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J&K House To Debate Daily-Wagers' Regularisation



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A resolution seeking regularisation of daily-wage workers has been listed among seven Private Members' Resolutions selected for consideration in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on September 25.

The Assembly Secretariat conducted balloting on Friday to select the resolutions for consideration during the Private Members' Business scheduled for the autumn session.

The resolution submitted

by BJP MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta seeks framing and notification of a comprehensive and uniform policy within a fixed timeframe for the regularisation of Daily Rated Workers, Casual Workers, NYC workers, Mid-Day Meal workers and other similarly placed workers across departments and agencies.

Among the other resolutions selected through the ballot is one by BJP MLA Yudhvir Sethi seeking a time-bound Master Plan for parking facilities in Jammu East.

NC MLA Salman Sagar has proposed | [More on P6](#)

NHM Employees Call Off Strike After Govt Assurance

National Health Mission (NHM) employees in Jammu and Kashmir have called off their ongoing strike following a written assurance from Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo regarding their pending demands. The decision was taken after representatives of the NHM employees held discussions with the government, during which the minister assured them that their genuine demands would be considered and | [More on P6](#)

Petrol Pumps Threaten To Halt UPI Payments Above Rs 2,000

Agencies

Srinagar: Petrol pump dealers across several states, including Jammu and Kashmir, have warned that they may stop accepting UPI payments above Rs 2,000 and switch to cash transactions if the new Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) applicable to fuel purchases is not withdrawn or the sector is exempted.

The warning follows the National Payments Corporation of India's revised UPI framework, under which fuel purchases above Rs 2,000 will attract a flat MDR of Rs 5 from Oct 15. Transactions below Rs 2,000 at fuel stations will continue to carry zero MDR under the notified framework.

The Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT) has said dealers may discontinue

UPI payments above the threshold if the exemption sought from the government is not granted. Dealers in Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai, Karnataka and Rajasthan have raised objections to the new charge, according to reports.

Petroleum dealers have argued that the additional charge would put pressure on their margins. Reports citing dealers put their commission or margin at around Rs 2.40 to Rs 3.40 per litre, with dealers maintaining that the Rs 5 MDR on a transaction could represent a significant additional cost, particularly because fuel prices are not freely determined by individual petrol pump operators.

The All India Petroleum Dealers Association has also sought complete exemption from MDR for petrol pumps, arguing that fuel

Climate Change Puts J&K's Apple Economy Under Pressure: Study

Agencies

Srinagar: Rising temperatures and increasingly erratic weather are putting Jammu and Kashmir's major fruit economies under growing pressure. Apple yields in Kashmir are declining sharply, with summer warming and mango arrivals in Jammu falling substantially after recent heatwaves and hailstorms.

A study, published in the International Journal of Creative and Open Research in Engineering and Management, examined



change-related agricultural losses in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on the region's apple and mango economies. It found that apple yields in Kashmir decline by about 6.10 per cent for every 1-degree Celsius rise in summer temperature. The impact

Use Your Authority In The Cause Of Justice: LG To JKPS Officers

Hands over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday handed over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, urging them to uphold integrity, courage and compassion while discharging their responsibilities.

Addressing the newly appointed officers, Sinha said the appointment letters were not merely documents but represented the trust placed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in those being entrusted with public authority.

He described the letters



as an invitation to serve, a pledge to safeguard the dignity and security of citizens and a symbol of the

responsibility entrusted to the officers.

Congratulating the officers, the Lieutenant Governor

Flaggs Off Harmukh-Gangbal Yatra Calls It Living Expression of Immortal Faith



KO Web Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday flagged off the annual Harmukh-Gangbal pilgrimage at Ganderbal, describing the yatra as a "living expression of immortal faith" and a sacred link between Jammu and Kashmir's past and present. Addressing the gathering, Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir had, | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir's New Cleanliness Push Takes Aim At Everyday Waste

At a Srinagar launch of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, officials turned their focus from campaign-day cleanups to waste segregation, composting and habits that begin at home.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: Students at schools in Khonmoh took the stage this week to act out a problem that usually unfolds beyond the classroom: waste discarded without thought, public spaces left untidy and plastic accumulating in the environment.

Their skits formed the centrepiece of the Jammu and Kashmir launch of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, held Thursday in Block Khonmoh, Srinagar. The performances turned a government cleanliness campaign into a lesson aimed at reaching homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

Anoo Malhotra, the director general of Rural Sanitation,



J&K, opened the Union Territory-wide campaign with a simple proposition. Cleanliness, she said, needs

to become part of daily behaviour rather than remain tied to a campaign with a fixed start | [More on P6](#)

HC Imposes Rs 10K Costs Over Suppression Of Details

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has imposed costs of Rs 10,000 on a petitioner for failing to disclose the pendency of a recovery suit involving substantially the same claim before the Commercial Court here.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal dismissed the plea filed by one Nazir Ahmad Mir, proprietor of M/s Mir Electricals who had approached the Court seeking payment of an alleged outstanding amount along with 12 per cent interest. However, the respondents (authorities) pointed out that he had already instituted a recovery suit before the Additional District Judge, Bank Cases, designated as Commercial Court Srinagar, seeking recovery of Rs 24,06,722, along with interest and other reliefs.

The Court noted that the recovery proceedings had been instituted prior to the filing of the writ petition and that the pendency of the suit had not been disclosed in the plea.

Referring to the Supreme Court judgment besides verdicts of the J&K and Ladakh High Court, the Bench reiterated that a person invoking the extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 was required to approach the Court with clean hands and disclose all material facts having a bearing on the matter.

The Court observed that the suppression in the present case could not be treated as a mere omission, as the petitioner had already chosen a remedy before the competent Commercial Court for substantially the same relief.

"Permitting | [More on P6](#)

HC Denies Bail To Accused In Banned Drug Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a bail application filed by an accused in an NDPS case involving the alleged seizure of 4,944 Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus capsules, holding that the material collected during investigation prima facie disclosed a link between the accused and the recovered consignment.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Parihar passed the order in Bail Application concerning FIR No. 25/2023 registered at Police Station Maharaj Gunj, Srinagar, under Sections 8, 22, 29, 27-A and 68-E of the NDPS Act.

According to the prosecution, during naka checking at Babadamb Road near Hotel Azher on July 18, 2023, police intercepted co-accused Shabir

Ahmad Sheikh and allegedly recovered a black bag containing 618 strips comprising 4,944 capsules of Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus. Investigation allegedly linked the petitioner, Asim, with the co-accused through call-detail records and banking transactions.

The prosecution alleged that monetary transactions amounting to Rs 2,53,850 took place between the accused from April and July 2023 and that the co-accused had allegedly procured the consignment from Asim, who was arrested on 12 September 2023 and has remained in judicial custody since then.

Asim argued that no contraband had been recovered from his possession and that the banking transactions were ordinary business dealings. He also questioned the prosecution's chain of custody and raised other grounds relating to the alleged | [More on P6](#)

JKP Roll Out Dedicated Cybercrime Mechanism

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police have rolled out a dedicated cybercrime mechanism to expedite complaint handling and enable quicker action to freeze suspected fraudulent funds, Senior Superintendent of Police (Crime) Yaseen Kichloo said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters, Kichloo said the mechanism has been established under the Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Coordination Centre (JK4C) and JK1C, with specialised wings dealing with cyber investigation, cyber operations and on-line crimes against children and women.

He urged victims of cyber fraud to report incidents immediately through the 1930 helpline or the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), saying prompt reporting increases the possibility of stopping or freezing the funds before they are transferred further.

"Immediate reporting remains critical in cyber fraud cases, both for preventing further movement of funds and facilitating investigation and recovery | [More on P6](#)

Be Prepared to Face Every Situation: DGP To New Officers

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday congratulated the newly selected candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, cautioning them that wearing the police uniform carries immense responsibility and comes with significant challenges, including risks to life.

Addressing the candidates on the sidelines of a function at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar, Prabhat said their selection was a moment of happiness for them and their families, but also marked the beginning of a demanding professional journey.

"Today is a day of happiness for you and your families. You must also realise that wearing the uniform is not easy. It comes with responsibility," the



DGP said.

He said the newly selected officers would encounter several challenges during their service and could face situations where their lives may be at risk. "There will be challenges with this responsibility and there will be a risk to your lives. But I hope that during your training, you will be made strong enough to face every situation," Prabhat said.

The DGP said | [More on P6](#)

3 LeT-Linked OGWs Arrested In Rajouri

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Three alleged over-ground workers (OGWs) linked to the proscribed Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit have been arrested in Rajouri, with police claiming that the accused had remained active for several years and facilitated the movement and logistical support of multiple terrorist groups through the Pir Panjal region.

According to police, Mohd Azam, Zakir Hussain and Mohd Mushtaq, all residents of Kot Charwal village in Rajouri, were arrested on September 14 after the alleged unearthing of an OGW network operating as a logistical support module for LeT.

A police spokesman said the investigation had revealed that the three allegedly provided shelter and logistical assistance to multiple terrorist groups and facilitated their movement from Rajouri-Reasi | [More on P6](#)



No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

I, Gh Mohd Ganie S/O Gh Qadir Ganie, R/O Behram Pora, Baramulla Magam, J&K - 193040, hereby declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Ghulam Mohammad Ganie" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7677-3471-8512, which is incorrect.

My correct and actual name is "Gh Mohd Ganie." I have applied for correction/update of my name in the Aadhaar record and publication of the requisite notification in the Govt. Gazette.

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.



CITY

Cluster University Signs MoU with NIELIT for NSQF-Aligned Skill Programmes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cluster University of Srinagar (CUS) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) J&K for National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQ F)-aligned skill development for a preiod of three years.

The MoU will strengthen digital skilling, employability and emerging technology readiness among learners.

The collaboration will use the NIELIT Digital University Platform for technology-enabled education. It will support online, blended and other mutually agreed learning modes.

The MoU was signed on 15 September 2026 at Cluster University of Srinagar. Registrar Prof (Dr) Wilayat Hussain Rizvi, in presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof



Mohammed Mobin, signed for the university and Ashaq Hussain Dar, Director NIELIT, signed for the Institute. Controller Examinations, Prof Khurshid Ahmad Mir and PS to Vice Chancellor Dr. Ubaid Sidique, besides Senior representatives from both organisations witnessed the signing ceremony.

The partnership will facilitate courses in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cyber Security and

Cloud Computing. Other areas include Internet of Things, Blockchain, AR and VR, semiconductor technologies and digital governance. The collaboration also covers electronics, information technology and other emerging technology domains. Students, faculty, staff, professionals and eligible learners may benefit from these programmes. Credit transfer and academic integration will follow applicable insti-

tutional and regulatory norms.

The NIELIT platform provides learning management, digital content and virtual laboratory facilities. It also supports artificial intelligence enabled learning, learner analytics and online assessments.

The partners will jointly develop course content, assignments and laboratory manuals. They will also facilitate faculty development, internships, project work, research and industry engagement. Workshops, seminars, webinars, bootcamps and hackathons will be organised under the partnership.

The MoU further provides for training of trainers and institutional coordinators. It includes capacity building for administrators supporting platform based academic programmes. NIELIT will support course delivery, assessments, certification and learner progress reporting. The Cluster University will identify learners, facilitate enrolment and obtain necessary academic approvals.

Andrabi Takes Over Syed Taj-ud-Din Shrine



Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi has formally taken over the administrative and management control of the Dargah-e-Faiz Panah Mir Syed Taj-ud-Din Hamdani (RA) at Nowhatta, Srinagar.

Andrabi, accompanied by Waqf Board Member Mohammad Syed Haqqani, Executive Magistrate and Tehsildar Ishtiyak Mo-hiuddin and other officials, paid obeisance at the shrine and reviewed its existing infrastructure and arrangements for devotees.

She directed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan for upgrading the shrine, with focus

on basic amenities, cleanliness, sanitation, accessibility and preservation of its religious and cultural heritage.

“Our endeavour is to ensure that every Waqf shrine becomes a well-managed spiritual space where devotees receive better facilities while the religious and cultural legacy of these sacred places is preserved,” Andrabi said.

She also interacted with local representatives and public delegations and assured them that their concerns regarding infrastructure and facilities would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

The shrine, a Waqf property duly notified by the government, will now function under the direct management of the J&K Waqf Board.

Conference on Geographical Indications, & Tourism Concludes at KU

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Studies (DTHLS), University of Kashmir (KU), successfully concluded a two-day national conference on “From Heritage to Hospitality: Geographical Indications, Tourism and Destination Identity” at the Main Campus.

Organised in collaboration with Property Pro Legal and Hastin Research, the conference aimed to examine the role of Geographical Indications (GIs), traditional products and cultural heritage in strengthening tourism, supporting local livelihoods and shaping distinctive destination identities.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan said, “Our heritage and traditional products are not only part of our cultural identity but also have the potential to create opportunities for local communities and strengthen sustainable tourism.”

She emphasised the need for greater academic and industry engagement to understand how heritage resources and GI-tagged products can be effectively connected with tourism and local economic development.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Sharief-uddin Pirzada said that the conference provided an important platform for discussing the relationship between heritage, tourism and regional development.

Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq A. Darzi, highlighted the economic and entrepreneurial dimensions of GI products and the need to connect traditional knowledge and local products with contemporary markets.

Sanjay Bafna, Collaborating Partner and Founder & Director, Property Pro Legal and Hastin Research, noted the importance of protecting, promoting and effectively communicating the identity and value of geographically

distinctive products.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Head, DTHLS KU, Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Qureshi, said that the conference sought to bring together academic, industry and field perspectives on the ways in which heritage and GI products can contribute to tourism development and destination identity.

The two-day conference featured plenary sessions, panel discussions, technical sessions and research paper presentations covering various aspects of Geographical Indications, heritage tourism, destination branding, traditional products, community participation and sustainable tourism. It also included field visit tracks to the Pampore Saffron Fields, Kanihama Village for Kani Shawl heritage, the Downtown Craft Heritage Trail and Dal Lake, allowing participants to engage directly with the region’s cultural and tourism resources.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK

Residency Road, Srinagar



POSSESSION NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (4) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 8 (1) OF THE SECURITY (ENFORCEMENT) INTEREST RULES, 2002

Whereas Mr. Tajammul Ahmad Qadri, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.07.2026 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/s Muble Steels Partnership concern of Mr. Mudasir Amin Raina and Mr. Tanveer Sultan Raina S/o's of Mr Mohammad Amin Raina R/o: 36-MIG SDA colony Bemina Srinagar-190018 to repay an amount of **Rs.30,74,990.42 (Rupees Thirty lac seventy four thousand nine hundred ninety and paisa forty two only)** being the balance outstanding as on 30/06/2026 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 17th day of September of the year 2026.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs.27,88,635.40 (Rupees Twenty seven lac eighty eight thousand six hundred thirty five and paisa forty only)** together with future interest thereon from 31.08.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Mortgage of lease hold rights over a piece of land measuring 01 Kanal bearing Plot No. 215 along with single storied factory shed constructed thereupon situated in SIDCO industrial complex Khonmoh leased by J&K SIDCO in favour of Mr. Tanveer Sultan Raina and Mr Mudasir Amin Raina valued 47.46 lacs as per valuation dated 05.09.2025.

**Dated: 17/09/2026
Place: Srinagar**

Authorized Officer

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

ENIT NO. 60 of R&B /CHADOORA/ 4030-39 of 2026-27 DATED: 15/09/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In Two cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Name of Work	Adv. (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost (Rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contractor
1	Upgradation of Barigund Wudder Mohalla to Kultrah road.	97.22	1600		194440	730	4059 UT	AAY

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Central Kashmir
Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15/09/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15/09/2026
3	Bid Submission Start Date	16/09/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	25/09/2026 upto 5.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	26/09/2026 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. Unbalanced Bid:-

As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Issued Vide No.FD-Code/44/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 & endorsed by Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir vide endorsement No. CE/R&B/CK/ WS/6375-96 dated 12/08/2025, which is reproduced as:-

i) Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

ii) Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

5. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

7. The bidders are advised to use legal registration card for e-tendering. If any bidder was found to have fake registration card for his bid, penalty under rules shall be imposed on the bidder for hurdling the tendering process and the fake registration card will be forwarded to concerned authorities for strict action.

8. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 4030-39

DIPK-5859/26

DATED: 18/09/2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD(R&B) CIRCLE SRINAGAR NORTH Lalmandi Srinagar, e-mail rnbccirclesgr.north@jk.gov.in

Section I. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Subject:- Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Consultants for heritage and conservation Works for PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of (UT), Jammu and Kashmir, Expression of Interest (Eoi) (Two cover System) is invited from registered, qualified and experienced Consultancy Firms, Companies, Consultants, and Architects for Empanelment of Consultants for Architectural and Engineering Consultancy Services for heritage and conservation works as mentioned below for PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North.

S.No.	Category	Empanelment Type (Project Cost Range)	Tender Document Fees (Rs)	Bid Security (Lacs) 1
01	Heritage and Conservation Works	Any Value	2000/=	75,000.00

The Expression of Interest (Eoi) is invited as per the Schedule below

S. No.	Name of the work	Description
1.	Name of Work	Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Consultants for heritage and conservation Works for PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North.
2.	Scope of Work	Detailed Engineering, Architectural and Structural Consultancy services, viz. Geo Technical Investigation Surveying, Drawings, Structural Design, Preliminary and Detailed Estimates, Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) including its approval from concerned statutory authorities & necessary vetting. Preparation of BOQ including MEP services.
3	Date of Issue of Tender	18-09-2026
4	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	24-09-2026
5	Bid-Submission Start Date	19-09-2026 from 10.00 AM
6	Bid-Submission End Date	29-09-2026 upto 04.00 PM
7	Date of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	30.09-2026 at 11.00 PM
8	Date of Opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.
9	Tender Fees (Treasury Challan/Demand Draft)	Tender Fees shall be pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North under MH: 0059.
10	Earnest money (Bid Security) to be deposited in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Earnest Money must be pledged in favor of Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North
11	Validity of Tender	120 days from the date of submission of bid.

The tender document is available on e-procurement portal www.jktenders.org for download. No physical copy shall be provided by PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North and (or) submitted to PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North. Tenderers are advised to submit e-tender (e-bids) through e-Procurement portal (www.jktenders.org) only, after carefully following the instructions related to systems and procedures as indicated in e- procurement. The interested tenderers have to upload their bids along with duly signed scanned copies of all relevant documents etc., in support of their technical & financial bids on the website of www.jktenders.org only within the prescribed time limit. The evaluation of Tender will be based on online bids submitted by the tenderers.

Please note that to submit e-tender through electronic mode, interested bidders should have Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) to login to www.jktenders.org e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar North

No. SECSN/EOI/2026-27/6861-65

DIPK-5851/26

Dated: 18-09-2026

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KO VIEW

Break the Chain

Kashmir's handicraft industry has a middleman problem, and the government has allowed it to become far too comfortable. A craft tradition that grew through generations of Kashmiri skill now leaves many artisans at the weakest end of its own economy.

The person who designs, weaves, carves or paints the product often receives a small fraction of the final price. Those who control orders, buyers and markets can capture a far larger share.

That imbalance has lasted long enough.

Kashmir's craft history reaches back centuries. The official handicrafts record credits Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, the Persian Sufi who came to Kashmir in the 14th century, with introducing papier-mâché and bringing craftsmen who influenced carpet weaving, wood carving and other traditions. Historical accounts also credit Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin with further developing the craft economy.

The point of that history is simple. Kashmir's crafts were never merely decorative products. They formed an economic system built on skill, household production and generations of specialised knowledge.

That system has changed, as a powerful layer of intermediaries now stands between artisans and markets.

Their role as traders is legitimate, but their control over information, orders and pricing becomes deeply damaging when artisans have little knowledge of the final selling price and little bargaining power.

The government has enough reason to intervene.

UNESCO lists Srinagar as a Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art and says the city has tens of thousands of craftspeople working in numerous disciplines. UNESCO also identifies direct links between artisans and markets as an important part of the city's craft economy.

Those direct links should become the centre of policy.

The government can create publicly accessible price information, digital registries of artisans, transparent procurement systems and direct-to-market platforms.

Export orders and institutional purchases can disclose the price paid to the artisan alongside the final contract value.

Welfare schemes can be routed directly into verified artisan accounts. Cooperatives can help artisans pool production, buy raw materials and reach buyers without surrendering control over their work.

The National Handicrafts Development Programme already recognises marketing support, artisan welfare, training and cluster development as legitimate areas of public intervention. The challenge lies in making those benefits reach the workshop rather than becoming another barrier between the artisan and the market.

Kashmir cannot celebrate its crafts at international forums while the people who produce them remain economically vulnerable. Srinagar's UNESCO status rests on living craft traditions instead of show-room displays.

The government should therefore audit how public support, procurement and market access move through the handicraft sector. It should identify where value is being lost, publish the findings and build systems that give artisans a direct stake in the markets their skills sustain.

A Kashmiri artisan should see a viable future in the craft handed down by a parent or grandparent. That future begins when the person holding the needle, brush, chisel or loom gains a fairer place in the economy built around that work.

Modi, Masoud, and Mirwaiz

Three separate men, three separate stages, and a guest list from a state dinner in New Delhi that New Delhi seems willing to let stand.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

A speech in Jerusalem, a war in the Gulf, and a sermon in Srinagar do not, on their face, belong to the same story.

Politics rarely publicises itself so plainly. It moves through sequence instead: a phrase spoken on one continent that finds an echo months later on another, a diplomatic guest list that includes a name nobody expected, a cleric who begins quoting the same Prime Minister who once placed him under house confinement.

Read separately, these events explain themselves easily. Read together, they raise a harder question about whether something is forming beneath the surface of Kashmir's frozen politics.

Start with the speech.

Addressing the Knesset, Narendra Modi told Israel's parliament that India stood with it "in this moment and beyond."

The line broke with decades of Indian practice in West Asia, where governments of both major parties built their standing on a careful balance: close defence and technology ties with Israel, old civilisational and commercial links with Iran, and consistent public backing for Palestinian rights.

That balance let India talk to everyone.

But Modi's declaration, unusually blunt for an Indian leader on this ground, suggested the balance had tipped.

The ground shifted under the declaration soon after.

The confrontation between Israel, the United States and Iran widened into open war. Tehran absorbed heavy blows and, against much expectation, refused to buckle.

It struck back, held its position, and made clear it intended to remain part of any future settlement in the region rather than be written out of one.

The war also exposed how much ordinary commerce runs through a strip of water called the Strait of Hormuz,

and how fast that commerce can be threatened.

India could not stand apart from any of this.

Millions of Indian workers live in the Gulf, sending money home to villages that depend on those wages.

A large share of India's oil moves through waters the war put at risk. New Delhi's investment in Iran's Chabahar Port remains its only route into Afghanistan and Central Asia that bypasses Pakistan altogether.

Hence, Iran is not a sentimental attachment for India. It is a fact of geography and energy that no speech in Jerusalem can erase.

Geography corrected the rhetoric soon enough.

Modi met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and spoke again in the old language of stability, freedom of navigation and dialogue. India joined other nations in criticising the American-Israeli campaign against Iran.

Whether this counted as reversal or simple course-correction makes little difference. What it showed is that India's tie with Tehran could not be discarded to please a friendship with Israel.

Against that backdrop, the recent conduct of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq becomes worth watching closely.

The cleric began citing Modi's own words back at him from the pulpit of Srinagar's Jamia Masjid, noting the Prime Minister's remark that the present age should not be one of war, and appealing to him to revive engagement and settle disputes through talk.

Calling this praise would overstate it.

A religious leader can cite a Prime Minister's phrase without endorsing his politics. Still, in a mosque where any word from that pulpit holds political weight, the change in tone did not go unnoticed.

The Mirwaiz has spent years boxed in. His organisation has thinned, his travel has been restricted, and the old separatist platform he once represented has been hollowed out by New Delhi's post-2019 order.

By borrowing Modi's own language rather than his opponents', the pope appeared to be making a narrow but pointed case: if war elsewhere demand dialogue, the dispute in his own homeland might warrant the same principle.

Then came the dinner.

During Pezeshkian's visit to New Delhi, Iran's ambassador invited the Mirwaiz to an interaction with the visiting President, alongside religious leaders and intellectuals, followed by a reception.

Nothing about the invitation needed a hidden explanation. Kashmir and Iran share a history that runs deep:

Persian was the language of Kashmir's courts and its poetry for centuries, and Iranian saints and scholars left enough of a mark on the valley that it earned the old name Iran-e-Sagheer, Little Iran.

The Mirwaiz had already voiced solidarity with Iranians during the war. An invitation from Tehran's embassy needs no conspiracy to explain it.

What needs explaining is where the meeting happened.

It took place in the Indian capital, during an official state visit, with New Delhi's security and protocol apparatus fully aware of the guest list.

At minimum, the government did not object to a Hurriyat chairman sharing a room with a foreign head of state.

Such permissions are rarely granted by accident in Kashmir politics, and that fact alone amounts to a form of space being opened.

Nobody has produced evidence that Delhi arranged the sermon, with New Delhi's security and protocol apparatus fully aware of the guest list.

To claim a formal understanding would go further than anything on the record supports.

Politics advances plenty of times without paperwork, though, through interests that happen to point in the same direction at the same moment.

Modi needs to rebuild balance with an Iran that came out of the war bruised but unbeaten. Pezeshkian has reason to deepen ties with India and to recognise Kashmir's old affection for Persia. The Mirwaiz needs room to breathe and a door back into dialogue with Delhi.

All three men, in other words, hold something the others can use, but none of it proves a plan drawn up in one capital and executed in three.

It only proves that three separate calculations have lined up neatly enough to look, from some distance, like one.

Coincidences happen in politics, so do sequences too well-timed to be only that, and Kashmir has learned, over decades of broken talks and shelved processes, to watch such sequences closely rather than trust them completely.

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The Global Road to Work

Germany, Australia and Canada are seeking workers in specific occupations, but Kashmir's career culture rarely prepares graduates to enter those markets.



Sameer Ahmad Sheikh

I left Kashmir years ago to work in Qatar, and the first thing that struck me about the employment world outside was how ordinary my decision had actually been.

Millions of people from dozens of countries make the same calculation every year: move toward the work, rather than wait for the work to come home.

That calculation still feels like a betrayal to many Kashmiri families, a silent admission of failure rather than a plan.

The numbers do not support that shame.

According to the Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2023-24, unemployment among people aged 15 and above in Jammu and Kashmir touched 6.1 percent, with the pressure heaviest among the young.

Behind that figure sit graduates I met before I left, men and women with degrees who

told me, without much emotion left in their voices, that they were prepared to take 5,000 a month if it meant staying close to home.

That figure is a personal memory, rather than an average salary for the region's graduates. I still think about those words.

What has also not left me is the contrast waiting on the other side of the flight.

In the Middle East, I came to know Kashmiris who now hold executive and managerial titles, earning, once converted, several lakhs of rupees a month. Few of them came from money, but most simply decided, at some point, that the map of opportunity was smaller than the real one.

None of this is an argument against government service, like the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service. The pursuit demands years of preparation and produces public servants who have earned genuine respect.

But respect for one path should not blind us to the odds attached to it.

For the 2025 Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination, 22,573 candidates enrolled for the preliminary round against 80 advertised posts. Of those, 13,732 sat the exam.

It would be unfair to call the tens of thousands who did not progress "failures," since many never appeared and the process runs through several stages still to come. But the reality of the competition is plain enough without needing that word.

In the Middle East, I came to know Kashmiris who now hold executive and managerial titles, earning, once converted, several lakhs of rupees a month. Few of them came from money, but most simply decided, at some point, that the map of opportunity was smaller than the real one.

Thousands compete for what amounts to a rounding error of positions, and the young people doing that competing are often the same ones who could, with the right information, be filling posts abroad that no one has told them exist.

Germany is one such place. Its Federal Employment Agency identified 157 occupational categories facing skills shortages in its

2025 analysis, only six fewer than the year before, and reported that roughly half of all advertised skilled-worker vacancies sat inside those shortage occupations.

That is not a vague promise of opportunity somewhere out there. It is a labour market naming, with precision, what it cannot find enough people to do.

Getting into it still demands the right qualifications, the right language proficiency, the right recognition of degrees, work most Kashmiri graduates are never coached to begin.

Australia complicates the picture without closing it. Its Department of Home Affairs continues to run permanent skilled visa pathways meant to fill genuine shortages, and Jobs and Skills Australia keeps an official Occupation Shortage List that tracks where those gaps sit at any given moment.

At the same time, Canberra has spent 2026 tightening its migration settings, a reminder, if one still needed it, that these doors do not stay open at a fixed width.

Canada tells a similar story: construction, agri-food and healthcare still strain for workers under its Temporary Foreign Worker Program, even as Ottawa narrows the programme's edges and hands specific sectors specific rules.

No country here is simply "looking for foreign workers." Each is looking for particular skills, in particular numbers, on its own terms.

That specificity is the part Kashmir's ca-

reer conversation keeps skipping.

We tell our young people to study hard and then hand them one narrow funnel, the government exam, as though it were the only honest measure of ambition.

We rarely teach them to read a foreign shortage list the way they read an exam syllabus, or to treat a German language certificate with the same seriousness as a KAS preliminary paper.

I think often of the qualified people I have met working jobs that use almost nothing they learned.

The 6.1 percent unemployment figure will not change because a few more candidates appear in next year's preliminary exam. It might move if the region starts treating international labour markets as legitimate destinations for effort, worthy of the same discipline currently poured into competing for 80 posts.

Somewhere in Germany a shortage list is being updated, but somewhere in Srinagar, a graduate is deciding whether 5,000 a month is worth staying home for.

Beyond geography, the distance between those two facts is information nobody has bothered to send.

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Kashmir's Other Marghoob Writes About the Child We Lose

Tariq Marghoob's new book argues that education can slowly teach children to doubt the curiosity they began life with, then shows how that instinct can be recovered.



Haziqah Shaheen

A two-year-old boy named Arjun reaches toward a stove. His mother catches his hand before the flame can burn him. The word comes naturally: No.

Marghoob sees that moment as an act of love. A parent protects a child from danger, and the child learns a boundary.

The trouble begins much later, when the same word starts appearing in places where danger has disappeared.

A drawing does not fit the classroom assignment, or a question sounds unusual, and a child gives an answer that makes the class laugh.

Over time, these small moments teach the child to worry about getting things wrong.

By the time Arjun is 10, Marghoob suggests, the word has acquired a different force.

The child who once reached toward the unknown begins to

wonder whether reaching itself could invite disapproval.

That idea forms the spine of *Born Whole: How We Lose Our Inner Intelligence and How to Find It Again*, the new book by Tariq Marghoob, a veteran educator who has spent more than two decades inside classrooms, teaching in villages in Haryana and in Kashmir.

Published by Clever Fox Publishing, the book turns his long experience with children into a personal inquiry into curiosity, conditioning and self-doubt.

Marghoob's argument is simple: Children begin life with an instinctive confidence in their own questions. Over the years, thousands of small corrections can teach them to distrust that instinct.

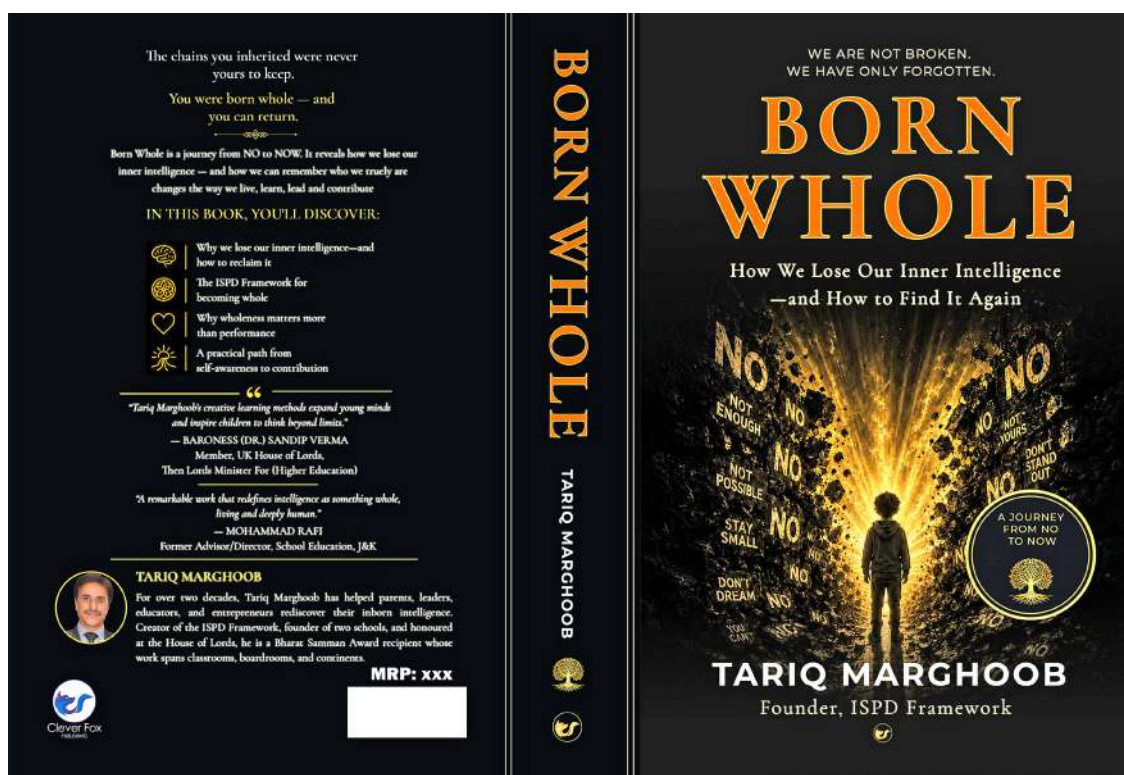
A teacher hesitates at an unexpected question, a parent guides a child toward a conventional choice, while a classroom rewards the correct answer so strongly that mistakes begin to feel threatening.

Individual incidents may appear ordinary, but together, Marghoob calls their accumulated effect the "No."

That No eventually changes the question inside a child. "Why not?" gives way to "What will they think?"

The argument gains force through stories drawn from classrooms.

Priya, a student in one of Marghoob's examples, freezes before presentations years after her



classmates have forgotten laughing at her during a school assembly. She still carries the memory with her.

Marghoob presents such episodes with the detail of a teacher's field notes, giving the book the texture of lived experience rather than a conventional self-help manual.

His own career gives the argument unusual grounding.

Marghoob founded the ISPD Framework, which divides human development into four dimensions: Intellectual, Social, Personal and Developmental intelligence. He built two schools around those principles, Free Birds International in Kashmir and Som Gurukul Group in Haryana.

His earlier books, *Today Is Yours* and *Mastering the Future Today* by Changing Paradigms, established him as a speaker and executive coach working with educators and parents.

His work has also brought formal recognition, including the Bharat Samman award, recognition from the Ministry of Education in Jammu and Kashmir, and the Pride of India



Award, presented at the House of Lords in London.

Those credentials could have pushed *Born Whole* toward the territory of an educational manifesto. But instead, Marghoob makes it more intimate.

The book gathers lessons from his professional life and asks how systems created to educate children can gradually teach them to suppress their own instincts.

His brother, the noted psychiatrist Dr. Mushtaq Marghoob, also influences the book's psychological foundation. Marghoob draws

on his brother's understanding of how early experiences can become deeply held beliefs, giving the discussion a layer of psychological inquiry alongside the classroom observations.

The book unfolds through 29 chapters divided into six phases: foundations, deconstruction, reconstruction, integration, expansion and embodiment. The progression follows Marghoob's larger premise.

Recognition comes first, as a reader identifies inherited assumptions, examines their origins and then begins the work of recovering creative intelligence.

The framework occasionally moves into the inspirational language associated with books about personal transformation. Phrases such as "the architecture of legacy" may feel familiar to readers who prefer psychological writing grounded in clinical terminology.

Marghoob's strongest passages come elsewhere, in the small scenes that only prolonged contact with children can produce.

Consider Gullak Day at his

schools. Students break open their savings, then give the money away.

The exercise turns an abstract lesson about generosity into an experience. Children encounter an idea through action, and the experience becomes part of their understanding of themselves.

That episode also reveals what Marghoob wants education to become.

His concern extends beyond academic achievement. He writes for parents watching a child struggle, teachers working inside standardized systems and executives who want to lead without fear becoming their primary tool.

Praise from members of the UK House of Lords and psychiatrists in Kashmir highlights the breadth of the audience Marghoob hopes to reach.

The book can function as a guide for parents, a provocation for teachers and a source of reflection for adults examining the habits they acquired long ago.

Its chapters invite sustained reading, though individual sections can also stand on their own.

The strongest passages may prompt readers to remember their own first No: the first correction that felt larger than the moment, the first laugh that made a question feel foolish, the first instruction that taught them to seek approval before trusting instinct.

After three hundred pages, Marghoob closes with a single word: "Now."

The simplicity feels deliberately deliberate.

Born Whole spends its pages tracing the distance between the child who asks without fear and the adult who edits the question before speaking.

Its final word turns that distance into a present-tense challenge.

The child who once asked "why not?" may still be there, waiting beneath years of instruction.

Marghoob's larger invitation is to begin listening again.

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The Bard in Kashmir

Shakespeare's themes of love, jealousy, power and forgiveness find fresh resonance in Kashmir.



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

If Shakespeare were writing his classic in Kashmir, the story would open beside a frozen Dal Lake, where shikaras rest under a low sun and chinara leaves blaze red against the falling snow.

Winter in Kashmir would watch and listen, shaping the lives it touches. The air would keep its secrets, holding footprints in the snow until they vanish.

Shakespeare's presence in India stretches back to colonial times, when Kashmiri and Urdu playwrights like Agha Hashr Kashmiri began weaving his plots into local music, verse, and cultural patterns.

These adaptations made Shakespeare accessible to South Asian audiences, and the influence continues.

Kashmiri artists reinterpret his works to explore the social and political currents of their time.

Themes of ambition, revenge, love, and mortality find resonance in a land shaped by history, hostility, and humanity.

Cinema, stage adaptations, and

earlier dramatizations prove that Shakespeare's stories remain a mirror for Kashmiri society.

Leontes would become a king of the valley, a man whose authority rises with the rivers and fades in the cold. His jealousy would grow from whispered fears and border tensions, from a dread of loss imagined into reality.

Hermione would speak with the measured calm of Kashmiri grace, her presence as warm as kahwa in porcelain cups. When accused, she would remain like a chinara in snow, upright and unshaken.

Polixenes would arrive from the plains beyond the Banihal Pass, bringing memories of summer and sun. Their boyhood vows beside rivers would reverberate through the play's music, with santoor strings recalling days before suspicion.

Jealousy would arrive like a sudden storm, blinding and relentless, and the king would find his mind locked against reason.

The oracle would speak from a shrine high above the valley, where prayer flags flutter in the wind and pilgrims climb icy steps to ask the mountain what it knows. Its verdict would resound across the ravines, reaching the king only when loss teaches him to listen.

Mamillius would fade like December light, and grief would fall heavier than snow on rooftops already burdened.

Exile in Kashmir would extend beyond geography.

Perdita would be left at the edge of a forest, where deodars whisper old laws. The bear, emblem of judgment,



might appear as a shadow in snowfall, as the valley remembers how myth and reality walk together.

A shepherd would find the child, hands scented with wool and woodsmoke, a man who understands the moods of weather better than the moods of kings.

Time would enter like a chorus in a

pheran, smiling at the audience with snow in his beard.

Sixteen years would pass with the patience of a thaw. Perdita would grow among alpine meadows where spring arrives briefly and fiercely, and crocuses push through last year's sorrow.

Her beauty would emerge from life

itself, luminous and earned.

The sheep-shearing festival would become a fair, alive with saffron sellers, apple growers, and songs that blend Persian melancholy with folk joy.

Florizel would fall in love within a land steeped in history. Love in Kashmir understands the cost of seasons and blooms with attention.

Disguises would succeed easily, as even kings and princes know the necessity of humility.

Flight from discovery would follow ancient paths, through pine tunnels and mountain passes, away from watchful eyes.

The return to the court would bring winter again, softened by repentance.

Leontes would age, his voice thin and frost brushing his beard. He would move through the palace like a pilgrim circling regret.

The statue of Hermione would rest in a hall open to the garden, light falling through latticed windows, snow-melt tracing its own rhythm.

Paulina would guard truth with the force of a winter wind, refusing to let it fade.

When the statue awakens, it would feel inevitable, like the turning of seasons.

The valley knows resurrection as a cycle, rather than a miracle. Reconciliation would arrive gently. Forgiveness would fall like the first snowfall after a drought, sufficient and astonishing. Father and daughter would recognize each other in the spaces between words. The court would breathe once more.

Shakespeare in Kashmir would

write a play in which statecraft lurks in every glance without naming itself, jealousy becomes a shifting weather, women instruct through presence, and time heals even as it shapes.

Mountains would offer their soliloquies, understanding tragedy and mercy better than men.

When the curtain falls, winter would stay, older than kings, kinder than suspicion, waiting for the valley to remember how to become spring.

But beyond literature, Shakespeare's relevance in Kashmir continues in theatre and cinema.

Vishal Bhardwaj's film *Haider* reimagines Hamlet in Kashmir, turning the rot of Denmark into a reflection of local turmoil.

The adaptation made Shakespeare accessible to modern audiences, showing that global classics can illuminate regional realities.

Kashmiri theatre groups have also brought creativity to stage adaptations.

MAAG, a verse adaptation of *Macbeth* staged at Tagore Hall in Srinagar under Arshid Mushtaq, presented ambition and moral collapse in the Kashmiri language.

These performances demonstrate that Shakespeare is beyond a relic of classrooms.

The Bard of Avon is a living art, bridging tradition and modernity.

— The author is an International Tagore Awardee and former Affiliate Faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. He can be reached at profdratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

16 Cops Among 21 Killed in Pakistan Mosque Blast

Press Trust Of India

Peshawar: At least 21 people, mostly policemen, were killed and 78 others injured in a suicide blast at a mosque during Friday prayers near the police lines in Kohat district of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

The blast occurred at the mosque located near the old Police Lines in Kohat, around 60 kilometres southwest of the provincial capital Peshawar, they said.

According to police, an attacker rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the mosque premises, following which an exchange of fire with armed militants took place.

District Health Officer Kohat Dr Nasir Hussain said 21 people, including 16 police personnel and five civilians, were killed and 78 others injured in the explosion.

A little-known militant group, Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack. The group, an alliance comprising the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group, Harakat Inqilab-e-Islami Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Islam, was formed in



April 2025.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hamid said that an explosives-laden vehicle rammed into the gate of the old police lines, triggering an explosion followed by gunfire.

"The vehicle hit the gate and then exploded, and firing also took place," Hameed said, adding that another suicide blast occurred at the Special Branch building during the exchange of fire with terrorists.

The blast occurred during Friday prayers, leaving a crater outside the mosque and severely damaging its exterior, while a wall also collapsed.

Most of those wounded were worshippers. Video footage from the site showed the

bodies of worshippers lying inside the mosque.

According to the Central Police Office in Peshawar, seven armed militants entered the police lines, where police and the Counter-Terrorism Department engaged them in a gun battle.

Six militants have so far been killed, including suicide bombers and snipers, the official said. Security officials said security forces and police had cordoned off the area.

The injured, including police personnel, were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, where an emergency was declared, hospital Medical Superintendent Tahir Ali Shah said.

According to Rescue 1122 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa spokesperson Bilal Ahmad Faizi,

rescue teams reached the site shortly after receiving the information and launched a rescue operation.

Police said the Kohat-Hangu Road had been closed to all traffic and additional police contingents had been deployed near the police lines.

Rescue officials said nearby buildings were also damaged in the blast.

Following the blast, provincial police chief Hameed sought a report from the district's regional police officer. He directed authorities to ensure timely and best possible medical treatment for the injured.

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police stands as an iron wall against terrorism, and such cowardly attacks cannot weaken our resolve," he said.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have condemned the incident and vowed that the complete elimination of foreign-sponsored terrorists was "essential for national security".

Sharif also sought a report on the blast from the concerned authorities. He also directed authorities to expedite relief operations, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Ozone Pharmaceuticals launches “OZONE SHIELD” a first-of-its-kind initiative to safeguard Doctors

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Ozone Pharmaceuticals Ltd. launched 'Ozone SHIELD', a first initiative of its kind by any Indian pharmaceutical company for the welfare and safety of doctors, at a special event in New Delhi. This initiative is taken in response to the growing instances of violence, harassment and baseless legal suits against doctors. Ozone Shield provides security assistance, legal assistance and emotional wellbeing support to doctors in case they get caught in such an untoward scenario. The initiative was formally launched by Dr. Kiran Bedi (IPS), former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, who was also the Chief Guest of the event.

The need is well documented. A nationwide survey this year by experts from AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and VMCC, covering over 1,500 healthcare workers, found 78.4 percent had faced threats on duty, and 58.2 percent didn't feel safe at work. It's this gap Ozone SHIELD is built to close. It has also been established that in majority of the legal cases, the doctors are eventually declared 'not guilty' by the honorable courts.

"The pharma industry and doctors stand together as one team serving society. When doctors face mindless violence or unnecessary legal harassment, protecting them becomes our duty. Protecting the Protectors is the sole purpose of Ozone SHIELD, because a doctor under threat or trauma is a loss the entire society bears. We consider it as our responsibility and commitment to give back something to the medical fraternity for all that they do for us," said Subash Sehgal, Founder and Managing Director, Ozone Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Speaking about the Initiative Dr. Kiran Bedi, said "Ozone SHIELD stands as a testament to true leadership by safeguarding the legal and social rights of the doctors who dedicate their lives to protecting others. Through visionary awareness workshops led by Mr. Sehgal, this initiative empowers the medical fraternity with knowledge, confidence, and strong support."

The idea, Sehgal says, comes from three decades of working closely with doctors, and watching a profession once given unquestioned respect, increasingly coming under attack, threats and harassment. Conceptualised by

him, Ozone SHIELD is a Security-Legal-Advisory system offering personal security support during threats or manhandling, legal assistance for medico-legal matters, and emotional wellbeing support through counselling.

Ozone's field teams, already present nationwide, are introducing OZONE SHIELD to doctors directly, starting with gynaecologists before expanding to other specialities. Doctors can also register themselves through the SHIELD WhatsApp Chatbot, a short form covering name, speciality, city and their Ozone network, after which the local team reaches out.

"Doctors make enormous sacrifices and their role in the building of a nation is no less than that of a soldier. Therefore, we look at it as our duty to partner with the system to stand by them," said Anil Kothiyal, CEO, Ozone Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

OZONE SHIELD is also a reminder to the society of the need to respect the medical profession. That is why, under Ozone Shield, a lot more conversations and dissemination of information shall happen to make the people aware of the extraordinary, heroic efforts made by doctors.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K House To Debate

denotification of Phaak and Rural Block Harwan from the Srinagar Master Plan, seeking to ease restrictions faced by residents of the areas.

NC MLA Qaysar Jamshaid Lone has sought expediting construction of the Lolab-Bandipora Tunnel.

Congress MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone has moved a resolution seeking allotment of five marlas of State land to homeless families.

NC MLA Mir Saifullah has proposed formulation of a jobs policy with measurable annual targets and transparent recruitment mechanisms.

The seventh resolution, submitted by Bandipora MLA Nizam-Ud-Din Bhat, seeks declaration of 2027-28 as the "year for retrieval of water resources" to facilitate restoration of wetlands and water bodies across Jammu and Kashmir.

The seven resolutions are scheduled to be considered during the Private Members' Business on September 25.

Use Your Authority

including terrorism, radicalisation and emerging methods of terror financing involving cryptocurrency and money laundering.

"After your training, when you wear the khaki uniform, you will stand as a protective shield between the terrorist forces and organisations across the border and the ordinary citizens of Jammu Kashmir," Sinha said.

He said the officers would be entrusted with protecting the dreams and aspirations of citizens and urged them to ensure a fear-free environment for every person.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the history of devotion, sacrifice and courage associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and asked the newly appointed officers to uphold these values while performing their duties.

He stressed that authority must be exercised with compassion and human sensitivity, particularly while dealing with vulnerable sections of society.

"You will possess authority, and you must combine that authority with the values of compassion so that human sensitivity remains an essential part of all your actions," Sinha said.

He asked the officers to resolve that they would choose integrity and duty irrespective of the circumstances they face.

"You must resolve that, regardless of how difficult circumstances may become, you will choose integrity and duty. Always remember that the respect commanded by the uniform depends on the honesty, courage and conduct of the officers who wear it," he said.

Sinha also urged the officers to uphold communal harmony and protect the rights of the vulnerable, reiterating the principle: "Do not harass the innocent; do not spare the guilty."

He called upon the officers to wear the khaki uniform with pride while keeping their conscience close to their hearts.

"Move forward with honesty, courage and humility. Along with your appointment letters, I have today entrusted you with the hopes, dreams and faith of the people. I expect you to honour this responsibility with unwavering resolve and to use your authority in the cause of justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The newly selected officers will undergo mandatory police training before taking up their responsibilities in the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dooloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Principal Secretary Home Department Chandraker Bharti, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department M Raju and senior officers of the police and civil administration.

JKP Roll Out

proceedings," Kichloo said. He said complaints involving suspicious

financial transactions are examined in coordination with banks and other concerned agencies, enabling necessary action to be taken at the earliest.

The SSP said banks are also using artificial intelligence and pattern-based analysis to identify suspicious transactions, while police coordinate with the Department of Telecommunications, Reserve Bank of India and the banking system in such cases.

He clarified that accounts frozen during investigations would be unfrozen as per procedure if no sufficient grounds were found to continue the freeze.

However, in serious cases, police would register FIRs and initiate further legal action, he said.

Kichloo also highlighted the dedicated mechanism for dealing with online crimes against children and women, including counselling and victim-oriented assistance.

He reiterated that timely reporting by victims is essential in cyber fraud cases as it can help prevent further movement of money and improve the prospects of investigation and recovery.

Flags Off Harmukh-

for millennia, been nourished by an "unbroken stream of faith", with every part of its landscape imbued with spiritual significance.

Referring to ancient texts, the Lieutenant Governor said Mount Harmukh, also known as Harmukut, is revered as the abode of Lord Shiva, while Gangbal Lake, located at an altitude of around 14,500 feet, is regarded as the sacred presence of Mother Ganga.

He said devotees had maintained their spiritual connection with the pilgrimage site despite difficult terrain and historical upheavals. The pilgrimage, he added, also carries significance for paying homage to ancestors and is considered comparable in sanctity to Haridwar.

"Harmukh-Gangbal pilgrimage is a living expression of this immortal faith. On the pilgrimage, no one is superior or inferior. All are seekers of truth, united in spirituality," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged pilgrims to use the journey as an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to environmental protection, particularly amid climate change and growing ecological challenges.

"Himalayan pilgrimages teach us two important lessons. First, I am not the master of nature but its custodian. Second, noble and beneficial thoughts should come to us from all directions so that we may make society more prosperous," he said.

Sinha said pilgrimages brought people closer to nature and reminded them of their responsibility towards protecting it as a shared heritage.

He also said the Harmukh-Gangbal pilgrimage could help introduce younger generations to the region's cultural and spiritual traditions.

The Lieutenant Governor referred to the ongoing Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of continuous public service, and appealed to citizens and the Harmukh Ganga Gangbal Trust to participate in cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, health camps, tree plantation and youth-oriented programmes.

"May the snow-clad peaks of Harmukh inspire us to cultivate lofty thoughts, and may the blessings and compassion of Lord Shiva remain with all the pilgrims," he said.

Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad, Kangan MLA Mian Mehar Ali, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Harmukh Ganga Gangbal Trust founder chairman and general secretary Vinod Pandita, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, besides religious heads, senior civil and police officers, security officials, prominent citizens and devotees attended the flag-off ceremony.

NHM Employees

appropriate action taken.

Following the written assurance, the employees suspended their protest and decided to resume duties, bringing an end to the strike that had affected NHM-related healthcare services across the Union Territory.

The employees had been seeking resolution of several long-pending issues, including job security, regularisation and improvement in service conditions.

Representatives of the employees expressed appreciation to Minister Sakeena Itoo for providing the written assurance and said they would await further action from the government on the commitments made.

The resumption of duties is expected to facilitate the restoration of NHM-related healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir's New Cleanliness

and finish. She urged schools and students to promote four-stream waste segregation at the source, so waste can begin its journey through separate streams before it reaches public spaces or disposal sites. Schools, she said, could organise more awareness and creative programmes and share their initiatives to encourage wider participation.

The message gained a practical dimension through the students themselves.

Sheikh Ali Mission School in Khonmoh staged a skit on the Swachhata Hi Seva theme. Higher Secondary School, Khonmoh, presented another performance focused on cleanliness. Samaa Public School in Balhama and Radiant Model School in Khonmoh used skits to address cleanliness and environmental responsibility. Northland Public School focused on waste segregation and the need to maintain clean surroundings.

Shabir Ahmad Hakak, deputy director of Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, described the campaign as a collective movement for cleanliness and responsible citizenship. He pointed to the place of cleanliness in different faiths and traditions and said the campaign needed to become a permanent habit.

The programme has three broad pillars: identifying and cleaning Cleanliness Target Units, keeping public places clean and increasing youth and student participation. Hakak urged students to become active participants and ambassadors for the campaign.

Mantasha Binti Rashid, joint director of the Rural Development Department, shifted the focus further into the household. She encouraged students to compost vegetable and kitchen waste at home, turning biodegradable material into manure while reducing the volume of waste entering the environment.

She connected that practice to a larger ecological principle. Nature works through circular systems, she said, while extensive plastic use has disrupted that balance. Families can respond through composting and other sustainable practices, allowing everyday household choices to become part of environmental responsibility.

Bashir Ahmad Padder, assistant commissioner of police in Srinagar, said meaningful participation by individuals and communities could turn cleanliness campaigns into a lifestyle. Tabasum Qadir, secretary of the District Legal Services Authority in Srinagar, also stressed awareness and collective responsibility.

Mohammad Muqsit Wani, the block development officer of Khonmoh, moderated the programme. Shajaf Farooq, field officer with the Deputy Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, delivered the vote of thanks. Participating schools received recognition for their performances and their role in spreading the campaign's message.

The launch ended with a proposition that extends well beyond the stage in Khonmoh: a cleanliness campaign succeeds through what people do after the banners, performances and official programmes disappear.

The lasting test will come at homes, schools

and public places, where waste gets sorted, compost gets made and clean surroundings become an ordinary part of daily life.

Be Prepared to

the training programme would equip the officers with the necessary skills and confidence to meet the demands of police service and discharge their duties with dedication.

He also said he would personally interact with the officers once they join the police academy.

"When you come to the academy, I will speak to you in detail and interact with you personally," Prabhat said.

Prabhat congratulated the newly selected officers and wished them success as they begin their careers in the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The Lieutenant Governor earlier handed over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service at a function at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar.

3 LeT-Linked OGWs

through the Pir Panjal region to Shopian in south Kashmir.

Police said their alleged involvement in assisting, harbouring and facilitating the movement of terrorists who were later killed in an encounter at Chassana in Reasi district in 2023 had also emerged during the investigation.

An IED was recovered from a forest area adjoining Kot Charwal village following disclosures allegedly made by the accused after their arrest, police said.

The spokesman said a pistol along with a magazine and ammunition, besides two Chinese grenades, were subsequently recovered from a hideout at the accused persons' behest on Thursday.

According to police, the accused allegedly worked as guides to facilitate the movement of terrorists and are also suspected of providing ground support to terrorists linked to several high-profile attacks in Rajouri district in recent years.

Police said the recovered arms and explosives had allegedly been handed over to the accused for safe custody and possible use in future attacks.

The investigation is underway to identify other associates, establish the complete network and ascertain the full extent of the accused persons' alleged involvement, the spokesman said.

HC Denies Bail

offence and his arrest.

The Court, however, noted that the alleged monetary transactions, call records, prior dealings and subsequent recovery, when considered together, prima facie disclosed a "live link" between the petitioner (Asim) and the co-accused. The Court observed that the absence of physical recovery from the petitioner, by itself, could not conclude the matter in his favour at the bail stage.

Since the recovered quantity was stated to be commercial quantity, the Court held that the application had to be examined in light of the restrictions under Section 37 of the NDPS Act. It found that the material before it did not provide reasonable grounds, at this stage, to believe that the petitioner was not guilty of the alleged offences.

The Court also considered the prolonged incarceration of the petitioner and the constitutional importance of a speedy trial. It noted, however, that seven witnesses had already been examined and the trial was progressing before the Special Court dealing with NDPS cases at Srinagar.

Finding no ground to overcome the statutory embargo under Section 37, the Court dismissed the bail application.

HC Imposes Rs 10K

such parallel proceedings," the Court observed, would result in multiplicity of

proceedings and allow adjudication of the same claim before two different forums.

Holding that the writ petition amounted to an abuse of the process of the Court, the Bench dismissed it with costs of Rs 10,000, directing Mir to deposit the amount with the High Court Registry within two weeks.

Petrol Pumps Threaten

purchases above Rs 2,000 are routine and that digital payments have become a widely used payment method at fuel stations.

The proposed shift to cash would affect customers making larger fuel purchases, particularly motorists and commercial vehicle operators who routinely use UPI for refuelling. Petrol pump operators in Mumbai have separately warned that UPI facilities could be discontinued from Oct 15 unless fuel retailers are exempted from the revised MDR.

The new framework does not, however, impose the Rs 5 charge directly on customers. The MDR is a merchant-side charge, while the government has said the cost should not be passed on to consumers. The Finance Ministry is also preparing a monitoring mechanism to track whether merchants attempt to transfer the charge to customers.

The development comes after years of expansion of digital payments at fuel stations. Public-sector oil companies and private fuel retailers have introduced UPI, QR-code and other digital payment facilities across their outlets. [KNT]

Climate Change

was significantly higher in Baramulla district, where the study estimated a 19.16 per cent decline in apple yield for every 1-degree Celsius increase in summer temperature.

The findings indicate that rising temperatures are posing a growing threat to one of Kashmir's most important horticultural sectors, with changes in temperature and weather conditions affecting crop productivity and quality.

The study also documented substantial losses caused by recurrent hailstorms during 2025 and 2026.

It said hailstorms destroyed between 50 and 90 per cent of apple crops in several districts, resulting in estimated economic losses of Rs 6,000 crore to Rs 7,000 crore.

In Jammu, meanwhile, the mango economy suffered a major setback in 2026 following early heatwaves and hailstorms, with local mango arrivals declining by more than 70 per cent, according to the study.

The researchers said the contrasting impacts on apples and mangoes illustrate the vulnerability of both the Himalayan and subtropical agricultural systems of the Union Territory to changing climatic conditions.

The study also examined saffron production in Kashmir and found that output had fallen from 15.9 metric tonnes in 1990 to 2.6 metric tonnes in 2024-25, a decline of about 68 per cent over the period.

It attributed the broader agricultural risks to rising temperatures, heat extremes, drought, hailstorms and other forms of climate variability. The researchers said existing crop insurance mechanisms were inadequate to fully protect farmers from climate-related losses and called for stronger financial safety nets and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

They recommended the adoption of heat-tolerant crop varieties, precision irrigation, improved weather monitoring and early-warning systems to help farmers respond to extreme weather.

The paper also called for greater investment in climate adaptation and stronger institutional support for farmers facing increasingly unpredictable growing conditions.

The researchers said protecting horticulture would be important not only for agricultural incomes but also for the wider rural economy of Jammu and Kashmir, where fruit cultivation supports a large number of farming households.(KNO)

Walnut Cultivation Highly Profitable, But Labour Costs Remain a Challenge: Study

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A study has revealed that walnut cultivation in Kashmir can generate substantial returns for growers but remains highly dependent on labour and faces several productivity and market-related challenges.

The study, accessed by KNO, based on data collected from 240 walnut growers in four south Kashmir districts, examined the economics and profitability of walnut production during the agricultural season. It found that walnut cultivation generated Rs 5.35 in returns for every rupee spent, indicating a cost-benefit ratio of 1:5.35.

For orchards with about 80 walnut trees per hectare, the researchers estimated production at 3,560 kg and the total cost of cultivation at Rs 83,825 per hectare.

The corresponding gross return was estimated at Rs 5.31 lakh per hectare, while the net return stood at about Rs 4.48 lakh, the study said.

However, labour emerged as the largest component of production costs, accounting for nearly 80 per cent of the total expenditure.

The researchers found that activities such as harvest-



ing, picking and guarding orchards required substantial labour inputs during the production cycle.

The study also found considerable variation in walnut prices, with growers receiving between Rs 100 and Rs 165 per kg depending on factors such as shell hardness, kernel colour, taste and dryness.

Productivity was influenced by several factors, including the use of farmyard manure and chemical fertilisers, labour availability, tree density, women's participation and farmers' access to agricultural information, it said.

Despite the high economic returns, walnut growers reported a number of constraints, including inadequate access to extension services, credit facilities and technical training.

The researchers called for stronger agricultural extension programmes and better

access to institutional credit and training to improve productivity and strengthen the walnut sector.

They also recommended greater dissemination of scientific information among growers to help them adopt improved cultivation practices.

The study was conducted in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian districts and was based on field data from the 2018-19 production period.

The researchers cautioned that improving productivity and addressing constraints faced by growers would be important for sustaining the economic potential of walnut cultivation in the region.

The findings provide an assessment of the economics of walnut production based on the study-period costs and returns and do not represent current 2026 market prices or farm incomes—(KNO)

Protest Held over Lack of Healthcare Facilities at SDH Tral

Agencies

PULWAMA: A protest was held in Tral on Friday morning against the alleged lack of adequate healthcare facilities and manpower at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tral, with protesters demanding immediate intervention by the concerned authorities to improve patient care and ensure accountability in the functioning of the hospital.

According to KNO, the protest was attended by people cutting across political affiliations and several residents. They carried placards and banners with messages such as "Healthcare for All, Justice for All" and "No Politics Over People's Lives", while raising concerns over what they described as inadequate staffing, shortage of specialist services and deficiencies in hospital infrastructure and facilities.

Speaking during the protest, youth activist Junaid Mir questioned the present functioning of SDH Tral, alleging that the hospital was effectively providing services at the level of a Community Health Centre (CHC) despite being designated as a Sub-District Hospital.

He questioned the duty schedule and responsibilities of the Block Medical Officer (BMO), seeking greater accountability from the concerned authorities regarding the day-to-day functioning and supervision of the health institution.

"We are not protesting against any individual. Our concern is the healthcare of the people of Tral.

When a hospital is designated as an SDH, people naturally expect facilities and services accordingly. Patients should not have to travel outside the area for services that should be available here," Mir said.

Citizen Council Tral chairman Farooq Trali said healthcare facilities should not be viewed through political or constituency-based considerations, asserting that elected representatives holding ministerial positions have a broader responsibility towards people across the region.

"Ministers are elected as MLAs from their respective constituencies, but once they become ministers, they have a responsibility towards people beyond their own constituencies. Development and public facilities should reach every area equally," he said.

The protesters alleged that several other SDHs have comparatively better facilities and specialist services, while SDH Tral continues to face shortages of doctors, specialists and other essential staff.

They alleged that despite the hospital catering to a large population from Tral and adjoining areas, patients are often compelled to visit other hospitals for consultations and treatment that, according to them, should be available locally.

The protesters also raised concerns over the functioning of the dialysis centre at the hospital, which they said was started recently but has allegedly not been functioning to its expected capacity.

J&K Bank renews MoU with Tata Motors as preferred financier



SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Friday, renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Motors Limited - India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer - to offer convenient and competitive financing solutions for the company's extensive range of commercial vehicles.

Under the agreement, J&K Bank will act as a preferred financier for all variants of commercial vehicles manufactured and marketed by Tata Motors. The partnership will operate on a pan-India basis, building on the Bank's established presence in J&K and Ladakh while extending support to customers across the country.

The renewed arrangement will enable the Bank's branches to work closely with Tata Motors and its authorised dealer network to facilitate finance for eligible customers. Tata Motors and its dealers will also undertake promotional initiatives, generate customer leads, and connect prospective buyers with the Bank for financing support.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager (RAM) Sanjay Gupta said, "The renewal of our association with Tata Motors reflects the shared commitment of two trusted institutions to making commercial mobility more accessible and affordable. By combining Tata Motors' diversified product portfolio and extensive dealership network with J&K Bank's deep regional understanding and customer-centric financing solutions, we aim to support transporters, fleet operators, small businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs in acquiring vehicles suited to their business requirements."

He added, "While this partnership strengthens transportation capacity across vital sectors such as logistics, construction, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, and passenger mobility in J&K and Ladakh, its pan-India scope aligns with the Bank's expanding footprint and commitment to serving customers nationwide."

Three Detained After 658 Gold-Like Biscuits Recovered in Qazigund

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday recovered 658 gold-like biscuits/coins during naka checking along the National Highway near Vessu in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

According to a police officer, a vehicle bearing registration number MP09CS0451 was intercepted by a naka party during routine checking. Three persons travelling in the vehicle were detained for questioning, he said.

During a search of the vehicle and its occupants, police recovered 658 gold-like biscuits/coins, each weighing

approximately 0.98 grams, under suspicious circumstances, the officer said.

"The material was seized for examination and analysis," the officer said.

Subsequent testing revealed that the recovered items were copper plates coated or plated with gold-coloured material and were not made of pure gold, he added.

Police have initiated a preliminary inquiry at Police Station Qazigund to establish the circumstances surrounding the recovery, as well as the source and intended use of the gold-plated copper material.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG
CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - Maintenance and Repair works of various Tourism assets at Gulmarg (Stage Contract 2026-27).
Ref - This office e-NIT No. 76/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No. Divn. / Tang/5149-60 Dated: 15-09-2026.

Kindly read:-
"Class of Contractor D/C/B"

Instead of:-
""Class of Contractor D/C"

All other terms & conditions will remain same as already advertised.

No: R&B/Divn./Tang./5251-56
Dated: 16-09-2026

Sd/-
DIPK-5852-26
DT: 18/09/2026

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Tangmarg.

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject: Constitution of Divisional-Level Inspection Committees for conducting Inspection of Private Un-aided Colleges functioning in the J&K (UT) for the Academic Session 2026-27 & 2027-28.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. 326-JK(HE) OF 2026 DATED: 18-09-2026

In supersession of all previous orders, sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of the following Divisional Level Inspection Committees in terms of Rule-18 of SRO-339 dated 20.12.2005, Government Order No. 335-HE of 2016 dated 25.10.2016 and Government Order No. 153-HE of 2016 dated 01.04.2016 for conducting inspection for Academic Session 2026-27 & 2027-28 for:

- Establishment of a new Private Un-Aided College to impart Higher Education;
- Grant of renewal of permission to run such educational institutions; and
- Introduction/renewal of new course(s) in Private Un-aided Colleges already functioning across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Jammu Division

S.No.	Composition of Committees	Districts
1	1. Principal, Gandhi Nagar College, Jammu 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Samba 3. One Subject Expert	Jammu, Samba & Kathua
2	1. Principal, Government Degree College, Poonch 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Nowshera 3. One subject Expert	Poonch & Rajouri
3	1. Principal, Government Degree College, Doda 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Ramban 3. One subject Expert	Udhampur, Doda, Reasi, Ramban & Kishtwar
4	1. Principal, GCET, Jammu 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Nagrota 3. Two Subject Experts (HOD) from GCET, Jammu	Engineering Colleges only

Kashmir Division

S.No.	Composition of Committees	Districts
1	1.Principal, S.P College, M.A Road, Srinagar 2.Principal, Government Degree College, Budgam 3.One Subject Expert	Srinagar, Budgam & Ganderbal
2	1. Principal, Government Degree College, Baramulla 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Kupwara 3. One subject Expert	Baramulla, Bandipora & Kupwara
3	1. Principal, Government Degree College, Anantnag 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Pulwama 3. One Subject Expert	Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian & Kulgam
4	1. Principal, GCET, Sufapora 2. Principal, Government Degree College, Kulgam 3. Two Subject Experts (HOD) from GCET, Sufapora	Engineering Colleges only

The senior most Principal among the nominated members of each cluster of districts shall serve as the Chairman for the respective Inspection Committee and shall be coordinating and supervising all inspection related activities within that cluster. The subject experts shall be nominated as under:

- In case of Engineering Colleges, by the Principal GCET, Jammu/Sufapora, Srinagar.
- In case of B.Ed. Colleges, by the Principal, Government College of Education, Jammu/Srinagar.
- In case of other Colleges, by the Chairman of the Committee

Terms of Reference:

The Divisional-Level Inspection Committees shall:

- Evaluate institutional compliance with regard to academic, infrastructural, teaching faculty and student enrollment norms as prescribed by the affiliating Universities and relevant regulatory/statutory bodies viz. University Grants Commission(UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).
- Assess mandatorily/ statutory compliances with respect to building safety certification, fire safety certification, sanitation and hygiene facilities, library infrastructure (print/digital resources) laboratory functionality (including equipment adequacy and usage), hostel and transport facilities (if available) and other operational standards.
- Furnish a comprehensive report strictly in accordance with Annexure-III of Circular No. 01-HE(JK) of 2026 dated 07.07.2026 including photographic and supporting evidence, with clear and specific recommendations to the Competent Authority regarding continuation/renewal of permission within one month of conducting inspection. In case of any adverse findings or serious deficiencies, the same shall be reported for appropriate action.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

No: HED-PC/17/2025-04 (7658447)
Dated: 18.09.2026

DIPK-5887-26
DT: 18/09/2026

Sd/
(Ram Niwas Sharma) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION SOPORE KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Fax No: - 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/ 15 of 2026-27

Dated: 17/09/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules of SBD forming part of this document. The detail of works is as under

1	Name of the Work	Replacement of old outdated 33kV C&R Panels for various Divisions of KPDC under UT Capex (within the jurisdiction of STD Sopore)
2	Estimated Cost(in Lakhs)	37.76
3	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non- refundable)	₹ 1003/-
4	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	₹ 75,520/-

CRITICAL DATES

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 17th September, 2026; 04:00 PM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	19th September, 2026; 10:00 AM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)/ Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date	9th October, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	10th October, 2026; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of Technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

All other details viz. Eligibility Criteria, Terms & Conditions, Schedules are mentioned in the SBD forming the part of the document.

No: STDS/TS/986-89
Dated: 17/09/2026

DIPK-NB-1672-26
DT: 18/09/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer, KPDC
Sub Transmission Division Sopore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION ZAINPORA

e-mail:-randb-zainpora@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS TWO COVER SYSTEM (ABOVE RS. 2.50 CRORES)

Dated: 18-09-2026

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In double cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head Of Account	Advertised cost (in Lacs) (Inclusive of GST)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	Technical sanction No. & Date
1	Construction of Boundary wall at GDC Zainapora.	4202 Higher Education	359.14	718280/-	AAY	06 Months	5500/-	CE(R&B)SK/TS/ 94 of2026-27 Dt: 17-09-2026

Position of funds: - Committed
Principal Sagib Mohi-ud-Din Memorial Govt. Degree College Zainapora (Shopian). AAA No. Date: 1563-AA of2026 Dated: - 03-09-2026

The Payment shall be made strictly as per the release of funds by the Competent authority.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-09-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-09-2026,06:00 P.M to 12-10-2026, 06:00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	21-09-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	22-09-2026 From 06.00 P.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	12-10-2026 up to 06:00 P.M
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	13-10-2026 at 01.00 P.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian.
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied by a Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099 as the cost of the tender document. Note: - The Date of Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee and EMD must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- Participation in the tender shall be subject to the bidder depositing the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee exclusively through the online payment gateway linked to the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099, established for e-tendering purposes. This requirement is in pursuance of the instructions contained in Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and endorsed by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir, vide Endorsement No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026, as amended from time to time. Accordingly, submission of EMD in the form of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR), Term Deposit Receipt (TDR), Call Deposit Receipt (CDR), Bank Guarantee (BG), or any other offline/physical instrument shall not be accepted and such bids shall be treated as non-responsive. The bidder shall ensure that the requisite EMD and Tender Fee are successfully remitted through the prescribed online mode on or before the bid submission deadline. Any bid not accompanied by proof of successful online payment of the prescribed EMD and Tender Fee within the stipulated time shall be liable to rejection at the technical evaluation stage without any further notice.
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @5% of allotted cost in cash to the designated authority/Account which shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) beyond 45 days.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
- Any typographical error if found in the BOQ/BOQs/NIT/SBD will be rectified as per original estimate/DPR/SSR/GCC whichever is appropriate and will be paid accordingly.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) as well as this NIT.

No: R&B/ZNP/DIV/NIT/3837-46
Dt: 18-09-2026
DIPK-5874-26
DT: 18/09/2026

Sd/-
CC DM AAO TO

Sd/-
(Er. Shabir Ahmad Tak)
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Zainpore



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For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BGI-O-JK-004/18-12-2025
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