household income was Rs 13,393.

The study collected data through structured interviews from fishermen in three villages located on the periphery of Dal Lake.

It found that 63.3 per cent of the respondents were in the 35-59 age group, while men accounted for 88.9 per cent and 97.8 per cent were married. Educational attainment was particularly low,

with 78.9 per cent of respondents having no formal literacy, according to the study. About 56.7 per cent lived in nuclear families with fewer than four members.

The study also found that 96.7 per cent of respondents owned their boats, while cast nets were the dominant fishing gear used in Dal Lake.

FISHING COMMUNITY LIVING ON THE MARGINS

The authors of that study concluded that the fishing community was living on the margins and receiving limited attention from government and development agencies. They recommended coordinated measures by the fisheries, tourism and agriculture departments to strengthen fishermen's livelihoods through consultation with the community.

The new review said fishing remains a traditional occupation for many families living around Kashmir's major lakes, rivers and wetlands, particularly Wular Lake, Dal Lake and the River Jhelum.

It cited more than 12,000 registered fishermen around Wular Lake, while the number of registered fishermen associated with Dal Lake has been reported at between 939 and 1,500 in different sources. The review, however, noted that the actual number of active fishermen remains uncertain because comprehensive and updated official records are unavailable.

Sunil Sharma Questions Govt's Governance Record

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Wednesday accused the National Conference-led government of using the demand for restoration of statehood to divert public attention from what he termed pressing governance-related issues.

Addressing reporters in Baramulla, Sharma alleged that corruption and unemployment had assumed serious proportions and urged the government to concentrate on issues directly affecting the lives



and livelihoods of people. He said the elected government had a responsibility to utilise the powers and resources at its disposal effectively and deliver on its commitments. "Let them pave the way

for us. We will show how to work. They have the work, but they are not using it," Sharma said, referring to the functioning of the government.

The Leader of Opposition also expressed concern over the employment situation in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the challenges confronting young people. He alleged that an increasing number of jobs were being filled through outsourcing while unemployment continued to remain a major concern.

Sharma said the opposition would continue to highlight the grievances of

various sections of society, including NHM employees, daily-wage workers and Anganwadi workers. He said these issues would be raised in the Legislative Assembly and through other democratic forums to seek accountability and redressal.

He also questioned the utilisation of funds released by the Centre, alleging that the resources were not being effectively translated into development on the ground. He linked the issue to delays in holding Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Body elections.

Maulana Sibt Muhammad Calls for Stronger Moral Values, Unity

SRINAGAR: Chairman of Pairwan-e-Wilayat Jammu and Kashmir, Maulana Sibt Muhammad Shabir Qumi, participated in a major day-long conference of Muslim religious scholars organised by the Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) in Srinagar.

On this occasion, Sibt Muhammad Shabir Qumi voiced concern over the growing disconnect between young people and religious and community institutions, besides highlighting the need to address environmental degradation and its serious impact on society. He called for greater adherence to moral values and ethical principles in society.

He expressed his grave concern over increasing cases of suicide and self-harm, especially among the youth. The participants observed that simply condemning such incidents or remaining silent would not help address the underlying causes.

The Ulema also called for sustained community-level efforts to rebuild family bonds, promote compassion and understanding, and reconnect the younger generation with positive religious, moral and social values. (Observer News Service)

Sajad Lone Slams Govt over Reservation Policy

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the upcoming session of the Legislative Assembly, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Thursday lashed out at the government over the latest JKAS and J&K Accounts (Gazetted) appointments, terming the process as "recruitment apartheid" against the Kashmir Valley.

In a post on X, Lone said that out of 55 JKAS and J&K Accounts (Gazetted) officers selected, only 10 are from the Kashmir Valley. "So against a population ratio of 56%, inhabitants of Kashmir have got 18% of the jobs," Lone said.

He added that the Chief Minister should have kept himself away from distributing appointment orders. "Incidentally, appointment orders were given by CM sahib. Ideally, he should have kept away," he remarked. Lone alleged that the current reservation framework amounts to recruitment apartheid against the Valley. "It is persecution of the inhabitants of the Kashmir Valley—a strategy to disempower and marginalise them," he said.

He further argued that the cabinet recommendation on reservation would not make much difference. "This Kashmir region's 56% vs 18% recruitment figure will not be changed if the so-called file sent by the elected government to the Union government is approved. At best, it will increase to 19%, against 56% population," Lone said. (Observer News Service)

Budgam Family Hit by Third Tragedy in Four Days as Grandfather Dies

BUDGAM: Tragedy struck a family in Budgam again on Wednesday, as four days after losing his son and three-year-old grandson in a road accident, his grandfather collapsed and died at a graveyard during the funeral rites.

Neighbours and relatives said that the elderly man collapsed at the graveyard in the afternoon while the family was attending the funeral rites.

They said he was shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The deceased was identified as Ghulam Hassan Mir (62), a resident of Ghoom Ahmadpora, Magam.

Pertinently, Mir's son, Naseer Ahmad Mir (29), and grandson, Hadi Ali (03), were killed in a road accident in the Solbugh area of Budgam on September 12. Naseer's wife, Dilshada Akhter (26), was critically injured in the accident and shifted to hospital for treatment. The incident has sent shockwaves through the area, with residents and relatives expressing grief over the successive deaths in the family—(KNO)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/ KASHMIR.

Subject:Compassionate appointment of Mr.Mushtaqeem Ahmed S/o late Sarfaraz Ahmed R/o Fazalabad, Tehsil Surankote, District Poonch under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

Reference:(i) U.O. No. GAD-RAS/73/2025 (7689005) Dated 11.02.2026 of General Administration Department, (ii) Character and antecedent verification report received from Criminal Investigation Department, J&K vide Form No. 155431 dated 22.04.2025.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO:40 -JK (REV) OF 2026

DATED: 01 -09.2026

In terms of clause 3(a) of the Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme 2022, as notified vide S.O 397 dated 16.08.2024, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of Mr.Mushtaqeem Ahmed S/o late Sarfaraz Ahmed R/o Fazalabad, Tehsil Surankote, District Poonch as Class-IV/MTS in the Pay Level SL-1 (1480047100), District cadre Poonch in Revenue Department.

The appointee shall report to the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which he shall forego his right to appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on production of the following documents/certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:-

i. Academic/Qualification Certificates.

ii. Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate.

iii. Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.

iv. Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.

v. All other relevant documents as are required under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

The appointment of the appointee shall further be subject to the following conditions that:

a. applicant shall give an undertaking in writing as per format prescribed in the Scheme that he shall maintain properly the other family members who were dependent on the deceased and in case, it is proved subsequently, at any time that the family members are being neglected or are not being maintained properly by him, appointment shall be terminated forthwith.

b. any claim for transfer of appointment to any other family member shall invariably be rejected.

c. the appointee shall be adjusted against appropriate category to which he belongs. In case the appointee fails to produce any valid category certificate, he shall be adjusted against General category.

d. he shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit to the effect that if on verification, his Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificates, if any, from the concerned issuing authority are found to be fake/forged, the claim of the appointee for appointment as Class-IV/MTS shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him.

e. he shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, to the effect that the applicant is un-employed as on date and none of the family members other than the applicant has taken benefit of compassionate appointment under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022. In case it turns out that the applicant is already appointed or the benefit of compassionate appointment under the Scheme has already been extended to the family member of deceased, then the instant appointment shall be deemed to have been withdrawn ab-initio without any further notice.

f. if the candidate has taken loan for self employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery. the salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him unless a satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificate, if any, is received from the concerned Authorities.

h. the appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.

i. the appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.

j. the appointment of the above appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before Competent Court of law.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

No. REV-NG/59/2024-(76010 56)
Dated: 01.09.2026

DIPK-5766-26
DT: 16/09/2026

Sd/-
(Rajeev Ranjan) IAS
Secretary to the Government

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

HOME DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

NOTIFICATION

Srinagar, the 7th of September, 2026

S.O: 237 In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 43 of the Police Act, Samwat, 1983, the Lieutenant Governor hereby makes the following amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Police Rules, 1960 which shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent in the Jammu and Kashmir Police Rules, 1960; namely:-

After rule 174, the following rule shall be inserted; namely:-

"174-A, Appointment of Constables:- Recruitment to the rank of Constables shall be made as under:

(i) 80% by direct recruitment.

(ii) 15% by absorption from SPOs with minimum three years of engagement, with requisite qualification and Physical Standards, provided that they shall pass the PST Test, as per rules in vogue, and subject to the condition that the SPOs have given excellent performance in CI Operations duly approved by the Competent Authority.

(iii) 5% by promotion of In-Service Followers having 05 years of service with requisite qualification and Physical Standards, provided that they shall pass the PST Test, as per rules in vogue. "

By order of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

No: HOME-PNG/179/2021 -01 (CC35814)
Dated: 07.09.2026

DIPK-5758-26
DT: 16/09/2026

Sd /
(Chandraker Bharti), IAS
Principal Secretary to the Government

J&K Needs Tax Sops, Cheap Power to Attract Industry: Puducherry LG

Observer News Service

PUDUCHERRY- Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan has said Jammu and Kashmir needs to offer a combination of incentives, improved infrastructure and reliable connectivity to attract greater industrial investment, while sharing Puducherry's roadmap to emerge as a major medical tourism destination.

Kailashnathan made the remarks during an hour-long interaction with a delegation of journalists from Kashmir who called on him at Lok Niwas in Puducherry on Wednesday.

The media delegation from Srinagar is on a five-day tour of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India, to acquaint journalists with development initiatives and public welfare programmes.

During the interaction, Kailashnathan, a former bureaucrat who is popularly known in administrative circles as "KK",

spoke about his long career in public administration and shared his experiences of working closely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister.

The interaction also covered development priorities in Puducherry and the challenges of attracting investment and expanding tourism and connectivity.

Kailashnathan said his vision was to transform Puducherry into a major hub for medical tourism by leveraging its existing healthcare infrastructure and educational institutions.

The journalists were informed that the Union Territory, with a population of around 15 lakh, has seven medical colleges, including the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), an institution of national importance.

The Lieutenant Governor said the healthcare ecosystem could provide a strong foundation for expanding medical tourism and



attracting visitors seeking specialised medical services.

The delegation was also briefed on infrastructure projects aimed at improving Puducherry's connectivity.

Officials said work was underway to expand the runway at Puducherry airport from the existing 1,500 metres to 2,500 metres, enabling the airport to handle larger commercial aircraft. The expansion is expected to improve direct air connectivity and give a further boost to tourism.

The delegation was also informed about ongoing and pro-

posed expansion of road and railway infrastructure, with several projects expected to be completed by 2028.

The discussion also turned to Jammu and Kashmir's industrial development and the measures required to attract investment to the Union Territory.

Responding to queries from the journalists, Kailashnathan said J&K could consider offering a range of incentives to prospective investors, including tax-related concessions and access to relatively inexpensive power.

He also emphasised the importance of further strengthening transportation infrastructure, saying efficient connectivity was an important factor in attracting and retaining industrial investment.

The remarks assume significance for Jammu and Kashmir, where the government has been seeking to expand the industrial base and attract private investment beyond the traditional tourism and horticulture sectors.

The delegation also discussed the role of improved railway connectivity in opening up new economic opportunities for the Union Territory. The recent expansion of rail connectivity with the rest of the country has substantially improved access to Jammu and Kashmir, while better road and air links remain important for tourism, trade and industry.

The interaction with the Puducherry LG provided the visiting journalists an opportunity to understand the Union Territory's development priorities, including healthcare, tourism, infrastructure and investment promotion, and to draw comparisons with the development challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir delegation later visited the Auroville Foundation, an experimental spiritual township near Puducherry, where the journalists interacted with residents and members and learnt about the township's concept, functioning and activities.

The five-day media tour, organised by PIB, is taking the journalists to various institutions, infrastructure projects and development initiatives in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The delegation is scheduled to interact with senior officials, visit important institutions and meet beneficiaries to document the impact of government schemes and development programmes at the grassroots level.

The tour is aimed at providing the journalists a first-hand view of India's development initiatives and the implementation of public welfare programmes as part of the broader vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

For the Kashmir-based journalists, the visits also provide an opportunity to examine development models in other parts of the country, particularly in areas such as tourism, healthcare, connectivity, infrastructure and investment, and report their relevance to Jammu and Kashmir.

India Retains 131st Rank on Global Gender Gap Index; Iceland Tops

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI/GENEVA- India retained the 131st rank on the Global Gender Gap Index 2026 released by the World Economic Forum on Wednesday, with Iceland, Finland and Norway maintaining their top three slots respectively.

Only 14 countries ranked below than India on the index of 145 countries. These include Papua New Guinea, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Mali, Algeria and Congo.

Chad was the lowest-ranked country in the index, with Iran and Pakistan joining it in the bottom three.

Geneva-based WEF said that nearly every economy tracked since 2006 by the index has advanced gender

parity, but noted that full parity is still 120 years away.

Globally, 69.2 per cent of the gender gap has now been closed, up by 0.4 percentage points over the last year, the WEF said. 100 per cent representing full parity.

In India, the world's most populous country with approximately 1.5 billion people, the progress towards gender parity stood at 64.5 per cent, below the global average.

While India's score improved slightly over the last year, its global ranking remained unchanged at 131st.

Overall, India's gender parity increased by 4.3 percentage points since 2006, primarily due to gains in educational attainment.

In the Economic Participation and Opportunity subindex, India reported a

41.2 per cent parity score, 0.5 higher than the previous edition but 3.5 percentage points lower from its best result in 2013.

Strong advances in professional and technical workers doubled parity from 26.6 per cent in 2006 to 49.9 per cent in 2026 in India.

Representation among legislators, senior officials and managers also improved by 10 percentage points since the 2006 edition but, it remains comparatively low at 13.1 per cent.

Parity in labour-force participation saw a marginal improvement over the past two decades, standing at 44.1 per cent in 2026.

In educational attainment subindex, India posted a 96.6 per cent parity score, though it fell by 0.5 percentage points from the last year.

In 'Health and Survival', India improved its score from last year's edition, reaching 95.6 per cent parity.

Despite an upward trajectory since 2017, India's sex ratio at birth in 2026 continued to stand nearly one percentage point lower than in 2006.

Political Empowerment was India's highest ranked subindex in 2026, with 24.5 per cent of the gap closed and a global rank of 67th.

India had one of the highest starting parity scores on the head-of-state indicator (42.9 per cent in 2006), which increased to 72.3 per cent over the index's first decade, reflecting many years of female leadership within the indicator's rolling 50-year reference period.

India Summons Pakistan CDA Over Naval Collision in Arabian Sea

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India on Wednesday summoned the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires (CDA) and lodged a strong protest over "unacceptable conduct" by a Pakistan Navy vessel that led to a collision with a frontline warship of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea.

The Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission, Saad Warraich, was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and a "strong protest was lodged with him over the unacceptable and unprofessional conduct of Pakistani naval units at sea that caused the collision last night", the MEA said in a statement.

The Pakistani diplomat was advised to convey to the Pakistani authorities con-



cerned the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents, the statement said.

On the evening of September 15, a Pakistani Navy vessel closed in on a frontline Indian Navy warship that was on a routine surveillance mission in the north Arabian Sea at high speed, official

sources said.

The Pakistani vessel Hunain manoeuvred in an unprofessional and unsafe manner, and this led to a collision, they said.

Hunain, an offshore patrol vessel, suffered heavy damage in the incident, the sources said.

The Indian warship continued on its assigned task under mission deployment in the region, the sources

said, adding that the warship did not suffer any significant damage. It is the first publicly known incident involving the two countries in the military domain since the four-day military hostilities in May 2025 in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The MEA said the Indian Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad has been instructed to lodge a similar protest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

"While the incident, which took place in international waters, did not cause any major damage, the conduct of the Pakistani naval ship was in direct contravention of Article 10 of the Agreement between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements of April 1991," it said.

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