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Srinagar | Sunday | 20-09-2026

2

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department

Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Draft Jammu and Kashmir Funds Organization (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules - 2026.

Whereas, vide SRO-520 dated 06.10.1980, the J&K Subordinate Accounts (Unfunded Debt) Service Recruitment Rules, 1980 were notified by the Finance Department; and

Whereas, various changes have taken place thereafter from time to time on account of creation/upgradation/re-designation and apportionment of posts between the UT of J&K and the UT of Ladakh; and

Whereas, these changes necessitated the revision/updation J&K Subordinate Accounts (Unfunded Debt) Service Recruitment Rules, afresh; and

Whereas, on the instructions of the Standing Committee constituted vide Government Order No. 1359-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 15.11.2022, for the purpose, it has been advised vide Circular No. 03-ARI & Trgs of 2023 dated 22.09.2023, to circulate the Draft Recruitment Rules for inviting objections from all the stakeholders.

Now, therefore, before placing the draft Jammu and Kashmir Funds Organization (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules-2026 before the Standing Committee for its consideration/approval, the draft notification of Jammu and Kashmir Funds Organization (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules" along with Schedule "I" and "II" are hereby notified for inviting objections, if any, from all the stakeholders viz. members of the Service. The objection(s), if any, should reach to the office of the Additional Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Civil Secretariat Srinagar or emailed at (asfinancejk321@gmail.com) within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this notification. After expiry of stipulated period, no objection in this regard shall be entertained.

Sd/-(Shailendra Kumar) IAS
Financial Commissioner (ACS)
Finance Department.

No. FD-Cord/67/2021-03
DIPK-5919/26
Dated: 19.09.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rifat Jan W/o Hilal Ahmad Najar, R/o Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby inform the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7811-8979-0566 as "Rafiqa", instead of my correct name "Rifat Jan." My correct and actual name, as reflected in my Domicile Certificate, is "Rifat Jan." I have applied for correction of my name in the Aadhaar record from "Rafiqa" to "Rifat Jan." Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself.

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, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

ZK

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mujeeba Nazir, W/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Urdu Shoor, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby notify that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded in the school records of Hamdania Public School, Kunzer as "Saaliha Nazir" instead of her correct name "AEROONA NAZIR", as per her Aadhaar Card and other official records. I have applied to the concerned school authorities for correction of her name in all school records. If any person has any objection to the proposed correction, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice; failing which, the correction shall be processed accordingly.

Deponent
Mujeeba Nazir

ZK

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir
Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K] ,
Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers,
Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security
System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges,
Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Dilshada Bano W/O: Mohammad Maqbool Bhat R/O: Shagi Mohalla, Soura want to rectify my name(as a customer) in J & K Bank Branch Soura which was erroneously written as Dilshada Begum instead of Dilshada Bano. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned Bank Manager within 05 days.
No objection will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 665503360025 the name is entered as IQBAL AHMAD SHAH while my actual name is MOHD IQBAL SHAH. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHD IQBAL SHAH
S/O MOHD SULTAN SHAH
R/o KOUL PORA GUGLOOSA TREHGAM

MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my 10 marks card bearing roll no: 319218, Session Regular 2011 as Mohd Ovase Mir while my correct name is Mohammad Ovase Mir . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the JKBOSE New Campus Bemina within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Ovase Mir
S/o Gulam Nabi Mir
R/O WARIPORA BALA KREEERI
BARAMULLA

FKO-R

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 665503360025 the name is entered as IQBAL AHMAD SHAH while my actual name is MOHD IQBAL SHAH. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHD IQBAL SHAH
S/O MOHD SULTAN SHAH
R/o KOUL PORA GUGLOOSA TREHGAM

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SYED AFSHANA QADRI to (New name) SYED AFSHAN QADRI. In future i will be known as (new Name) SYED AFSHAN QADRI.

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

mcb-R

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 308474 Session: Bi-Annual Year 2002 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my name as Sonta Bano instead of Sonia Bano Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KO within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Sonia Bano
Father's name: Mohammad Abbas Malik
Mother's Name:
DOB: 03-12-1980
Residence: Khayar Bandipora
Mobile no: 7006630802



fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that the name of my SON as mentioned in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No 7882 0369 2093 has been incorrectly recorded as MUSKAAN AHMAD BHAT while as his actual name is USMAN AHMAD BHAT. Now I want to apply for the correction of same in his Aadhar from old name MUSKAAN AHMAD BHAT to new name USMAN AHMAD BHAT. In future he will be known as USMAN AHMAD BHAT. Any person who has any objections or concerns regarding these changes is requested to raise them within 07 days from the date of this notice.

Name -Abdul Majeed Bhat F/O - Usman Ahmad Bhat
R/O- Bunagund Tangmarg Baramulla J&K 193402

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my School leaving certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Govt Middle School Magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Yousf Malla S/O Gh Hussain Malla R/O Magam I have lost my School leaving certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Govt Middle School Magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Yousf Malla S/O Gh Hussain Malla R/O Magam

Fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SYED AFSHANA QADRI to (New name) SYED AFSHAN QADRI. In future i will be known as (new Name) SYED AFSHAN QADRI.

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

MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Audil Ahmad Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/O Nunar, Khansahib, Budgam, J&K, have corrected my name from Adil Ahmad Dar to Audil Ahmad Dar in my Aadhaar Card No. 242037441265

If anyone has any objection, please report/submit objections to the appropriate authority within 7 days.

MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as in my birth certificate as IBRAHIM MUSHTAQ S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD while my correct name is IBRAHIM MUSHTAQ PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Municipal council baramulla /GMC baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

IBRAHIM MUSHTAQ PARRAY
S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY
R/O ...KAREWA KREEERI

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLYING FOR "ONE AND THE SAME PERSON CERTIFICATE" I, MENAKSHE PANDITA, D/o Sh. Mohan Lal Pandita, resident of Shadipora, Kupwara – 193222, and presently residing at H. No. 84, Govind Nagar, Bank Colony, Sector-1, Gole Gujral Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu – 180002, do hereby notify the general public that my correct and legal name is MENAKSHE PANDITA.

Due to an inadvertent spelling error, my name has been mentioned as MEENAKSHI PANDITA in certain records/ documents, including Appointment Order No. 588 DSEK of 2009 dated 25-06-2009.

It is hereby declared that "MEENAKSHI PANDITA" and "MENAKSHE PANDITA" refer to one and the same person, namely myself. There is only a spelling correction in my first name, while my surname, parentage, addresses and academic qualification documents pertain to me and remain unchanged. This notice is being issued for information of the general public and to avoid any confusion or discrepancy in future.

I am applying for "One and the Same Person Certificate" in the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Jammu/ Zone-A Office Jagti Colony. If any person has any objection regarding this, they may submit their objection before the concerned office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aisha D/o Rizwan Ahmad Bhat, R/o Yaru Gund, Beerwah, Budgam, hereby declare that my father's name has been incorrectly recorded as "Rizwan Ahmad Bhat" in my Date of Birth (DOB) record.

The correct name of my father is "Rizwan Mohi-Ud-Din". I further declare that Rizwan Ahmad Bhat and Rizwan Mohi-Ud-Din refer to one and the same person.

This notice is issued for information of all concerned and for correction of the aforesaid discrepancy in my DOB record. Objections, if any, may be filed before the Municipal Committee, Magam, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Aisha D/o Rizwan Mohi-Ud-Din
R/o Yaru Gund, Beerwah, Budgam

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the electricity connection pertaining to:
Consumer ID: 020402007370
Installation No: 105384

Address: Dhoobi Ghat, Hazratbal, Srinagar (Kashmir) presently recorded in the name of Abdul Salam Gujree, is required to be transferred / changed in favour of Ms. Jawahira, as per her Aadhaar Card and other valid identity documents.

Any person having any objection to the proposed transfer / name change may submit the same in writing before the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Power Development Department, PDD Sub-Division concerned, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the department shall carry out the necessary change in the electricity records in favour of Ms. Jawahira.

INF Sd/-
Ms. Jawahira

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muddasir Adam Sharief S/o Mohammad Sharief Rather, R/o Kapren, Tehsil & District Shopian, J&K, hereby inform the general public that my name and my father's name have been incorrectly recorded in my Driving Licence bearing No. JK-2220160010798 as "Mudasir Adam Sharief S/o Mohd Sharief Rather".

My correct name and my father's correct name are "Muddasir Adam Sharief S/o Mohammad Sharief Rather", as reflected in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6431-0661-5255.

I have applied before for correction of my name and my father's name in the said Driving Licence. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the ARTO Shopian within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

Cashmeer Blooms Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)
Address: Opposite BDO Office, Charari Sharief, Budgam, PIN: 191112
Contact Details: 7006258575 | Email Id: Shahnazhussain06@gmail.com

ENGAGEMENT OF CEO/MANAGER AND ACCOUNTANT FOR FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATION (FPO)
Date for Walk in Interview
22-September-2026

POSITION DETAILS:-			
S. No.	Position	No. of Positions	Monthly Emoluments
01	CEO/Manager	01	₹15,000 – ₹20,000 (Negotiable)
02	Accountant	01	₹10,000 (Consolidated)

2. ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

CEO/Manager	Accountant
Candidates should possess any one of the following qualifications: Graduate/Postgraduate in Agriculture, Allied Agriculture, Agri-Marketing, Agri-Business Management (ABM), Horticulture Business Management (HBM), BBA, MBA, or any other suitable / equivalent qualification.	Candidates should possess any one of the following qualifications: 10+2 with Mathematics.
OR	
Local candidate possessing 10+2 with Diploma in Agriculture, Agri-Marketing, Agri-Business, or any other suitable/ equivalent diploma.	10+2 with Commerce/Accountancy background.

Interested candidates may apply with their updated the contact details before the last date.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nisar Ahmad Mouchi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mouchi, R/o Vehil Chattawatan, District Shopian, J&K, hereby inform the general public that my name and date of birth have been incorrectly recorded in my PAN Card as "Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/o Fatch Sheikh" and 09-07-1996, respectively.

My correct name is "Nisar Ahmad Mouchi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mouchi" and my correct date of birth is 09-07-1998, as reflected in my Aadhaar Card. The names "Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/o Fatch Sheikh" and "Nisar Ahmad Mouchi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mouchi" refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself.

I have applied for correction/update of my name and date of birth in my PAN Card and other concerned official records. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tahira Begum W/o Ghulam Nabi Dar, R/o Tantray, Pathallan, Pattan, Baramulla, J&K – 19121, hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been inadvertently recorded in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8223-8796-1994 as "Alman Nabi", which is incorrect.

Her correct and actual name is "Ayman Nabi".

I have applied for correction of the said name in the Aadhaar records. 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.

fko

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

(SUB OFFICE KUPWARA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10TH) under Roll No. 129002033 session :-Oct-Nov Year: 2025 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by School against my Fathers Name And Mothers Name as LATE JAHANGIR AHMAD & SHAHEENA BEGUM instead of JAHANGIR KHAN & SHAINA BEGUM

Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:-

Name:- ANJUM JAHANGIR
Father's Name:- JAHANGIR KHAN
Mother's Name:- SHAINA BEGUM
Date of Birth: 21-12-2007
Residence: TANGDAR KUPWARA
Mobile No.- 9541621092

fko



Agencies

Observer News Service

Agencies

Observer News Service

Fax No: - 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/ 16 of 2026-27

Dated: 19/09/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JKPCL), 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&KPPD/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	Renovation and Maintenance of various Receiving Stations of KPDCL under UT Capex (within the jurisdiction of STD Sopore)
2.	Estimated Cost(in Lakhs)	50.00
3.	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non-refundable)	₹ 2001/-
4.	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	₹ 1,00,000/-

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 19th 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)	21 st 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	12 th October, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	14 th 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/995-98

Dated: 19/09/2026

DIPK-NB-1686/26
DATED: 19-09-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Health & Medical Education Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K.

Subject: Compassionate Appointment of Mr. Mandeep Kanth S/o Late Chuni Lal Kanth, Ex-Nursing Orderly R/o Block 115 flat 02 lane 20 Jagti colony, Nagrota, Jammu, J&K, as MTS in the Health & Medical Education Department earmarked vacancies under RAS-2022.

NOTICE

The below mentioned candidate, who has applied for appointment as Multitasking Staff (MTS) in Health & Medical Education Department under Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 read with S.O. 429 dated 6th September, 2022 read with S.O. 397 dated 16th of August, 2024, is hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit his **e-mail IDs and Mobile Numbers** before the Nominated Nodal Officer, Special Secretary to the Government (A) Health & Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar in person within a period of 21 days, positively from the date of issuance of this notice for filling up of e-verification rolls for obtaining Prior Character and Antecedents from the Criminal Investigation Department.

If the candidate fails to submit his Personal Verification Roll (PVR) within a period of 21 days, in terms of Government Order No. 1003-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 27.09.2021 read with Circular No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 issued by General Administration Department, shall forfeit his right to appointment under RAS-2022 forthwith without any further notice.

DIPK-5907/26
DATED: 19-09-2026

Under Secretary to the Government
Health & Medical Education Department

No. HD-NG-J/11/2025 (7610840)

ANNEXURE

S. N. O.	Form No.	Date of Application	Name	Father's Name	Address	DOB	Disability	Category	Remarks
01	31249	11.11.2024	Mr. Mandeep Kanth	Late Chuni Lal Kanth	R/o Block 115 flat 02 lane 20 Jagti colony, Nagrota, Jammu, J&K	11.07.1999	-NA-	OM	Fill up personal details within the period of 21 days.

Give Kashmir a Fair Chance

In this open letter to Rahul Gandhi, the author argues that Kashmiri students and job aspirants must be included in India's wider debate over examination integrity, recruitment and institutional accountability.



Nasir Khuehami

I am writing as a young Kashmiri who has spent nearly twelve years listening to, standing with and speaking for Kashmiri students.

I have met young people preparing for examinations, searching for jobs and trying to build independent lives. Their circumstances differ from those of students elsewhere in India, but their basic concerns sound strikingly similar.

They want a fair chance, a credible system and the confidence that their effort will receive fair treatment.

That common aspiration is why Kashmir belongs in the national debate over examination integrity and recruitment.

I remember meeting you in Srinagar in August 2024 during your visit to Kashmir. I also remember our interaction after the Pahalgam attack in 2025, when the safety of Kashmiri students studying across India came sharply into focus.

On both occasions, I saw a thoughtfulness toward people whose lives have been influenced by circumstances they did not choose. You listened to our concerns and spoke about them alongside the concerns of young Indians elsewhere.

Those encounters remained with me because listening has a particular value in Kashmir.

Young people here have spent years hearing their lives discussed through politics, security and conflict. Their education, employment and aspirations often receive far less attention.

I have watched your meetings with students, workers, young people and communities around India. You have spoken frequently about paper leaks, recruitment fraud, institutional accountability and the erosion of public trust. Those concerns also have a Kashmiri address.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector recruitment controversy remains one of the most painful examples. The Finance Accounts Assistant examination, Fire and Emergency Services recruitment, Junior Engineer recruitment, Lecturer recruitment in the School Education Department and Civil Judge recruitment have also

faced controversies.

Several other examinations have left aspirants questioning the credibility of the processes on which their futures depend.

For a young person in Kashmir, a government job can represent far more than a designation. Limited private-sector opportunities have made public employment an important route toward financial independence and family support.

Behind an examination form lies a household that has spent years investing money, time and hope in one person's preparation.

An examination controversy therefore reaches far beyond an examination hall.

A cancelled or compromised examination can cost an aspirant another year. Preparation begins again, family plans wait, and another attempt becomes necessary.

The uncertainty extends into the next recruitment cycle, where the aspirant once again has to trust a process that has already disappointed them.

I have seen how repeated institutional failures can alter the way young people look at merit itself. A student who spends years preparing wants to believe that effort has a place in public life. When recruitment processes repeatedly enter controversy, that belief becomes harder to sustain.

Kashmir therefore cannot remain a footnote in India's wider debate about examination integrity.

The issue has a national dimension because the young people affected in Jammu and Kashmir are asking questions familiar to students elsewhere.

They want examinations conducted credibly, recruitment processes that withstand scrutiny, and institutions capable of protecting the work they put into preparing for a competitive examination.

Their concerns do not become uniquely Kashmiri simply because they emerge from Kashmir.

I have also spent years travelling and meeting young people elsewhere in India. Their anxieties come with different circumstances, but I have heard the same desire for opportunity and a fair chance.

That common ground provides a stronger basis for bringing Kashmir into the national discussion.

The young Kashmiri preparing for a government examination and the student elsewhere in India worrying about a paper leak are confronting different circumstances within a shared institutional system.

The constitutional changes of August 2019 were presented as the beginning of a new chapter centred on development, opportunity, transparency and accountable governance. People can hold sharply dif-

ferent political views about those changes, but the functioning of institutions is a separate question.

A young person who spends years preparing for an examination needs a recruitment system that commands confidence.

That expectation belongs to the basic idea of equal citizenship.

I remember what you told us during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, about feeling the pain of Kashmir, sharing its suffering and wanting to build a lifelong relationship with its people.

Those words create an expectation that Kashmir will remain part of your engagement with young Indians.

You have been asking questions about examination integrity and institutional accountability. Kashmir has its own record of recruitment controversies that belongs within that discussion.

Thousands of young people here have experienced the consequences in personal terms. Their stories sit behind the numbers.

I do not expect a political leader to solve every institutional failure, but I do expect Kashmiri students to remain visible when national debates about India's youth take place.

That visibility has significance beyond recruitment.

When young Kashmiris hear their concerns discussed alongside those of students elsewhere, they see themselves within a national conversation. But when their experiences disappear from that debate, a distance grows between the country's political language and their daily lives.

I write because I remember our meeting in Srinagar. I remember the attention you gave us, and I remember the words about staying connected with Kashmir.

I would like that connection to include the students preparing for examinations, the aspirants waiting for recruitment and the families watching another year pass while a disputed process is examined.

Kashmiri students are citizens of India. Their aspirations do not need a special category to enter a national discussion about fairness in education and employment. Their concerns belong there on their own terms.

Kashmir has spent decades being spoken about. Its young people also want to be heard as young Indians with examinations to prepare for, jobs to seek and families to support.

That is where this discussion needs to begin.

The author is a doctoral scholar and the National Convenor of the Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), and can be reached at khuehamiyaan@gmail.com.



Wahid Gull

India's latest UPI framework creates an unusual economic experiment.

The Finance Ministry says person-to-person payments remain free, as do merchant payments up to 2,000, while a 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate, or MDR, applies to specified merchant transactions above that threshold.

The charge belongs to the merchant-payment system, with the government saying customers themselves will not pay it.

The policy question is familiar: who pays, how much and for what kind of transaction?

The deeper question is harder and more interesting: what price makes a person change the way they spend money?

That question lies at the centre of an economic idea called Marginal Monetary Sacrifice.

The concept asks how much additional money a person is willing to give up to complete a transaction.

A buyer purchasing something for 2,500, for example, may accept an additional cost and complete the purchase. Someone else may change the payment method, postpone the purchase or abandon it.

The size of the cost tells only part of the story. The decision around that cost tells us something about the value the buyer places on the transaction.

That difference could become useful in studying digital payments.

UPI has made payment almost invisible in daily life. A phone screen replaces cash changing hands. A tap can settle a purchase before the buyer has fully registered the movement of money. A small transaction cost could make that movement visible again.

Researchers could call the accepted additional cost a Marginal Monetary Sacrifice, or MMS. They could then compare that sacrifice with the value of the transaction through a proposed Marginal Monetary Sacrifice Index.

Such a measure would have to account for income, merchant category, payment frequency and other factors before researchers could draw firm conclusions.

The 2,000 threshold creates a particularly interesting boundary.

Researchers could examine whether spending behaviour changes around it. Do buyers split purchases? Do they use another payment method? Do they postpone a purchase? Do merchants alter transaction values? Or do people accept the additional cost because the purchase remains worth making?

Those choices can tell economists something that transaction totals alone cannot.

The distinction becomes especially important when thinking about money demand.

A person who postpones a 2,500 purchase because of a payment cost has retained that money

“The government says the new framework leaves about 96% of merchant transactions unaffected, with MDR applying to specified transactions above 2,000. The policy therefore creates a relatively narrow boundary around which behavioural changes can be observed.

for the moment. That does not automatically mean the person has increased money demand. The money could remain in a bank account, become cash, move into an investment or fund another purchase later.

MMS therefore belongs first to behavioural economics. Its connection with monetary economics comes through the choices people make between spending and retaining their monetary resources.

A possible empirical model could place MMS alongside income, interest rates, inflation, credit conditions, digital-payment use and payment-method substitution when examining real money demand.

The coefficient attached to MMS would have to emerge from evidence rather than assumption.

That is where UPI becomes useful as a research setting.

A large digital payment system produces detailed behavioural records. With appropriately anonymised data and careful controls, researchers could compare payment behaviour before and after a change in transaction costs.

The government says the new framework leaves about 96% of merchant transactions unaffected, with MDR applying to specified transactions above 2,000. The policy therefore creates a relatively narrow boundary around which behavioural changes can be observed.

For economists, that boundary may prove more revealing than the fee itself.

The larger question reaches beyond UPI. Money has a price even when a transaction appears free. That price can take the form of time, convenience, payment friction or an explicit charge. MMS proposes a way to observe the point at which those costs begin to alter behaviour.

The idea remains a proposal, rather than an established economic measure. Its real test will come through data, repeated observation and comparison with existing monetary indicators.

A payment screen may show only a rupee figure. The decision behind that figure can tell us something far larger about when people choose to spend, when they choose to wait and how much they value keeping their money in hand.

The author is an independent researcher exploring monetary economics, digital payments and consumer behaviour, and can be reached at wahid.econo@gmail.com.

The Otter Will Audit Kashmir Rivers

Sightings in Gurez and the Lidder Valley show the Vuder survives, and its return to the rest of the valley's waters would grade restoration more honestly than any ribbon-cutting.



Mauzam Bakshi

Recent sightings in Gurez and the Lidder Valley suggest that the Vuder, the Kashmiri otter, still survives in some of the valley's waters.

The animal never asked for a perfect Kashmir. It lives on fish, healthy riverbanks, shelter and undisturbed habitat, and it moves along waterways that connect, so its presence gives away a great deal.

Wherever it lives, those conditions still exist, which makes each sighting a statement about the water as much as about the species.

Gurez and the Lidder Valley look like fragments of the valley's original freshwater world, and the Vuder is the evidence that they still function.

The rest of the valley reads differently. Wetlands shrank, natural channels were altered or disconnected, riverbanks lost their vegetation, pollution entered the water and fish habitats degraded.

The Vuder lost its world through hundreds of small changes, none dramatic enough to alarm anyone, until an animal once familiar became a memory and then the

memory began to fade.

Children who grow up without seeing what their parents saw take what remains for normal, so a decline that nobody remembers is a decline that nobody notices.

We measure rivers in numbers: water levels, discharge, pollution levels, embankment lengths and money spent on restoration.

These figures describe a channel, and a channel can look excellent on paper while the river inside it empties of life.

A river moves water, and it also holds fish, insects, birds that feed along it, plants that grow beside it and wetlands that draw on it.

It can go on moving water while it dies.

Channelised, strengthened and landscaped, it can look beautiful and remain biologically impoverished beneath the surface.

Modern environmental work runs a danger of its own: we grow more skilled at restoring the appearance of nature than nature itself, and the appearance is easy to admire.

A beautified riverfront, a project inauguration and a wetland that looks lovely all satisfy an audience.

The Vuder ignores every one of them.

It responds to ecological reality, and a healthy river shows in what lives there, because nature holds the final say.

The Vuder would never be the restoration itself. It would be the witness, an observer whose testimony rests on fish, banks and shelter rather than on budgets.

What would satisfy the animal is easy to describe.

Wetlands would be treated as living organs of the valley instead of wasteland. Streams would remain

“An elderly Kashmiri who remembers the animal from childhood may smile, and a child may ask what it is. Someone will answer, “That is a Vuder. It used to live here,” and this time the sentence can end differently: “Now it has come back.”

streams instead of drains. Floodplains would keep their ecological function, native vegetation would grow along the banks and waterways would connect well enough for life to move through them.

Rivers can become cleaner, fish can return and ecological connections can be restored, and when enough of these pieces work together, wildlife follows.

Restoration in that sense means creating the conditions in which nature returns by itself, a humbler ambition than bringing it back and a harder one to fake.

The Vuder remains unaware of all this.

It will move through the landscape as it always did, returning for the water alone. Vuders may one day emerge from the reeds along a riverbank without ceremony, announcement or ribbon-cutting.

An elderly Kashmiri who remembers the animal from childhood may smile, and a child may ask what it is. Someone will answer, “That is a Vuder. It used to live here,” and this time the sentence can end differently: “Now it has come back.”

That sighting would tell Kashmir that the freshwater web of life, weakened over decades, has begun to reconnect: fish are returning, wetlands are functioning and riverbanks have become habitat again.

It would also answer a question the numbers cannot, whether what we damaged can be healed.

Protecting the refuges in Gurez and the Lidder Valley and restoring waters beyond them gives the animal somewhere to go.

Beyond those refuges, its absence is a verdict already delivered by the only inspector that cannot be flattered.

Kashmir can clean its rivers, and only the Vuder can confirm whether it has brought them back to life.

The author is a businessman by profession but a nature lover and environmentalist by heart. He can be reached at mauzambakshi@gmail.com.

The Legendary Teachers of Old Srinagar

From Utooun Jee's free Quranic centre to professors who stood up for students, these are the teachers whose lessons survived long after school ended.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

When Teachers' Day comes on 5 September, I count my teachers, and the count begins with two people who charged nothing.

The first was my mother, who laid the foundation of my education at home. The second was an elderly neighbourhood woman known as utooun jee, who ran a free Quranic centre.

Such centres once flourished throughout Srinagar under the name Tchat hall, staffed by local Syeds, Pir families and learned respectables who taught small children without a fee, while wealthy households hired an Oukhoon for private lessons.

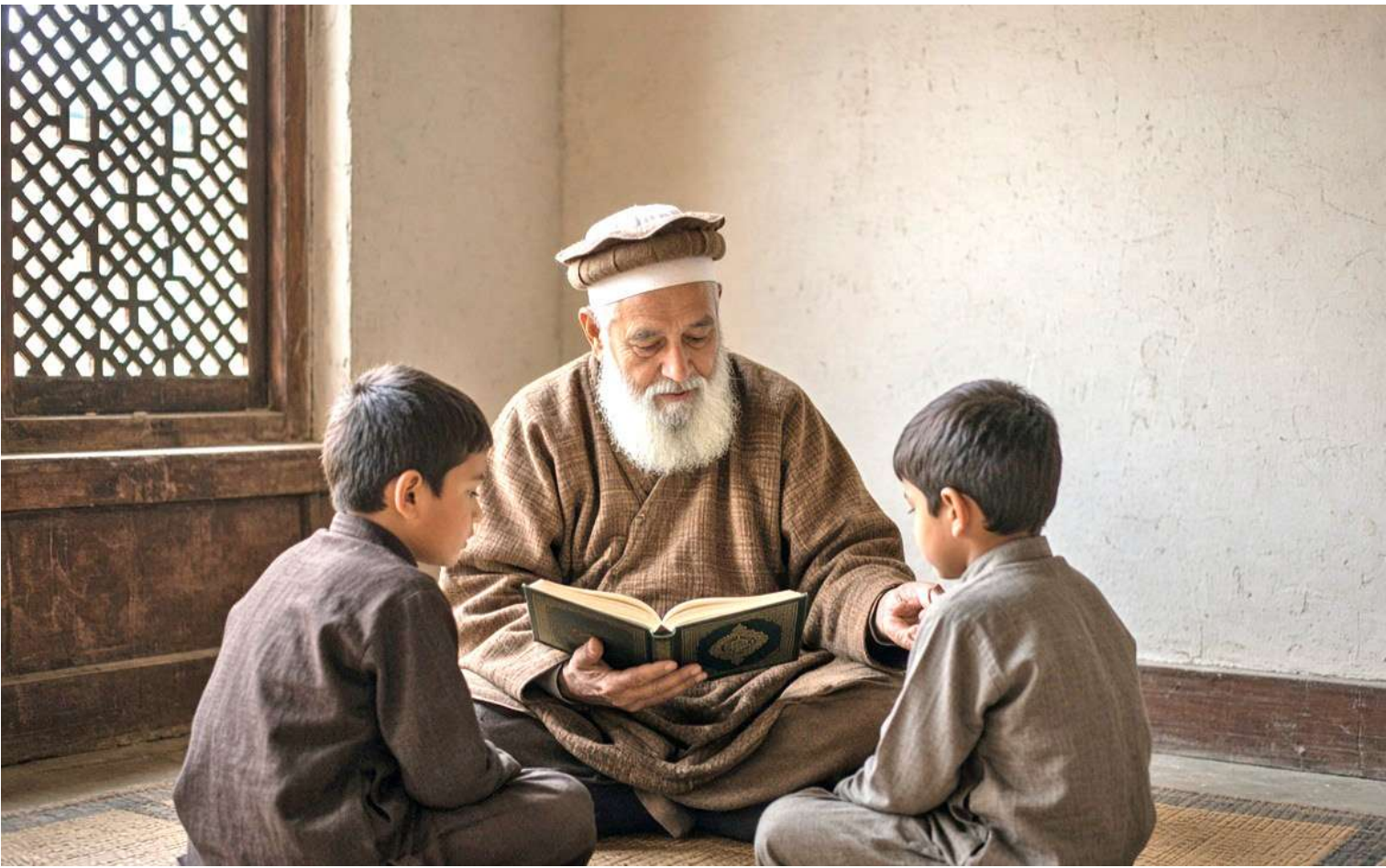
The city had both paid teachers and teachers who gave their time freely. My education began with the latter.

I have come to feel that those early lessons influenced much of what followed. A teacher who asks for no money often gives something greater than a lesson. He sees the child as a whole, with all his fears, faults and possibilities.

That old tradition has faded from Srinagar, though its spirit of giving still survives in some places. I was fortunate to encounter it again in my own home.

Molvi Mohammad Yousuf Kamali of Gojwara, a man in his late seventies, taught me the Quran there with great dedication, and after his death his nephew, Molvi Ghulam Mohammad Kamili, took over and guided me through the revision known as Galtana.

A pupil passed from uncle to nephew like an unfinished duty.



A school can be measured by its lessons, marks and results. The older Srinagar tradition left its mark in other places: in a teacher's limp, in a bag of soaked walnuts brought home after Shivratri, and in a former student who can still remember the names of his teachers decades later.

Guardianship has a harder edge, and my schooling supplies it. Molvi Noor Din, my theology teacher at Islamia High School, punished me for a missed prayer so severely that I fainted, and the incident led to my transfer.

The principal, Mufti Ghulam U Din, a gentle and educated man, apologised for the episode.

A home tutor from my primary years was merciless, and I fended him off with the help of my dog, Tiger.

Most of my teachers were kind and these cases were few, but the apology interests me more than the blows, since a principal who apologises to a child has decided the child is owed something. Some of the best instruction

came from men with other jobs.

Bushan Lal and N.N. Kaul worked in government service and taught privately, and between them they carried me through science, mathematics and English.

Kaul lived in Rainwari and was a master of palmistry, and he taught me English so well that it became one of my strongest subjects. His family invited me to their home on Shivratri and always sent me back with soaked walnuts.

A tutorial in that house grew into hospitality, and a boy who had learned the Quran in his own home was welcomed into another family's festival.

College enlarged the same instinct. At SP College, Prof. T.N. Bhan and Prof. G.N. Firaq nurtured my debating, while the principal, Prof.

Saif-ud-Din, protected students as though they were his sons and arranged a special squad to watch the nearby restaurants and coffee houses so that nobody strayed or missed class.

Prof. G.M. Mir, a chemistry teacher who resembled the actor Sheikh Mukhtar and was perhaps even taller, carried out "surgical strikes" on students bunking in those coffee shops, and anyone caught red-handed faced heavy penalties.

A squad watching coffee houses would be called surveillance today. We understood it as the attention of parents, who watch closely and sometimes strike, and the college practised both.

Prof. G.M. Zaz, my zoology teacher, shows where that attention can lead.

During a police crackdown, a brutal lathi charge came down on a student, the late M. Ayiub Kanth, and Prof. Zaz covered him with his own body.

His leg broke, and he limped for the rest of his life.

In those moments, when a baton could come down on a classroom full of young men, guardianship took on a different meaning. It meant standing beside a student when it counted.

At the postgraduate level the mentors were scientists. Prof. Dr. S.N. Das, world renowned and a likeness of our former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, was a mentor students could approach, and alongside Prof. Dr. D.N. Fotedar and Prof. Dr. M.Y. Qadri, who later became Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University, he guided us toward whatever we became.

A school can be measured by its lessons, marks and results. The older Srinagar tradition left its mark in other places: in a teacher's limp, in a bag of soaked walnuts brought home after Shivratri, and in a former student who can still remember the names of his teachers decades later.

— The author is a former civil servant from the administrative service. Contact: nisargilani57743@gmail.com.

Yaqza Takes Kashmiri Cinema Inward

Ali Emran's fourth feature moves Kashmiri cinema away from familiar storytelling and toward consciousness, memory, perception and spiritual awakening.



Syed Sammar Mehdi

Kashmiri cinema has often looked outward, toward landscapes, customs, conflict, folklore and social life. Ali Emran's Yaqza: The Awakening proposes a different direction.

Its gaze turns inward, toward the places where memory, perception, consciousness and spirituality meet.

That decision makes Yaqza unusual even before it reaches theatres in October. Described as the first experimental Kashmiri feature film, it places a difficult question at the centre of its design: can cinema represent the subconscious?

The question gives the film its intellectual force. It also sets a demanding task for Emran, who has written and directed the film.

A conventional story gives viewers characters, events and explanations to follow. Yaqza appears to ask for another kind of attention, one guided by images, sound, silence, movement, atmosphere and symbolism.

Its title, Yaqza, means awakening. The word gives the film its philosophical centre. Awakening here becomes a change in perception, a movement between consciousness and the subconscious, the visible and the invisible, the material and the spiritual.

That idea could easily become abstract on screen.

Emran's experiment rests on the

possibility that cinema can make such states perceptible without translating them into lengthy dialogue or conventional plot.

The film therefore places considerable faith in the visual and sonic language of cinema.

Its non-linear construction strengthens that intention. Fragmented visual expression takes precedence over familiar narrative progression.

The audience is invited to experience ideas through images and atmosphere rather than receive them through exposition. The result, at least as the film's stated conception suggests, is cinema that asks viewers to participate in creating meaning.

That can be a risky proposition in a theatrical setting.

Audiences generally enter a film expecting some form of narrative contract. They want to know where a story is going, who its characters are and what drives them. Yaqza appears to loosen that contract. Its reward depends on the viewer's willingness to stay with uncertainty and read images as part of an interior language.

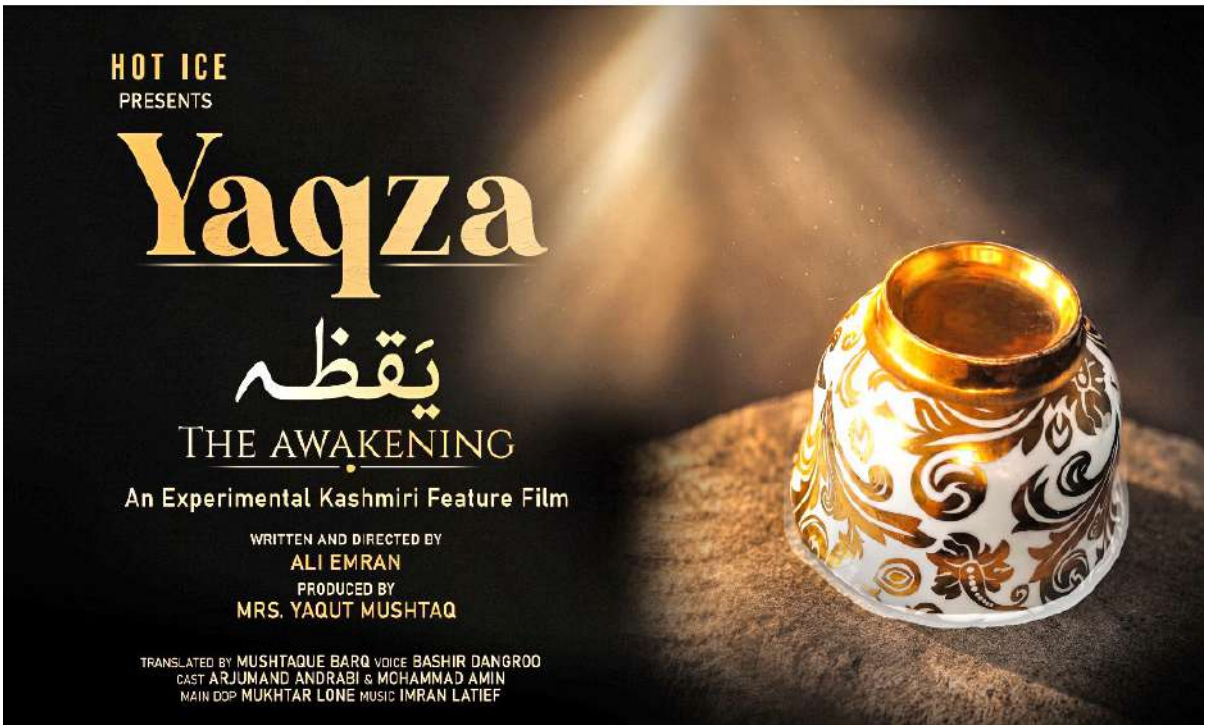
The experiment becomes particularly interesting because Emran is working in Kashmiri.

Kashmir gives the film more than scenery. Its philosophical and mystical inheritance becomes part of the film's vocabulary.

Questions of consciousness, existence, perception and spiritual awakening have a long presence in the region's intellectual traditions. Emran attempts to bring those concerns into contemporary cinema without reducing Kashmir to a picturesque backdrop.

That distinction gives Yaqza a larger cultural proposition.

A Kashmiri film can speak from its own philosophical inheritance while addressing questions that reach



beyond geography and language. The film's inward gaze therefore becomes a way of thinking about Kashmiri cinema itself.

Emran's previous work provides a useful route into this experiment. Ibtida: The Beginning, his first feature, engaged with questions surrounding art and existence. Qouluf: The Ensorcelled turned toward Kashmir's spiritual traditions and indigenous worldview. Baand explored the cultural legacy of Baand-e-Pather, Kashmir's traditional folk theatre.

Yaqza takes another step inward. Its movement runs from art and existence through cultural memory and spiritual heritage toward consciousness and awakening.

Seen together, the four films suggest a filmmaker repeatedly searching

for cinematic forms through which Kashmir's intellectual and artistic inheritance can speak.

The collaboration behind the film also has a long history.

Producer Yaqut Mushtaq has been associated with independent film, theatre and cultural initiatives in Kashmir for several years. She has served as chairperson of the Experimental Moving Images and Theatre Association, or XMITA, for more than a decade. She also helped initiate the International Film Festival of Kashmir in 2006 and served as its festival director.

Her association with Emran extends through Ibtida, Qouluf and Yaqza. That partnership has supported filmmaking positioned outside conventional commercial cinema,

with recurring attention to Kashmir's cultural, artistic and philosophical life.

The October theatrical release gives the experiment its real test.

A film conceived around consciousness cannot depend entirely on explanation. Its images, sounds, silences and fragments have to create an experience that viewers can enter on their own terms. The theatre becomes especially important here because the film's ideas will encounter people who bring their own memories, beliefs and perceptions into the darkened room.

That is where Yaqza becomes interesting beyond its label as an experimental film. It asks what Kashmiri cinema can do when it stops treating Kashmir solely as a place to be

A Kashmiri film can speak from its own philosophical inheritance while addressing questions that reach beyond geography and language. The film's inward gaze therefore becomes a way of thinking about Kashmiri cinema itself.

photographed and begins treating it as an interior landscape to be explored.

The gamble is considerable, so is the possibility.

Yaqza comes with a question rather than a promise of easy answers. Its success as an experiment will rest on whether cinema can turn that question into an experience the audience can feel, interpret and remember after the screen goes dark.

— The author is a trainee journalist at Kashmir Observer.

LPG Subsidy: Aadhaar Biometric Mandatory From Oct 1

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Domestic LPG consumers will have to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication to book refills at the regulated retail selling price with applicable subsidy from October 1, the government said on Saturday, as it seeks to ensure subsidised cooking gas reaches only eligible households.

Consumers who have already completed the authentication will not need to take any further action. As of September 19, 27.43 crore active domestic LPG consumers, or 89.9 per cent of the total, had completed biometric Aadhaar authentication, according to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry.

For those yet to complete the process, subsidised refill booking will be enabled once authentication is completed, the ministry said in a statement.

The government said the measure is aimed at preventing diversion of subsidised domestic cylinders for commercial and industrial use, as well as eliminating duplicate and ineligible connections.

Consumers can complete the authentication during LPG delivery, at their distributor's



showroom or through the mobile applications of the three state-owned oil marketing companies - IndianOil ONE for Indane, HelloBPCL for Bharatgas and HP PAY for HP Gas.

Those unwilling or unable to complete biometric authentication will still be able to receive LPG, but at the applicable market price without subsidy.

Such consumers will have to register their choice through the OMCs' digital channels, including websites, mobile apps, WhatsApp chatbots and IVRS. They can receive 5-kg or 10-kg cylinders, subject to local availability, it said.

The government had initially asked consumers to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication by June 30, but

subsequently extended the deadline several times to July 31, August 7, August 15, August 23, August 31, September 7 and finally September 14.

The nationwide authentication drive has been underway since October 2023, with oil marketing companies sending more than 12 crore SMS and WhatsApp messages and conducting outreach through distributors, delivery personnel, special camps, IVRS prompts and other channels.

The latest move comes against the backdrop of the government's substantial fiscal support for keeping domestic LPG affordable. The implicit subsidy for a 14.2-kg cylinder was around Rs 210 in September 2026, compared to Rs 721 in

June, according to the ministry.

The government paid public-sector oil marketing companies Rs 22,000 crore in compensation for domestic LPG under-recoveries in 2022-23 and is paying Rs 30,000 crore in each of 2025-26 and 2026-27, the ministry said.

Despite this support, accumulated under-recoveries on domestic LPG at state-owned OMCs exceeded Rs 62,000 crore as of August 31, 2026.

The authentication requirement effectively creates a distinction between subsidised LPG and market-priced LPG from October 1. For eligible households, completing BAA before booking the next refill will be important to avoid losing access to the regulated subsidised price.

For the government and OMCs, the stated objective is to make subsidy delivery more targeted and reduce leakage by ensuring each subsidised connection is linked to an Aadhaar-authenticated consumer.

The government has urged the remaining consumers to complete authentication before October 1 through the available online, distributor or delivery-based channels. The LPG services helpline is 1800 2333 555.

J&K Parking Rules 2026

ULBs Get 6 Months To Prepare Area-Specific Plans

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has placed Urban Local Bodies under a six-month deadline to prepare area-specific Parking Area Management Plans under the J&K Parking Rules, 2026, introducing a wider framework covering designated parking, digital fee collection, enforcement and technology-based monitoring across municipal areas. The rules were notified recently.

The rules require Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees to prepare parking plans in coordination with agencies controlling land parcels where public parking facilities are located, including institutions such as hospitals, universities, shopping centres and other major establishments.

Parking fees and violation charges are to be collected through cashless mechanisms. The framework also provides for enforcement measures including wheel-clamping for specified violations and envisages a Central Parking Management System linked to



digital services.

The rules seek to regulate both on-street and off-street parking. Among the listed violations are parking on footpaths and cycle tracks, occupying more than one parking space, parking against the direction of traffic and overstaying in designated parking areas.

The framework also provides for monitoring through Integrated Command and Control Centres, with the proposed system expected to track parking occupancy, payments, enforcement action and related operations.

The rules also make provision for private landowners to operate commercial parking facilities after obtaining the required licence from the concerned Urban Local Body. Such facilities are subject to specified conditions, including public amenities.

Another provision requires parking facilities to provide

charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, with the rules specifying a minimum of 10 per cent of equivalent car spaces for charging facilities.

The six-month planning deadline makes implementation the immediate issue. The notification establishes the framework, but the effectiveness of the policy will depend on whether municipal bodies can identify sufficient parking land, map existing demand, establish digital systems and enforce restrictions in densely built-up areas where road space is already limited.

For cities such as Jammu and Srinagar, the next measurable stage will therefore be the publication and implementation of their respective parking management plans, including the number and location of proposed spaces, fee structures, enforcement arrangements and timelines for new infrastructure. [KNT]

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Working

various government departments and organisations.

Referring to the recently concluded BRICS Summit, the Prime Minister said India's effort was to ensure that BRICS cooperation did not remain limited to governments.

"Our entrepreneurs, our farmers, our women, our youth - everyone should become an active partner in this partnership," he said.

He highlighted initiatives including BRICS CONNECT and the BRICS MSME Cooperation Portal aimed at bringing entrepreneurs, farmers, women and youth into such partnerships.

Modi also highlighted India's startup ecosystem, saying it had expanded beyond major cities.

"India is today the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. And India's startup story is no longer just the story of big cities. Today, nearly half of recognised startups are in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities," he said.

The Prime Minister also referred to the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Roggar Yojana, a 1 lakh crore initiative aimed at bringing two crore youth into the formal workforce for the first time.

He said the scheme provides incentives of up to 15,000 to first-time employees while also financially incentivising employers who create new jobs.

"The government is working on every front to increase employment in the country," Modi said.

He also highlighted the National Education Policy, Skill India Mission and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana as key skilling initiatives.

Modi said 1,000 government Industrial Training Institutes were being modernised under the PM-SETU scheme with an investment of 60,000 crore and participation from industry.

"Our endeavour is that the education and skills of the youth keep pace with the needs of the changing economy," he said.

He said employment opportunities increase when the economy grows, investments rise and new industries expand.

The Prime Minister cited a 7.8 per cent economic growth rate and a nearly 12 per cent rise in investments during the first quarter, while also highlighting upgrades to India's sovereign credit ratings amid global uncertainties.

Modi said the country was moving towards the goal of building a developed India by 2047 and underlined the role of young people in achieving it.

He urged the newly recruited government employees to use their positions to address difficulties faced by young people while dealing with government departments.

"Your effort should be that the difficulties you have gone through, other youths should not have to go through them," he said.

Modi said 'Nagrik devo bhava' should remain the guiding spirit of public service.

As many as 45 job fairs were held across the country on Saturday under the Rozgar Mela initiative.

The newly recruited candidates will join various ministries and departments of the Central Government, including the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services and Ministry of Defence.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the 20th Rozgar Mela takes the total number of youngsters who have received appointment letters under the initiative to 12.75 lakh.

Time Has Come

and the pursuit of truth as interconnected.

Sinha also congratulated Dr Vaidehi Tamen for her book Abhinavagupt: The Voice of Eternal Shiva and Akriti Sharma for Raghunath Temple, Channi Parat: Hidden Heritage of Sunderbani.

He described the two books as important contributions towards connecting Jammu and

Kashmir's heritage with India's wider civilisational consciousness.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Raghunath Temple at Channi Parat, which was begun under Maharaja Gulab Singh and completed under Maharaja Ranbir Singh, represents the region's tangible heritage.

"I want the new generation to remember that our ancestors built this nation with their wisdom, with their questions, with their experiences, and with their continuous search for truth," Sinha said.

He stressed the need to preserve such knowledge and pass it on to future generations.

The LG urged universities, schools and cultural institutions to introduce young people to thinkers such as Abhinavagupt and encourage research into their works.

He also called for greater private and institutional support for research and publishing related to Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage.

Sinha said the welfare scheme for artists and writers reflected society's gratitude towards those who preserve traditions through stories, songs and other forms of creative expression. The scheme was conceived in 2021-22 and formalised in August 2024.

He expressed hope that the two books would reach readers across the country and that the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages would continue contributing to the region's cultural life.

"We must place the historical facts in the right perspective with confidence. We must adopt the same curiosity and the same honest scholarship that characterized our ancestors," he said.

The event was attended by Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta, Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K Shakti Kumar Pathak, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Tejinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas, IGCA Regional Director Shruti Awasthi, JKAACL Secretary Harvinder Kour, literary personalities and other prominent citizens.

'Society Disconnected

sensitivity and sense of direction," he said.

The Mata Lalleshwari Cultural Cum Heritage Centre has been sanctioned under the Capex budget with an allocation of Rs 4.5 crore. The centre is envisioned as an initiative to preserve and promote the legacy of Yogini Lalleshwari.

Sinha said people in today's fast-paced life are facing mental stress, crises of identity and challenges of existential loneliness, adding that material success alone cannot fill the "emptiness within".

He said the teachings of saints such as Mata Lalleshwari, along with the cultural centre dedicated to her, would provide spiritual resources for self-discipline, mental peace and emotional resilience.

The Lieutenant Governor said Jammu Kashmir has historically been a cradle of sages, saints and seekers of truth, and the centre would embody India's civilisational consciousness while serving as a platform for cultural harmony, spiritual tourism and academic research.

"This project reminds us of our timeless civilisational consciousness. Today, we stand at a significant juncture in our history, where the blessings of our ancestors and their timeless wisdom are converging with the aspirations for a confident, developed and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir," he said.

Sinha said Mata Lalleshwari's teachings transcended social divisions and embodied ideals of tolerance, equality and inner transformation. He said the centre would serve as a repository of her philosophy, enabling scholars, artists and seekers to engage with her teachings and disseminate them through modern platforms.

According to the LG, the centre will host exhibitions, translation initiatives and archival facilities, besides fostering fellowships in

Kashmir Shaivism.

He said the centre would also empower youth through art and creative expression, promote social harmony and strengthen national integration.

Sinha emphasised that cultural and heritage centres were a national imperative, saying that beyond economic growth, a nation requires civilisational memory and moral direction.

"The Mata Lalleshwari Centre will reconnect society with its roots, provide spiritual resources for mental peace, and contribute to grassroots economic vitality by attracting seekers, historians and tourists," he said.

He added that the centre would contribute to spiritual tourism and economic revitalisation by attracting seekers, historians and travellers from across the world.

Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Tejinder Singh, DIG JSK Range Shridhar Patil, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums K.K. Sidha, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Arvind Karwani and members of the Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust, among others, attended the ceremony.

YP Bourney Appointed

with seventh rank. He was promoted as Sub Judge/Civil Judge Senior Division in June 2001 and as District and Sessions Judge in August 2011. He was granted Selection Grade in April 2018 and Super-time Scale in October 2021.

During his judicial career, Bourney served as District Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Udhampur, Sub Judge, Jammu, Chief Judicial Magistrate in Jammu and Srinagar, Principal District Judge, Leh, and Special Judge Anti-Corruption.

As Chief Judicial Magistrate in Jammu and Srinagar, he introduced measures for systematic indexing and numbering of papers in charge-sheets and affixation of photographs of accused persons, aimed at preventing impersonation and other malpractices.

As Principal District Judge, Leh, he supervised the design and construction of the Munsiff Court at Nubra and undertook modifications of the ADR Centre at Leh.

As Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Bourney dealt with numerous cases involving corruption, organised crime and alleged land grabbing of private and State land. He was also chosen to conduct the trial of the BOPEE admission scam involving admissions to medical colleges. The case involved 54 accused and, according to his service profile, resulted in the conviction of 44 accused.

Bourney also served as Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority for five months in 2018, during which budgetary allocations were secured from the State Government for legal-aid activities.

As Principal District and Sessions Judge, Udhampur, he took suo motu cognizance of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances lying undisposed in judicial malkhanas for years and initiated steps for their disposal in accordance with Central Government notifications.

Bourney also served as Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy, where he worked on strengthening infrastructure and training facilities. He prepared a training module for 69 newly selected Civil Judges (Junior Division), which was approved by the Governing Committee of the Academy and the Chief Justice, following which the training programme commenced at the Judicial Academy, Srinagar.

Parties Gear Up For

from Thanamandi.

At 5 pm, the NC, Congress, CPI(M) and the five Independents supporting the government will participate in a joint meeting.

Congress has separately convened a meeting of its legislators at 3:30 pm at the party headquarters. Congress chief whip Nizamuddin Bhat confirmed the meeting.

Meanwhile, the BJP has also called a meeting of its MLAs on Sunday evening to devise its

strategy for the autumn session.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma will chair the meeting.

"We are holding a meeting of MLAs tomorrow," Sharma said, adding that the BJP had held meetings across Jammu and Kashmir to gather feedback on governance and other issues.

He said the party would raise matters affecting the common people during the session.

"We will seek answers from the Government for every promise they made to the people of Jammu & Kashmir," Sharma said.

The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will begin on Monday and will have seven sittings spread over 10 days.

Gurez Tantra Retreat

from the authorities. He questioned the proposed event's suitability in Kashmir and referred to the controversy surrounding the earlier Goa programme.

The Tourism Department, however, clarified that the proposed retreat has not been authorised.

The Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, said his office had neither granted permission nor issued any authorisation for the event being promoted through the social media handle "Tantra in Silence at Gurez".

The official said the department had no information or official communication regarding the proposed programme and that no application seeking permission had been received or processed by the office.

It also clarified that the proposed event had neither been approved nor authorised by the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, and that the department had no association with the organisation or conduct of the event.

The Bandipora district administration also distanced itself from the programme, declaring the proposed retreat unauthorised.

The district information and public relations office said no permission had been granted by the District Administration Bandipora and advised the public and tourists not to rely on or circulate unauthorised promotional claims regarding the event.

The development effectively puts the advertised programme under an official cloud ahead of its proposed September 24 start.

Goa controversy comes into focus

The controversy has also brought back into focus a Tantra-themed event associated with Swami Dhyan Sumit in Goa in 2025.

The Goa programme, advertised as "Tales of Kamasutra and Christmas Celebration", was scheduled for December 25 to 28 last year. Its promotional material generated widespread objections and complaints, following which Goa Police directed the organisers not to proceed and asked for the promotional material to be removed from social media.

Reports at the time said the promotional material contained explicit references that triggered objections from civil society and religious groups. The organisers subsequently cancelled the event. Dhyan Sumit maintained that it was intended as a Tantra-based meditation retreat and said the promotional material had conveyed the wrong message.

The Goa episode has been cited by Mufti Mirwaiz in raising questions about the proposed Gurez programme. The current event's promotional material, however, presents it as a meditation and spiritual retreat centred on themes such as meditation, consciousness, sound healing and inner transformation.

Gurez at centre of tourism debate

The proposed retreat has drawn particular attention because Gurez, a strategically located valley in north Kashmir near the Line of Control, has emerged as an increasingly promoted tourism destination.

The controversy has consequently brought into focus questions about the nature of activities being organised or proposed in emerging tourist destinations, as well as the requirement for appropriate administrative permissions.

For now, both the Tourism Department and Bandipora administration have made clear that no permission has been granted for the advertised "Tantra in Silence" retreat. The authorities have also advised people against relying on promotional claims about the event.

The proposed retreat was scheduled to begin on September 24, but the official clarifications have raised questions over whether it can proceed in the advertised form without the necessary permissions.

J&K Likely To

that the prevailing conditions are favourable for harvesting apples and paddy, besides carrying out other farm-related activities.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained below normal at most places across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.5 degrees Celsius against the normal of 27.4 degrees, while the minimum temperature settled at 10.5 degrees, which was 1.5 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 8 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 22.5 degrees and 5.2 degrees, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag and Gulmarg recorded 25.2 degrees and 18.2 degrees, respectively.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.6 degrees. Katra recorded 31 degrees and 18.2 degrees, while Banihal recorded 27.8 degrees and 11 degrees, respectively.

Bhadarwah recorded a maximum temperature of 27.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 8.4 degrees.

No significant rainfall was recorded across most stations during the day. However, 24-hour rainfall ending at 8:30 am was recorded at a few places, including 9.4 mm at Kokernag and 1.2 mm each at Qazigund and Batote.

The weather department has advised farmers to make use of the predominantly dry conditions for harvesting and other agricultural activities.

Dal Lake Water

researchers.

The study, however, does not establish that eating water chestnuts from Dal Lake causes illness. Rather, the findings point to the need for continued monitoring of contaminants in aquatic food products and their potential movement through the food chain.

The researchers found that heavy metals accumulated most strongly in the roots of the water chestnut, followed by shoots and fruits, indicating that the plant retains much of the contamination around its root system.

Iron was the most abundant element detected. Its concentration in roots from Dal Lake reached 322.50 mg/kg, while zinc reached 82.45 mg/kg in roots. Cadmium in Dal Lake roots was recorded at 0.42 mg/kg.

The researchers also found substantial differences between the lakes. Wular recorded the lowest heavy-metal concentrations among the four water bodies, while Manasbal also showed comparatively lower contamination. The authors attributed the differences partly to variations in external pollution sources and water exchange.

Sediment analysis provided another important finding, with Dal Lake showing the highest enrichment of heavy metals. The researchers reported that several metals, including cadmium, chromium, nickel and iron, exceeded Canadian sediment-quality guideline thresholds in parts of the sampled sediment.

The study also identified a potentially useful environmental role for water chestnut. Because the plant efficiently accumulates metals, the researchers said it could serve as a biological indicator of pollution and potentially have applications in phytoremediation. (KNO)

Kashmir Filmmaker Challenges Government's 'First' Claim

The founder of the Kashmir World Film Festival says filmmakers still turn to him for information, exposing what he calls the government event's weak engagement with the local film community.

Ansar Hussain

SRINAGAR: The calls began two months ago and keep coming.

Filmmakers from India and abroad phone Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan to ask when submissions close for the film festival the Jammu and Kashmir government organized this month, and they assume he directs it.

Khan, founder-director of the Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF), says the callers found him because officials on the festival's team stayed out of touch.

The government projected its event as the first international film festival of Jammu and Kashmir, and Khan disputes that billing in a statement dated September 18.

Khan says he conceived and ran the valley's first international festival of that magnitude in 2017, before any government department envisioned such an initiative and when Kashmir had zero functioning cinema halls.

During 2017 and 2018, when reopening the halls seemed a distant dream, he says he was the only person who publicly stood for cinema.

That first festival grew into KWFF, which has held five editions in Srinagar. Films have



come from the United States, Italy, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Poland, Turkey, Korea, Nepal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Bangladesh and other countries. Indian entries have come in Bengali, Malayalam, Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Hindi, Urdu, Dogri, Ladakhi, Kashmiri and English.

The festival has hosted Tabu, Raza Murad, Rajit Kapur, Madhur Bhandarkar, Rahul Mittra, Anjum Rajabali, Jayati Bhatia, Rahul Bhat, Shishir Sharma, Lalit Parimoo, Satish Kaul, Komal Nahata and Premendra Majumdar.

Khan says he is in touch with Gulzar, Hema Malini, Aamir Khan, Subhash Ghai, Bhag-

yashree, Manoj Bajpayee, Raj Babbar, Saurabh Shukla, Sayaji Shinde, Sanjay Suri, Mukesh Rishi, Rahul Rawail and Deepti Naval about future editions.

The festival also runs interactions with Bollywood directors and actors, filmmaking workshops and masterclasses for local talent, and it has drawn more than 500 pieces of coverage in national and international print, electronic and digital media.

Khan organized one edition of the J&K International Film Festival in Pune in June 2022, served on the international jury at the Nepal Cultural International Film Festival in Kathmandu in 2024, and was invited as a special delegate to festivals in Thiruvananthapuram, Srig-

anganagar, Delhi and Mumbai. Khan says he spent nearly two years submitting detailed proposals to the government seeking modest support to strengthen the festival, a fact of public record.

Officials chose to spend substantial taxpayer money on a parallel festival, he says, rather than support an established, globally respected platform.

By his account, the new event lacked institutional memory, prior experience and meaningful engagement with the local film community.

He calls the effort "an exercise in proving a point rather than promoting culture."

His argument comes down to whether public money backs the people who built Kashmir's film culture or those who came later.

A true international festival, Khan says, has a two-fold purpose: to show the world to J&K and J&K to the world, with local filmmakers at its center.

"The government's festival failed that standard," he says, "through inadequate planning, poor coordination and the visible exclusion of local artistic talent."

Khan wants the elected Chief Minister to strengthen the hands of local filmmakers and festival directors with reason-

able financial support.

The filmmakers of Kashmir, he says, want to build a vibrant atmosphere for the industry. Professionals should run film festivals, he says, and bureaucrats should leave that work to them.

Khan describes himself as a "crusader" for the revival of Kashmir's film industry and says his resolve remains firm. He plans to take the festival to greater credibility, inclusivity and global recognition, and he counts the involvement of youth as its biggest achievement.

To Khan, KWFF is a movement, an endeavour to place Kashmir firmly on the global cultural map, built on vision, passion, sacrifice and inclusivity.

Those values, he says, set the festival apart from hurried, superficial exercises. He calls it a true symbol of Kashmir's artistic spirit.

Khan reads the calls as proof of the credibility and recall value the festival has earned.

Whatever the government's festival builds from here, the callers have already pointed to where they expect to find Kashmir's film culture.

It lives in a festival that began in 2017 and in a founder who says he will keep standing for cinema.

Div Com Sets Fresh Deadlines for Srinagar Traffic Projects

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting of the Multidisciplinary Committee/Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to review the progress of various projects and interventions aimed at easing traffic congestion in Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, SSP Traffic, RTO Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDCL and Executive Engineers of the Roads and Buildings Department (R&B), among other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the progress of several key road infrastructure projects, including the development of the Natipora-Chanapora road, construction of a T-junction at Natipora crossing, and the proposed flyover from Shalteng to Parimpora. The meeting also took stock of the construction of a footbridge at Pediatric Hospital, Bemina; the underpass at Nowgam; development of a shopping complex at Noorbagh; and construction of a road along the Doodhganga riverbank connecting Barzulla with Sanat Nagar.

The Div Com further reviewed the status of various Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) initiatives, including identification of 10 additional junctions for installation of Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) cameras, painting of zebra crossings and stop lines, implementation of an IT-based parking system and the progress of e-bus charging stations at Zoonimar and Batamalo.

He also examined the Action Taken Report submitted by R&B, SSCL, RTO and Traffic Police on decisions taken during previous meetings. Garg fixed fresh timelines for the concerned departments and called for tangible progress on the identified projects within the stipulated deadlines.

He directed SSCL and SSP Traffic to implement stop-line interventions at the identified junctions within 10 days. He also asked the Commissioner, SSCL, to hand over the control room to the Traffic Police to facilitate enhanced deployment of personnel for effective monitoring of the traffic management system. (Observer News Service)

LoP Sharma Questions Govt's Reference to 'Lack of Powers'

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma on Saturday questioned the government's repeated reference to "lack of powers" while responding to basic public grievances, saying issues such as water, electricity, roads, school and hospital staffing and employment needed answers from the elected government.

Speaking at a public interaction programme here, LoP Sharma, as reported by KNO, said people continued to approach the government with everyday problems but were being told that Jammu and Kashmir lacked the necessary powers to address them.

"For every issue, whether small or big, the only answer that comes from the government and government machinery is that we have no powers," he said. The senior BJP leader said the elected government had completed two years and claimed that people were still facing frustration and uncertainty over several unresolved issues.

He questioned the use of statehood as a response to routine administrative matters, saying basic works should not be linked to the restoration of statehood.

"Where pipes had to be connected, where poles and wires were required, where schools needed staff, where hospitals needed doctors and paramedics, where potholes on roads had to be filled; for every issue the same answer was received: statehood is not there," he said. (KNO)

Sensitization Programme on "Issues Related to Narcotics" Held

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairman and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy, a One Day Sensitization Programme on "Issues Related to Narcotics" was conducted today at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Mominabad, here in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau, Srinagar Zonal Unit.

The programme aimed to sensitize judicial officers, prosecutors, investigating officers and other stakeholders on the legal, investigative and evidentiary issues arising under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).

The Keynote Address was delivered by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy. He emphasized that the stringent provisions of the NDPS Act require strict adherence to statutory safeguards and highlighted the importance of lawful search and seizure, reliable evidence, proper chain of custody and fair investigation.

Referring to Sections 42, 50, 52A, 67 and 37 of the Act, Justice Rajnesh Oswal stressed the need for proper documentation, corroborative and digital evidence, and truthful investigation. (Observer News Service)

Kashmir Journalists Explore South India's Industry, Heritage and Innovation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- From IIT Madras and the Port of Chennai to Mahabalipuram and Auroville, a 13-member media delegation from Jammu and Kashmir returned home on Saturday after a five-day exposure tour that offered journalists a firsthand look at South India's development, innovation, heritage and tourism landscape.

The delegation comprised of editors, correspondents, reporters, and photojournalists representing prominent Srinagar-based publications.

The tour was organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and was aimed at fostering inter-regional understanding and developmental exposure.

During their visit, the delegation held interactions with the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, and the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, K. Kailashnathan. The journalists also met senior officers from various media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, exchanging perspectives on the evolving media landscape, regional coverage, and national developmental narratives.

The itinerary provided



in-depth exposure to major scientific, technological, and infrastructural hubs in Chennai, including visits to IIT Madras, Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Port of Chennai. To understand the composite culture and heritage of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the team toured iconic cultural and spiritual landmarks such as the UNESCO World Heritage site at Mahabalipuram, the historic Wallajah Mosque, the living-history museum Dakshina Chitra, the Auroville experimental township, and the Old Light-house in Puducherry.

The journalists also examined regional tourism and environmental infra-

structure during visits to Marina Beach, the backwaters, and the Blue Flag-certified Kovalam Beach. Officials detailed the measures implemented by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) to maintain stringent standards in coastal water quality, visitor safety, sustainable tourism, and zero-waste management.

The participating journalists noted that the exposure tour offered valuable firsthand experience of southern India's industrial capabilities, ecological governance, and rich civilizational fabric, reinforcing cross-regional dialogue and developmental reportage.

Kashmiri Film 'The Sledge' Selected for International Competition at German Film Festival

Observer News Service

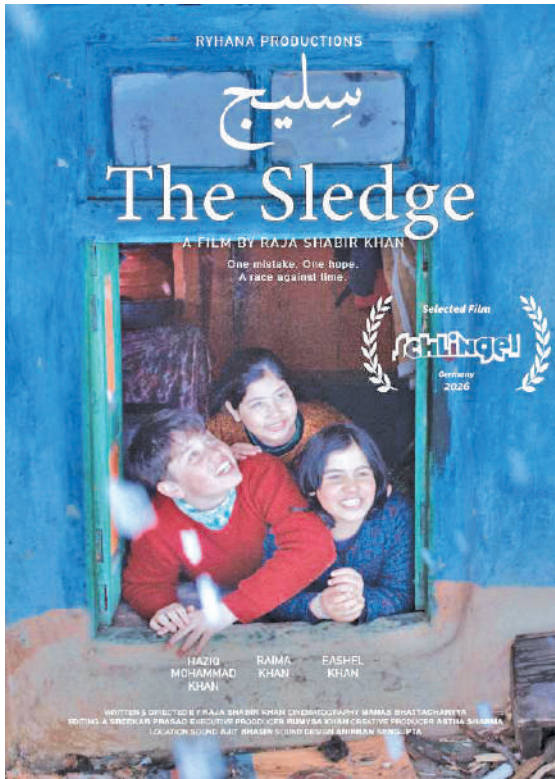
SRINAGAR: Kashmiri feature film The Sledge, written and directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Raja Shabir Mohd Khan, has been selected for the International Competition of the 31st SCHLINGEL International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences in Chemnitz, Germany.

The festival is scheduled to be held from October 2 to 10, with The Sledge set to have its world premiere at the prestigious international festival.

The 75-minute Kashmiri-language film is set against the snow-covered landscapes of Kashmir and revolves around three children who accidentally break their father's sledge. Fearing punishment, they decide to earn money to repair it by selling kahwa to tourists in Gulmarg.

Their plan takes an unexpected turn when they discover a tourist's bag containing money and chocolates. The children are then confronted with a difficult choice—whether to use the money to solve their problem or return it to its rightful owner.

Through the children's dilemma, the film explores themes of honesty, temptation, responsibility and moral choice.



The film stars Haziq Mohammad Khan, Eashel Khan and Raima Khan in the lead roles. Raja Shabir Khan has produced and directed the film, while Ramayasa Khan serves as executive producer.

"It is a great honour for The Sledge to have its world premiere in the International Competition at SCHLINGEL," Raja Shabir Khan said. "The film is deeply rooted in Kashmir,

its landscape and its people, but the emotions and choices faced by the children are universal."

The selection gives a Kashmiri-language children's feature an opportunity to reach international audiences and film professionals. It will also mark the international festival debut of its young cast.

The Sledge will be screened in Kashmiri with English subtitles.

RBI Pushes Digital Lending, Cyber Security Measures in J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, on Saturday organised a one-day conference on financial sector initiatives and cyber security awareness at Hotel Taj Dal View here, bringing together senior officials of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, banking sector and financial institutions to discuss strengthening credit delivery and tackling emerging cyber threats.

The conference was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo as the chief guest and RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain as the special guest, in the presence of RBI Jammu Regional Director Prabhakar Jha.

Senior officials, including Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, ADGP

CID M.K. Sinha, administrative secretaries, J&K Bank MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee, heads of banks operating in J&K and representatives of NABARD, NPCI, RBI Innovation Hub and RXIL, also participated.

In his keynote address, Dulloo said the administration had prioritised sectors including tourism, agriculture and allied activities, hydropower and MSMEs, stressing the need to channel greater institutional credit towards these areas.

He highlighted RBI initiatives such as the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), saying it could transform credit delivery in a manner comparable to UPI's impact on retail payments. He also said the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) could help address liquidity constraints faced by MSMEs.

CQAI, VIT-AP Sign MoU to Advance Quantum Technology Collaboration

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chinara Quantum AI (CQAI) and VIT-AP University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), formalising an institutional partnership aimed at strengthening collaboration in quantum technology, advanced computation, research and emerging technologies.

The MoU was signed during the VIT-AP Industry Conclave 2026, held on September 18-19 at VIT-AP University, Amaravati, marking a new phase in CQAI's engagement with India's growing technology and academic ecosystem.

Representing CQAI at the conclave, its CEO and Chief Scientist, Dr Rukhsan Ul Haq, presented the organisation's perspective on the evolving landscape of quantum computing, advanced technologies, research and industry applications.

The engagement, which began as a connection between Kashmir and Amaravati, has now progressed

into a formal institutional relationship between the two organisations.

The partnership comes at a time when India is expanding its capabilities in quantum technologies under the broader framework of the National Quantum Mission, while Amaravati is emerging as a significant hub for technology, research, academia and industry.

The collaboration brings together CQAI, a technology organisation rooted in Kashmir, and VIT-AP University, an academic institution located within the emerging Amaravati technology ecosystem.

The MoU provides a framework for continued engagement and exploration of opportunities in areas including knowledge exchange, research, technological capabilities and industry-oriented applications.

For CQAI, the partnership also represents an opportunity to connect technological and scientific capabilities emerging from Kashmir with institutions and ecosystems across the country.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HOME DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K NOTIFICATION

Srinagar, the 15th of September, 2026

S.O. 242- In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 473 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 read with S.O 2506 (E) of 2024 dated 28th of June 2024 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to order that the remaining term of imprisonment of the life convict prisoner, namely Amarjeet Singh @ Kaka S/o Ranbir Singh R/o Village Mangnar Tehsil Haveli District Poonch, J&K, convicted for the offence under section 302, 452 of the Ranbir Penal Code, 4/25 of the Arms Act, arising out of FIR No. 90/2010 of P/S Poonch having completed more than 15 years of imprisonment as on 30.06.2026 (excluding remission), shall be remitted with effect from the date of issuance of this notification, subject to the following conditions:

- That he will maintain peace, good character and behaviour in the society at all times.
- That he will not indulge into any unlawful activity which is prejudicial to the maintenance of the public order or security of State.
- That he will not intimidate any member/relative of the victim's family in any manner whatsoever.
- That he will ensure his presence before the concerned Police Station once in six months.
- That he will furnish both a surety bond and a personal bond to the satisfaction of the concerned Superintendent of Jail before his release.
- The Police Station concerned will keep watch on the activities of the released prisoner.

In case of violation of any of the above condition(s), his premature release shall be liable for cancellation.

By Order of the Lieutenant Governor.

Sd/-

No. HOME-Jail/117/2025-10-HOME (7679322)
Dated: 15.09.2026

DIPK-5910-26
DT: 19/09/2026

(Chandraker Bharti) IAS
Principal Secretary to the Government

Trump Renews USD 100,000 Fee on H-1B Visas, Tightens Scrutiny

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON- US President Donald Trump has extended by a year the USD 100,000 fee on employers for bringing in foreign workers on H-1B visas, the White House said.

In a presidential proclamation issued on Friday, Trump said the 2025 decision to impose a USD 100,000 fee has led to a 92 per cent decrease in H-1B registrations by large IT outsourcing firms.

"An extension of the 2025 Proclamation will continue to protect the economic and national security interests of the United States, improve labour market access for American workers and graduates, and ensure that employers recruit only the most highly-skilled and

essential alien workers when needed in line with the original intent of the program," Trump said.

Indians remain the single largest beneficiary group of the US H-1B visa program.

The 2025 decision to levy the USD 100,000 fee has run into a legal challenge and the matter is before two different federal courts.

The 2025 order for a fee hike was set to expire this month. It did not apply to visas granted to foreign citizens already in the United States on student visas, who make up a large share of new H-1B recipients, or to renewals of current visas.

The order also sets a 30-day deadline for the Secretary of Labour, acting through the Wage



and Hour Division, to begin reviewing data from previously submitted labour condition applications.

The review will determine whether further action against sponsoring employers is warranted.

The President also issued a separate proclamation, tightening the scrutiny of H-1B visa applications through better inter-agency cooperation.

"The Order enhances program integrity in the H-1B visa program by improving inter-agency coordination and directing enhanced scrutiny of H-1B visa applications where there is a heightened risk that American workers would be laid off," a fact sheet issued by the White House said.

The Order directs the Sec-

retary of State, the Secretary of Labour, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to consider petitioner employers' recent or planned layoffs of similarly situated US workers when considering H-1B visa applications.

The H-1B nonimmigrant visa program was created to identify uniquely skilled and highly specialised foreign temporary workers to strategically supplement the United States economy, the US President said in the executive order.

"Instead, the program has been widely abused by certain employers, third-party placement groups, and outsourcing firms to undercut and displace the supply of skilled United States labour," Trump said.

No Doubts About Circumstances Surrounding My Father's Death, Thackeray Should Clarify: Pankaja

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Maharashtra minister Pankaja Munde on Saturday said she had no doubts regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of her father, BJP stalwart Gopinath Munde, and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray should provide clarity if he had any additional information.

The BJP leader was reacting to remarks made by Thackeray earlier this week.

Referring to the contributions of Pramod Mahajan and Gopinath Munde in building the BJP in Maharashtra, he had noted that both were not alive and "the mystery surrounding Gopinath Munde's death has not yet been unravelled."

Pankaja Munde said her father's death in a road accident in Delhi in 2014 was still a source of great pain for her.

"If Uddhav ji has said that he feels there is a mystery surrounding this and if he has some additional information about it, then he should clarify it. Certainly, nobody will remain silent on this," she said.



She had sought a CBI inquiry into her father's death and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to personally look into the matter, Pankaja said.

"After a complete inquiry was conducted, I do not think, even after 12 years, that I have any doubts in my mind," she added.

Her father was respected by Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, she further said, and expressed confidence that appropriate action would be taken if any additional information emerged.

After Trump Ban, MS NOW & CNN Denied Access To White House

AP

NEW YORK: Two major news networks were denied access to the White House on Saturday morning, with reporters from CNN and MS NOW both going live to report they'd been barred following a ban imposed by President Donald Trump.

The actions escalated Trump's long-running efforts to restrict news coverage by journalists he finds objectionable, and are the latest test of First Amendment protections in the United States. Trump said Friday he would ban both organisations and also Politico, because of their coverage -- which he called "fake news."

CNN issued a statement saying it stood behind its reporters. "We will not be deflected from our duty to hold the government and other public bodies to account," it said. The statement was shown on the air before senior White House reporter Betsy Klein began to report on her ban.

MS NOW also said in a statement that it stands behind its journalists. "The White House belongs to the American people and the decisions made inside are funded by our tax dollars," the network said in a state-

ment Saturday. "MS NOW intends to take any and all steps necessary to defend our First Amendment rights and the essential role of independent journalism in our democracy."

CNN and MS NOW correspondents are turned away

Both CNN White House reporter Betsy Klein and MS NOW reporter Akayla Gardner went on the air to report they'd been banned from entering the White House.

Network correspondents are usually present on the weekends when the president is in Washington or at nearby Camp David. Trump is at the presidential retreat in Maryland this weekend. Politico journalists typically are not at the White House on Saturdays.

Gardner was turned away and her entry badge confiscated, she said. She noted she had walked through two gates successfully, but once she got to where her badge needed to be scanned, an officer told her it was disabled and asked her to hand it over. He said the decision "was above him," she reported. An MS NOW producer was able to get in, but a photographer's badge was also disabled, Gardner said.

Klein, senior White House reporter at CNN, also said her badge had been deactivated.

CNN media analyst Brian Stelter called the move "a direct threat to press freedom in the United States."

"It's so much bigger than CNN," Stelter said. "This is a free speech test in America."

Trump calls these and other outlets fake news'

The president wrote on his social media site Friday that effective immediately, "I am banning" CNN, MS NOW and Politico "from the White House as a result of their constant reporting: FAKE NEWS!" Minutes later, speaking at an event in the Oval Office, Trump was asked to explain his statement.

"Because they're fake news," he said. "You get so tired of reading and seeing fake news. When you look at CNN, it's just fake. That's why their ratings are no good. When you look at MS NOW ..., it's fake news."

"And when you look at Politico ... the stories they wrote are fake. So there's a lot of news, and there may be others to join them, and maybe they can get better," he said. "But our country has to have honest news."

Srinagar Open Tennis Championship Set for Oct 2-4 at Gindun

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The sixth edition of the Srinagar Open Tennis Championship 2026 will be held at the Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh, from October 2 to 4, the District Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) said on Friday.

The championship, organised by the DLTA, an affiliate of the Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association, is expected to attract around 50 players across the open and age-group categories.

The Srinagar Open has emerged as a regular fixture on the Jammu and Kashmir tennis calendar since its inaugural edition in 2020.

"Tennis in Kashmir has come a long way since the inaugural event in 2020. We look forward to some great tennis as new players have joined us in this journey over the past six years," Organising Secretary Abdul Wahab said.

Wahab said interested players can contact him or any office-bearer of the DLTA for details at Gindun Sports Complex between 4 pm and 6 pm.

The last date for submitting entries is September 27, while the draw of lots will be held on September 30.

The singles events in all categories will be played on a knockout basis, while the doubles competition will follow a league format, with players divided into two groups before the semifinals and final.

Inayat Jehangir is the defending singles champion and also holds the doubles title with partner Dilbagh Singh.

Mohammad Qais won the Under-16 boys' title last year, while Zainab Zaman emerged champion in the Under-10 girls' category.

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