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KISHTWAR POSCO CASE

Teacher Dismissed From Service Under Art 311

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has dismissed a Grade-II teacher, Khalid Hussain, from government service under Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution of India.

According to Government Order No. 3880-JK(Edu) of 2026, issued by the School Education Department on September 21, Hussain was posted at Government Middle School, Bumalpora, Gurinalla, in Zone Inderwal of Kishtwar district.

The order states that FIR No. 34/2026 was registered against Hussain at Police Station Chatroo under Sections 61(2), 65(1), 90, 91 and 92 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Sections 4, 6, 8, 10 and 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

The government said that after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the material on record, the activities attributed to Hussain warranted the imposition of a major penalty.

The competent authority subsequently decided to dismiss Hussain from service, which ordinarily disqualifies him from future government employment.

The government invoked Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution, read with Rule 30(viii) of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

According to the order, the competent authority concluded that holding an inquiry was not reasonably practicable and categorised the matter among the "rarest of the rare cases."

The dismissal | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Opens To Statehood Chorus, Opposition Uproar

» BJP Protests Over Power Tariff Hike, Daily Wagers & NHM Employees » Ruling Alliance Raises Statehood Demand Amid Uproar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The seven-day autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly began on Monday on a stormy note, with BJP legislators protesting over the power tariff hike, the regularisation of daily-wagers and issues concerning National Health Mission employees, while members of the ruling alliance pressed for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

The proceedings began with obituary references to former legislators Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Dharam Paul and Ghulam Hassan Khan, who passed away between the previous session and the current one. The House observed a two-minute silence



in their memory.

Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, a National Conference leader, had served as an MLA for three terms, while Congress leader Dharam Paul had served four terms and PDP leader Ghulam

Hassan Khan one term.

As soon as the obituary references concluded, BJP legislators led by Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma stood up and raised slogans demanding justice for



daily-wagers and NHM employees. They also protested against the recent hike in power tariff.

The BJP legislators raised slogans including "Jo Sarkar Na De Sakhe Bijli Pani, Woh

Sarkar Nakami", "Insaf Karo, Daily-wagers Ke Sath" and "Insaf Karo, NHM Employees Ke Sath".

They later raised "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram" | [More on P6](#)

Over 40,000 Govt Posts Lying Vacant In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir has over 40,000 vacancies in various government departments, with the highest in the Health and Medical Education department, the assembly was informed on Monday. In reply to questions from MLAs Sajad Lone and Irfan Hafeez Lone about recruitment and vacancies, the government said there were 40,672 vacancies across various government | [More on P6](#)

Only 899 New Govt Posts Created Since Oct 2024

Only 899 new posts have been created across various departments in Jammu and Kashmir since October 16, 2024, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday. In response to a question by Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone, government data showed that the Health and Medical Education Department accounted for the highest number of | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt to Move Resolution Seeking TET Exemption

The Jammu and Kashmir Government will move a resolution in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday seeking amendments to the Right to Education Act to exempt teachers appointed before January 1, 2019, from appearing in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). As per the list of business circulated by the Assembly Secretariat, the proposed | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Breaks Tradition

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday departed from its long-standing practice by proceeding with government business immediately after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather read out obituary references for former legislators. The House paid homage to former Members of the Legislative Assembly Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Dharam Paul and Ghulam Hassan before taking up the listed business. | [More on P6](#)

Y P Bourney To Be Sworn-In As HC Judge Today

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: Senior judicial officer Yash Paul Bourney will be sworn in as a Judge of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday.

According to the official announcement, the swearing-in ceremony will be held at 10:30 am at the Chief Justice's Court Room here.

Bourney's appointment as a Judge of the High Court was notified by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice on September 19 following approval by the Supreme Court Collegium. The President appointed him under Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India.

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice B.V. Nagarathna, had recommended his appointment at its meeting held on September 10.

Born on August 25, 1967, at Dadwara, Bhaddu, Billawar in Kathua district, Bourney completed his B.Sc. and LL.B. from the University of Jammu and enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir in April 1992.

He joined the judiciary in May 1996 as Munsiff and Civil Judge Junior Division-cum-Judicial Magistrate First Class at Billawar. He was inducted into regular judicial service in December 1997 after securing seventh rank in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Judicial) examination.

Bourney was promoted as Sub Judge/Civil Judge Senior Division in 2001 and as District and Sessions Judge in 2011. He was subsequently granted Selection Grade in 2018 and Super-time Scale in 2021.

During his career spanning nearly three decades, he served as Chief Judicial Magistrate in Jammu | [More on P6](#)

Millets Can Reduce Farming Risks Amid Climate Change: LG



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for greater adoption of millet cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the crops can help small and marginal farmers cope with climate risks while promoting sustainable agriculture.

Sinha made the remarks while inaugurating the National Dialogue on "Millets for Health: Building Healthy Ecosystems, Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems" at SKUAST-Jammu.

"Food of the future will not

merely be food that can be produced in large quantities. It will have to be nutritious, profitable for farmers and sustainable for the planet," Sinha said.

Highlighting the relevance of millets amid climate change, the LG said these crops require less water and fewer agricultural inputs and can withstand difficult weather conditions. He said this makes them particularly relevant for Jammu and Kashmir, where more than 80 per cent of farmers are small and marginal.

"I believe that millet cultivation can give marginal farmers in Jammu | [More on P6](#)

LG Felicitates Yatra Volunteers

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday felicitated organisers and volunteers of Langar organisations at Katra, Reasi, following the successful conclusion of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. The 57-day pilgrimage, which began on July 3 and concluded on August 28, saw more than 4.80 lakh devotees have darshan of Baba Barfani.

Sinha praised the langar volunteers for their selfless service and said their contribution reflected India's "eternal cultural consciousness".

"We saw the spirit of selfless service manifest in the early days of the yatra and despite the unforeseen crowds, there was no shortage of any kind," he said. The LG said 120 Langar organisations established service camps at base camps and along the pilgrimage routes, with | [More on P6](#)

Sinha assured the bereaved family of all possible assistance and support from the administration. PSI Sachin Verma, posted with 23 Battalion IRP, died in a road accident in the | [More on P6](#)

Hands Over Appointment Letter to Wife of Deceased SI

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday handed over an appointment letter on compassionate grounds to Dr Vaishali Misra, wife of J&K Police Sub-Inspector Sachin Verma.

Ex-Grameen Bank Manager Booked Over PMEGP Irregularities

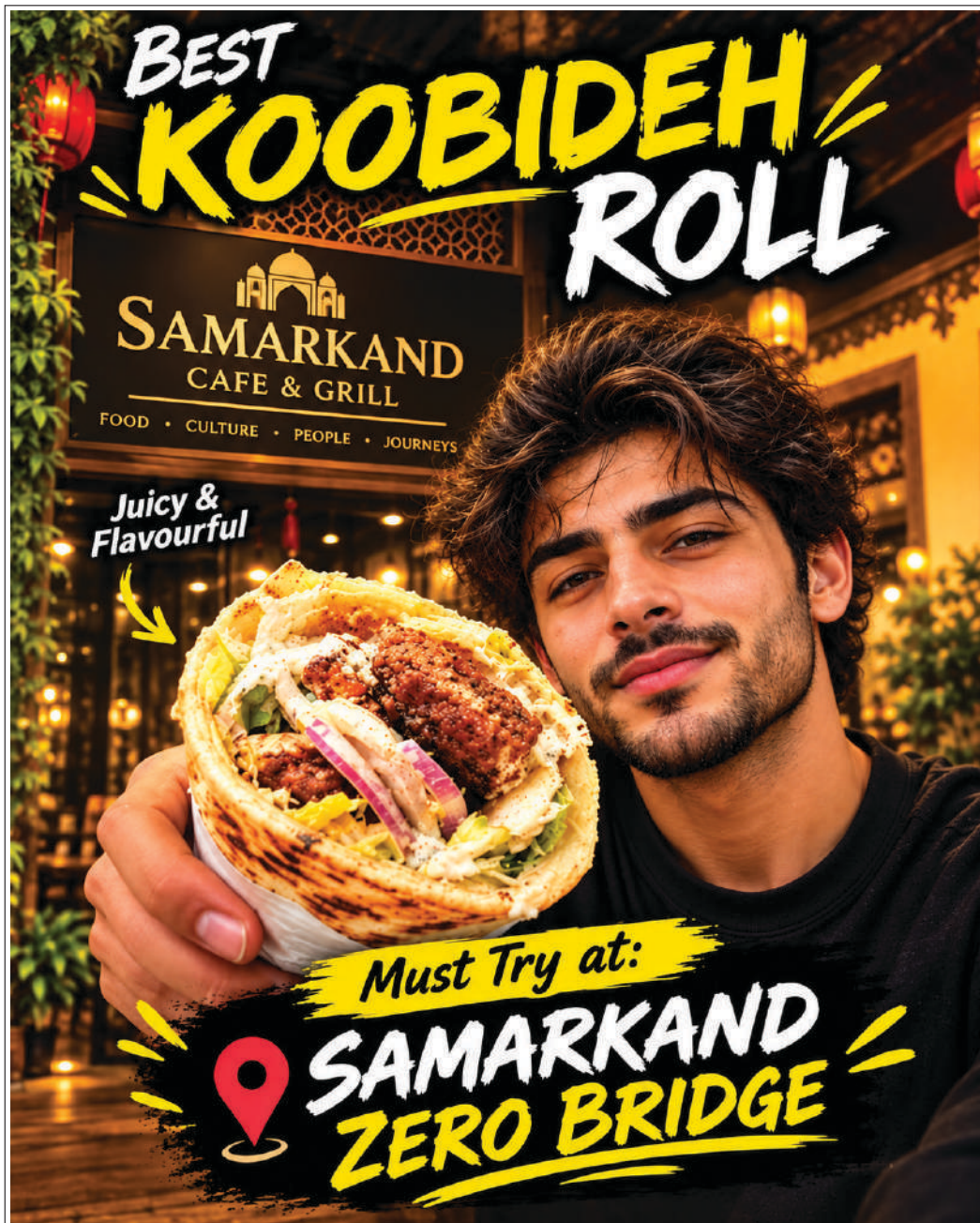
Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday registered a case against a former branch manager of Grameen Bank for allegedly committing financial irregularities by misusing his official position.

A spokesperson of the ACB said the anti-graft agency has registered an FIR against Arvind Saini, the former Reban branch head of Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank in Sopore area of Baramulla district. It alleges a criminal conspiracy in connivance with Firdous Ahmad Sheikh, a beneficiary of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme.

The financial irregularities involved premature release of capital subsidy under sponsored schemes in relation to the implementation of the PMEGP, etc., between 2021 and 2023, the spokesperson said, adding that the PMEGP operational guidelines were violated.

During verification, it was revealed that Saini, "under a well-knit criminal conspiracy with beneficiary Sheikh", prematurely released or reversed capital subsidy amounting to Rs 41,17,500 | [More on P6](#)





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2



SPF (Sender Policy Framework)

Stronger Email Security, Safer You

SPF helps stop email spoofing and ensures that legitimate emails really come from the domain they claim to be from.



What is SPF?

Sender Policy Framework (SPF) is an email authentication protocol that allows domain owners to specify which mail servers are authorised to send emails on behalf of their domain.



Domain Owner publishes SPF record in DNS

Why is it important?

- Prevents email spoofing and phishing
- Reduces spam and fraudulent emails
- Protects your brand and reputation
- Helps email providers filter out unauthorised senders



Stops fake emails before they reach you

How Does SPF Work?

- Domain publishes SPF record**
The domain owner adds an SPF record in their DNS (e.g., v=spf1 include:spf.protection.outlook.com ~all).
- Receiving server checks the record**
When an email arrives, the recipient's server verifies if the sending mail server is authorised by the SPF record.
- Pass or Fail**
If authorised – the email is marked as legitimate. If not – it may be flagged as spam or rejected (depending on policy).

- SPF PASS** = Legitimate email
- SPF FAIL** = Possible spoofing / spam

What You Can Do

Configure SPF for your domain
Work with your IT team or email provider to publish the correct SPF record.

Be cautious with unexpected emails
Even if an email looks real, check the sender address and links.

Use email authentication (besides SPF)
Combine SPF with DKIM and DMARC for stronger protection.

Report suspicious emails
Help your organisation and others by reporting phishing attempts.

Stay informed
Keep learning about email security and emerging threats.

SPF doesn't stop all threats, but it makes email spoofing *much harder!*

Cyber awareness @
Javid ahmad zargar



PUBLIC NOTICE

ZAINIA INFRATECH PRIVATE LIMITED Managing Directors 1. Mr. Ishtiyah Ahmad S/O Abdul Aziz Khanday R/O Chamlaie, Palmar, Tehsil & District: Kishtwar JK 2. Mr. Irshad Ahmad S/O Abdul Aziz Khanday R/O Chamlaie, Palmar, Tehsil & District: Kishtwar JK having contractor card bearing **REG. NO. CE/UEED/025/AAY(CIVIL) 2013-14** is giving information to general public that we intend to get the A-Class company Pvt. Ltd on the above mentioned title from Chief Engineer CI&D wing PDC Bemina. If anyone has any objections, file it in said office within 7 days, after that no objections can be accepted

Abass Advt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby give notice that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my bank records as "TASLEEMA AKHTER D/O MOHD SADIQ GANIE", whereas my actual and correct name is "TASLEEMA BANO D/O MOHAMMAD SADIQ GANIE." I intend to have the said error corrected in my bank records accordingly. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may submit the same to the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

TASLEEMA BANO D/O MOHAMMAD SADIQ GANIE
R/o: Aglar Pattan

fko

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. 24203744265. If anyone has any objection, please report/submit objections to the appropriate authority within 7 days

mcb

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

Email: xen-ed1@jk.gov.in Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 041/EDI, dt: 19.09.2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), 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&KPDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, for the works as specified in clause 2 of BDS (Bid Data Sheet).

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost
1	Augmentation Segregation of 11 feeders to overcome LCP constraints of Buchwara F 3 emanating from Buchwara Receiving Stn.	Rs 9.56 lacs

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 19-09-2026; 16:00 PM
B	Clarification start date	19-09-2026; 16:00 Hours
C	Clarification End date	07-10-2026; 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	19-09-2026; 16:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10.10.2026; 16:00 Hours
F	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
G	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	12-10-2026; 12:00 Hours
H	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-I, Sgr.
J	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/ receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 500/- (Rupees One Hundred only).
H	EMD (2%)	Rs.19200/- (Rupees Nineteen thousand two Hundred Only)

DIPK-NB-1687/26
dated: 21-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division Ist, Srinagar

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ahmed Ishfaq Ganaie s/o Ishfaq Ahmad Ganaie R/O Dangerpora Tehsil Dangerpora District Baramulla with verified date of birth 21/06/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth .

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Suhaib Bashir Khan s/o Bashir Ahmad Khan R/o Babagund Mamoosa Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of birth 17/01/2010 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus, Bemina Srinagar.

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he has lost his Qualification Certificate/s having following description:-

Roll No
7082241
Class
10th
Year & Session
2007/Oct-Nov
Registration No
D6NKM704385
Name
AKASH ADIL MOHI UD DIN
Fathers Name
GH MOHI UD DIN SHEIKH
Mothers Name
TAJA BANOO
Date Of Birth
07-06-1992
Residence
GULZAR PORA AWANTIPORA DISTRICT PULWAMA



Now the candidate had applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S. Before the case shall be processed under rules, if somebody has /have any kind of objection in this regard he / she shall approach the office of undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publishing of this notice. No claim shall be entertained after the culmination of said days.

(Besides, the "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S" bearing S.NO: 12Bikam 6006992 Be treated as "CANCELLED"

No. F(Certs-I-DQC/B)/KD/22

Dated: _____

Sd/= Asstt. Secretary,
Certificates K.D.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that the name of my Daughter, as mentioned in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No 953622949107 has been incorrectly recorded as ZANAB JAVID while as his actual name is ZAINAB JAVID. Now I want to apply for the correction of same in his Aadhar from old name ZANAB JAVID to new name ZAINAB JAVID. In future he will be known as ZAINAB JAVID. 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 -ZAINAB JAVID
F/O - JAVID AHMAD DAR R/O-DILDAR PORA CHICHLORA BARAMULLA J&K 193401

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Afaq Ahmad Parray S/o Ghulam Nabi parray R/o Chairhara state that the date of death of my grandfather namely Abdul Gaffar Parray S/o Ghulam Ahmad Parray R/o Chairhara is 28-07-2020 I am applying for the issue of death certificate. if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit their objection before JMJC Magam within seven days after which no objection will be entertained

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 4353 3145 4524 the name is entered as Sapana Badole while my actual name is Badole Sapana Amrutlal. 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. Badole Sapana Amrutlal W/O Anit Kumar Sharma R/o Mokhey Jammu.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th class qualification certificate Bearing Roll No: 502429 Session Annual / Pvt 2013 Reg. No: N111480500138 . 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 concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Saima Akther
D/o Khazar Mohamamd Sheikh
R/o Sever Thendipora

QNS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have applied for issuance of D Class Contractor Card. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the R&B Division Handwara/Condermed Office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Burhan Ul Haq Khan
S/o Afsar Ali Khan
R/o Halmatpora Kupwara

QNS

ازنیابت پٹھان

مضمون درخواست منجانب مجوبہ نگہ زید محمد سلیم دارسا کو موضع گوشہ بگ تحصیل پٹنہ برادری وصول DOB Certificate پٹنہ پٹنہ

اشہد برادرہ گاہی ہر خاص و عام

مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ایک درخواست برادری وصول اندر کے پٹنہ پٹنہ پٹنہ اولادوں سالک پٹنہ کی تفصیل مندرجہ ذیل ہے

نام تاریخ پیدائش سکونت

عائہ سلیم 10-08-2018 گوشہ بگ

ریان سلیم 24-08-2017 گوشہ بگ

لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو شکایت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر دفتر پٹنہ پٹنہ کریں۔ معیار گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تقریر الصدور

نائب تحصیلدار fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aadil Showkat S/o Showkat Ahmad Mir, R/o Zaloor, Sopore, Tehsil Zaingeer, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby inform the general public that my name and date of birth have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar records as "Adil Showket" and "06-02-1999", respectively, whereas my correct name and date of birth, as per my school records, are "Aadil Showkat" and "28-02-1999", respectively.

Aadhaar No.: 6475 8213 6569

I have accordingly applied before the concerned authority for correction of my name and date of birth in the Aadhaar records and for issuance of a fresh Aadhaar Card with the correct particulars.

Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Aadil Showkat
S/o Showkat Ahmad Mir
R/o Zaloor, Sopore, Tehsil Zaingeer, District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muhammad Saleem Dar S/o Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar, R/o Bun Makhama, Magam, District Budgam, J&K, hereby inform the general public that the name and date of birth of my ward, Imad-ul-Islam Dar, have inadvertently been wrongly recorded in his Aadhaar Card as "Imad-ul-Islam" and "02/03/2011", respectively.

The correct particulars are as follows:

Correct Name: Imad-ul-Islam Dar

Correct Date of Birth: 09/09/2023

I have accordingly applied for correction of the aforesaid particulars in the Aadhaar records.

Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same before the concerned authority or approach the undersigned within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Muhammad Saleem Dar
S/o Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar
R/o Bun Makhama, Magam, District Budgam
Contact No.: 6006993885

bmj

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

IN THE COURT OF SUB-JUDGE/CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT SRINAGAR

(PUBLICATION NOTICE REQUIRING OBJECTIONS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC)
CNR No: JKS6020041672026, FILING No.: 5646/2026, Date of Filing: 30-07-2026

IN THE CASE OF:

Basit Mohammad Khan S/o: Late Mohammad Yaseen Khan
R/o: Umer Colony, B Lane-5, Srinagar

V/s

U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir Through Commissioner/Secretary Transport Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu
Regional Transport Officer, Srinagar
Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Srinagar
Mrs Snober Parveen W/o Late Mohammad Yaseen Khan R/o Umar Colony, B Lane-5, Srinagar
Miss Rumaisa Khan D/o Late Mohammad Yaseen Khan R/o Umar Colony, B Lane-5, Srinagar

Defendants/Non-Applicants

PUBLICATION NOTICE

WHEREAS, a suit for declaration and mandatory injunction has been filed before this court by plaintiff wherein plaintiff is seeking transfer of Vehicle bearing Registration No. JK01R-8407 (Maruti Swift Desire) from the name of its deceased owner Late Mohammad Yaseen Khan who was the registered owner of this vehicle to the name of the plaintiff on the ground that plaintiff is the son of the said deceased Late Mohammad Yaseen Khan. Publication is hereby made that any person having any objection(s) to the above titled suit may appear before this court (or before me) to file objections within 15 days of this publication and no objection shall be entertained beyond the stipulated time.

DATED: 18-09-2026

SD/ SUB-JUDGE/CHIEF
JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, SRINAGAR

Abass Advt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zuhail Zahoar Dar, S/o Zahoar Ahmad Dar, R/o 04, Near Gari Bihit Departmental Store, Shahi Mohalla, Awantabawan, 90 Feet Road, Nowshera, Srinagar, hereby inform that the rear registration number plate bearing No. JK01BE-8572 of my motorcycle (TVS Sport) has been lost/misplaced while travelling on 20-09-2026 from Shahi Mohalla, Awantabawan towards Mundibal, Nowshera, Srinagar. The loss was noticed upon reaching home. Despite efforts, the number plate could not be traced.

Any person having found the said number plate or having any information regarding the same is requested to inform the undersigned or the concerned Police Station.

Zuhail Zahoar Dar
S/o Zahoar Ahmad Dar
R/o Shahi Mohalla, Awantabawan, Nowshera, Srinagar.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kaiser Nazir Dar S/o Nazir Ahmad Dar, R/o Ningli, Sopore, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby inform the general public that the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5793 5469 3595 is registered in the name of my son, wherein his name has inadvertently been recorded as "Manan Kaiser Dar", which is incorrect. His correct and actual name is "Abdul Manan Dar", as recorded in his Date of Birth Certificate and school records.

I have accordingly approached the concerned authority and applied for necessary correction of my child's name in the Aadhaar records as Abdul Manan Dar. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Kaiser Nazir Dar
S/o Nazir Ahmad Dar
R/o Ningli, Sopore, District Baramulla

fko

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he/she has lost his/her qualification certificate/s having the following description: -

ROLL NO.: 502274
CLASS :-10TH
YEAR & SESSION:- OCT-NOV 1989
REGISTRATION NO :- 30596-HPK-IX-88
NAME:-MOHD YOUSUF SHIEKH
FATHER'S NAME :-HABIBULLAH SHIEKH
MOTHER'S NAME :-NAKISHA NOOR
DATE FO BIRTH :-05-01-1972
RESIDENCE:- TRUMNAR BATPORA KUPWARA



Now the candidate has applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

(Besides, the lost "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE ", bearing Serial No/3062 is being treated as "CANCELLED")
No:F(Certs-I-DQC)/B/KD/20

Sd/- Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD
qns



CITY

IPRS to Hold Copyright, Royalties Workshop for Artists in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) is set to hold a knowledge workshop for artists and creators in Srinagar, focusing on copyright, music publishing, royalties and the growing opportunities offered by digital platforms.

The workshop, being held as part of Fankar-E-Kashmir Season 4, will seek to familiarise Kashmiri artists with the professional and digital ecosystem surrounding creative works and help them understand how their intellectual property can be protected and monetised.

Rumpa Banerjee, Head of Communications at IPRS, said the organisation was undertaking a series of initiatives across the country to connect with artists, bring them onto its platform and help creators register their works and earn royalties.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a virgin place for us, where artists can come and be part of the IPRS ecosystem," Banerjee said, underlining the organisation's interest in reaching out to the region's diverse artistic community.

She said IPRS was also organising festivals and outreach

programmes in different parts of the country to create greater awareness among artists about their rights, registration and opportunities available through the music and creative industries.

Dolly Chopra, expert from IPRS, will lead the Knowledge Workshop at Fankar-E-Kashmir 2026, offering practical insights and training to artists and creators on navigating the professional and digital landscape of the creative industry.

The session will cover areas including music publishing, copyright, royalty generation and the effective use of digital platforms to expand the reach and value of creative works.

Journalist and artist Nazir Ganaie, who is also a member of the IPRS ARA Committee, said Jammu and Kashmir had a rich pool of artists who had made significant contributions in their respective fields.

He said IPRS could act as a bridge between artists from the region and wider national and global opportunities.

"The ongoing workshop is aimed at familiarising artists with the nuances of copyright, royalty generation and publishing music across various digital platforms," Ganaie said.

Srinagar Hosts 10th Global Leaders' Conference on Sustainable Development

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 10th edition of the Global Leaders' Conference (GLC Srinagar 2026) brought together educationists, academicians, industry experts, public-service professionals, entrepreneurs, technology specialists and international thought leaders to deliberate on sustainable development.

Held under the theme "Sustainable Education • Sustainable Business • Sustainable Health," the conference provided an interdisciplinary platform for discussions on education, leadership, business, artificial intelligence, healthcare, environmental responsibility and community development.

The programme opened with an interactive exercise in which participants identified a word they believed could help shape the planet's future and collectively affirmed the message, "My Word. My Action. My Future."

The formal proceedings commenced with an inaugural address by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology.

The conference featured dedicated sessions on sustainable education, business, leadership and health. Discussions covered



GLOBAL LEADERS'CONFERENCE SRINAGAR 2026

future-ready learning, skills development, responsible use of AI, ESG principles, green entrepreneurship, women's economic participation, community health and responsible leadership.

International and virtual sessions further explored AI, green business, circular economy, ethical leadership and planetary health. A Kashmir-focused segment examined youth climate leadership, sustainable tourism, the Himalayan water crisis, circular economy and community-led development.

The conference concluded

with an Honour and Award Ceremony recognising contributions to education, sustainability, public service, AI, environmental conservation, healthcare and community development.

The organisers acknowledged the support of Raffles Education Institute, Shehlat Foundation, Munsif TV, Assad Advertisers and Kashmir Mahal Resorts, besides delegates, volunteers and the organising team.

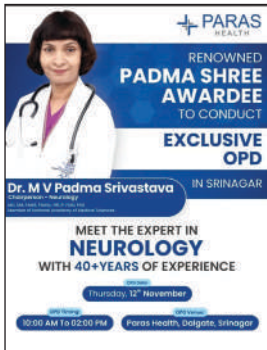
The concluding vote of thanks was delivered by Ghulam Abbas, Vice Chairman, Shehlat Foundation.

Padma Awardee Neurologist to Offer Special Consultations at PARAS Health

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Renowned neurologist and Padma awardee Dr Padma Shrivastava will conduct a special outpatient department (OPD) at PARAS Health Srinagar on September 23, providing patients in Jammu and Kashmir an opportunity to seek consultation from the acclaimed specialist.

Dr Shrivastava will be available for consultations from 12 noon to 7 pm at the hospital, allowing patients to access specialised neurological care without having to travel outside the region for an expert opinion.



Dr Murtuza Habib, Facility Director, PARAS Health Srinagar, said the special OPD was part of the hospital's efforts to make advanced and specialised

medical expertise accessible to patients in the region.

Seema Vig, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, PARAS Health, said the initiative was aimed at bringing quality healthcare closer to patients.

"Our endeavour is to ensure that quality healthcare reaches people at their doorstep. Bringing experienced specialists to Srinagar enables patients to access expert consultations closer to home," she said.

Patients seeking consultation with Dr Shrivastava have been advised to book their appointments in advance for the special OPD.

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-TENDER NOTICE					
Tender No: 156-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR & 157-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR				Date: 21.09.2026	
Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Bidders against the below-mentioned works and available on www.irops.gov.in with closing date 12/10/2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids only up to the closing date and time, Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments towards the tender document cost and Earnest Money only through the payment modes available on www.irops.gov.in portal, like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card, etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit Receipt, FDR, etc. are not allowed. For more information, log on to www.irops.gov.in .					
Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System	
Open		Works		Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
18.09.2026		28.09.2026		12.10.2026 15:00 Hrs	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	156-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR	Demolishing of BSS and Development of dedicated Shed Size 17m x 80m for stripping of Wagons.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		31296254.83	625900.00	60 days	12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any work of steel fabrication or fabrication and erection of FOB or PF shelter or Industrial Shed"					
2	157-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR	Supply of ballast on cess in the section of ADEN-I/ASR & ADEN/JUC.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		13500926.87	270000.00	60 days	12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for Railways/Highway/Roads.					
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against the tender.					
3266/2026					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aadil Mohi Uddin Mir S/o Gh. Mohiuddin Mir, R/o Dolipora, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby inform the general public that I am the father of Mohammad Absar Mir. Due to inadvertence/typographical error, the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in his Aadhaar Card as "Azib Adil Mir", which is incorrect. His correct name is "Mohammad Absar Mir".

I have applied for correction of the said name in Aadhaar and other relevant documents. 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. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID: 0204020004303 registered in the name of **Mohamad Sidiq Bhat** is proposed to be transferred in favour of **Mohammad Sadiq Bhat, S/o Mohammad Sidiq Bhat**. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line Advt

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K Northern Railway, invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work.

Name of Work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Roof Mounted Heating Units (RMHU) in DEMU Coaches at DEMU Car Shed Budgam.
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs.1,50,60,804.62 (Rs. One Crore, Fifty Lakh, Sixty Thousand, Eight Hundred four and sixty-two Paise Only)
Tender Security Amount (EMD)	Rs.3,01,200/- Rs. Three Lakh, One thousand and two hundred only)
Tender document available on website	As per www.irops.gov.in
Bidding Start Date	As per www.irops.gov.in
E-Tender closing Date & Time	12/10/2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	12/10/2026 at 15:15 Hrs.
Validity of Tender	60 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	24 Months

Tender No. 08-2026-DEMU-BDGM Date: 19.09.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3264/26

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

MISSION DIRECTORATE, HADP / JKICP

Rajbagh, Srinagar / Narwal, Jammu

CORRIGENDUM

Extension of the last date for submission of bids

No.: MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/44 Dated: 21.09.2026

With the approval of the competent authority, the last date and time for submission of bids in respect of the tender detailed below is extended by seven (07) days. The revised dates are as under.

Notice Inviting e-Tender No.	MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/12 dated 31.08.2026
RFP No.	RFP-06-JKICP-2026-27 / IND-2000003933-0398-W-NCB
Tender ID	2026_APD_322857_1
Name of Work	Design, Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 86 Units of Three Types of Polyhouses under Protected Cultivation, Jammu Region
Last date and time of bid submission (revised)	28-09-2026 at 17:30 hours IST
Opening of technical bids (revised)	29-09-2026 at 10:00 hours IST

All other terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting e-Tender and of the bidding document remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall form part of the bidding document.

-sd-

Accounts Officer
Mission Directorate, HADP / JKICP

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

MISSION DIRECTORATE, HADP / JKICP

Rajbagh, Srinagar / Narwal, Jammu

CORRIGENDUM

Extension of the last date for submission of bids

No.: MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/45 Dated: 21.09.2026

With the approval of the competent authority, the last date and time for submission of bids in respect of the tender detailed below is extended by seven (07) days. The revised dates are as under.

Notice Inviting e-Tender No.	MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/13 dated 31.08.2026
RFP No.	RFP-07-JKICP-2026-27 / IND-2000003933-0331-W-NCB
Tender ID	2026_APD_322877_1
Name of Work	Design, Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 86 Units of Three Types of Polyhouses under Protected Cultivation, Kashmir Region
Last date and time of bid submission (revised)	28-09-2026 at 17:30 hours IST
Opening of technical bids (revised)	29-09-2026 at 10:30 hours IST

All other terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting e-Tender and of the bidding document remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall form part of the bidding document.

-sd-

Accounts Officer
Mission Directorate, HADP / JKICP

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

MISSION DIRECTORATE, HADP / JKICP

Rajbagh, Srinagar / Narwal, Jammu

CORRIGENDUM

Extension of the last date for submission of bids

No.: MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/46 Dated: 21.09.2026

With the approval of the competent authority, the last date and time for submission of bids in respect of the tender detailed below is extended by seven (07) days. The revised dates are as under.

Notice Inviting e-Tender No.	MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/14 dated 31.08.2026
RFP No.	RFP-08-JKICP-2026-27 / IND-2000003933-0452-W-NCB
Tender ID	2026_APD_322892_1
Name of Work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 185 Standard Composite Solar Powered Fencing Systems, Jammu Region
Last date and time of bid submission (revised)	28-09-2026 at 17:30 hours IST
Opening of technical bids (revised)	29-09-2026 at 11:00 hours IST

All other terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting e-Tender and of the bidding document remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall form part of the bidding document.

-sd-

Accounts Officer
Mission Directorate, HADP / JKICP

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

MISSION DIRECTORATE, HADP / JKICP

Rajbagh, Srinagar / Narwal, Jammu

CORRIGENDUM

Extension of the last date for submission of bids

No.: MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/47 Dated: 21.09.2026

With the approval of the competent authority, the last date and time for submission of bids in respect of the tender detailed below is extended by seven (07) days. The revised dates are as under.

Notice Inviting e-Tender No.	MD/HADP/JKICP/Acctt/2026/15 dated 31.08.2026
RFP No.	RFP-09-JKICP-2026-27 / IND-2000003933-0453-W-NCB
Tender ID	2026_APD_322902_1
Name of Work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 185 Standard Composite Solar Powered Fencing Systems, Kashmir Region
Last date and time of bid submission (revised)	28-09-2026 at 17:30 hours IST
Opening of technical bids (revised)	29-09-2026 at 11:30 hours IST

All other terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting e-Tender and of the bidding document remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall form part of the bidding document.

-sd-

Accounts Officer
Mission Directorate, HADP / JKICP

DIPK-NB-1696/26
dated: 21-09-2026

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

A Historic Signature Campaign

A signature campaign for a museum at Burzahom has sparked a welcome response on Kashmir's social media. Many people have greeted the proposal as a long-awaited step toward giving one of the valley's oldest archaeological sites a permanent public home.

The campaign calls for a museum near the site, where artefacts, excavation records and the story of Burzahom can come together for residents, students, researchers and visitors.

Burzahom sits within a Srinagar that has expanded rapidly around its ancient settlements. Houses, roads and other construction now surround a landscape that preserves traces of human life dating back thousands of years.

The growth of the city has placed greater pressure on the archaeological site and its surroundings, giving the museum proposal a significance that reaches well beyond a building.

Archaeologists have raised the idea of a site museum for years. Researchers have also documented encroachment, illegal excavation and damage around Burzahom. These concerns have accompanied repeated calls for stronger conservation, better visitor facilities and a public institution that can explain the site to the people who live around it.

Burzahom holds an extraordinary record of Kashmir's early human history. Excavations have revealed subterranean dwellings, stone and bone tools, pottery, cultivated crops and distinctive burial practices. Later communities erected large stone monuments, adding a Megalithic phase to the story of the settlement.

UNESCO describes Burzahom as a significant archaeological site representing major changes in human habitation between roughly 3000 and 1000 BCE.

The discoveries also connect Kashmir with wider movements of people, ideas and materials in ancient Asia. The objects recovered at Burzahom speak of agriculture, craft, burial customs and contacts that place the valley within a much larger human story.

A museum at the site can bring this history into public view.

It can present artefacts alongside photographs, excavation maps, drawings and explanations that make archaeological evidence accessible to schoolchildren and ordinary visitors. It can also give researchers and heritage professionals a permanent space for public education.

The question of artefacts needs particular attention. Burzahom material exists in collections outside Kashmir, including the Central Antiquity Collection at Purana Qila in Delhi. A serious museum project can open a wider discussion about loans, displays, replicas and the possible return of original objects to their archaeological setting.

The signature campaign can now become a broader community movement. Government departments, Kashmir University, archaeologists, historians, local residents, schools and heritage groups can work together on a long-term plan for the site.

A growing Srinagar needs its ancient places as much as its modern roads and buildings. Burzahom gives Kashmir a rare connection with people who lived here thousands of years ago.

Giving that history a home would give future generations a place where they can see, learn and understand where their city began.



K.P. Yadav



International investors hold plenty of alternatives in the US, UK, Europe, China, Australia, South East Asia, Africa and South America, and they compare before they commit money. A board that publishes its findings and its fixes gives them something to compare, while one that publishes only criteria gives them a resignation to interpret. The seven per cent fall was that comparison, made by the market without the board's help. The Government could moot evaluation for the boards of state-owned enterprises, which the regulations exempt, and bring them the discipline it would impose.

PMG was conducting an internal audit at Coforge when it flagged lapses in disclosure and governance around the company's board evaluation. The exercise had proceeded under O P Bhatt, the non-executive independent chairman, and the audit found that he had not shared the complete findings with the board or with its Nomination and Remuneration Committee. Bhatt resigned abruptly after the review, and the independent director D.K. Singh resigned shortly after him. Beth Boucher became chairperson of the committee, Vivek Sharma took over as interim chairperson until January 31, 2027, and the company's shares fell seven per cent. The episode points past one chairman to the question of who holds an evaluation's results. Directors evaluate their board to learn how they perform, and this evaluation ran under the person whose own office falls within its scope, since board leadership belongs among the standard subjects of such reviews. Coforge employs more than 45,000 professionals in delivery centres around the world, serves clients in banking, insurance, travel and healthcare from its Greater Noida headquarters, and is listed on the BSE and the NSE. A company of that size saw its full findings stay with one man, and the issue came to light because an internal audit happened to be under way. Indian law leaves that discretion intact. The Companies Act 2013 made board evaluation mandatory, and the SEBI listing regulations, effective from December 2015, direct companies to formulate and publish the criteria for evaluating independent directors. The outcome lies outside any mandate. Good practice says companies should disclose the broad results and the steps taken to close identified gaps, and should disclose criteria for executive directors and the chairperson on their own, but good practice binds no one. The rules let a board announce how it will be graded and say nothing of the grade. SEBI observed hesitancy and inertia in the process and issued a guidance note in January 2017 to educate companies and their boards on what evaluation involves. The NSE and the IIAS Research Foundation began studying disclosures and practice, and the outcome has been disappointing, because



Six years on, the campaign counts 13.71 crore young people drawn in through pledges and mobilisation, along with more than 31 lakh awareness activities in schools, colleges and communities. Pledges on campuses have become voluntarily common, and a gram sabha now treats the subject as routine business, which would have been hard to picture when addiction was a matter for closed doors.

which would have been hard to picture when addiction was a matter for closed doors. The household is where those numbers

turn into lives.

turn into lives.

Families once accepted a member's addiction in private shame, and more than 10.65 crore women, through Self-Help Groups and community networks, now speak about it openly, in their own language, to their own neighbours.

Shame at home and the fear of exclusion in the hostel are close relatives, because both give a group's judgment power over one person, and both weaken when the group itself starts talking.

A woman who names the problem to her neighbours has removed some of what silence used to protect.

The structure follows the same reasoning.

More than 1.70 lakh Nasha Mukti Mitras have emerged as community-level champions, and the campaign says they have taken its message to over 34.57 crore people as of 19 September 2026.

The network runs through all States and Union Territories, into schools, colleges, Panchayati Raj institutions, ASHA and Anganwadi networks and thousands of community organisations.

The campaign describes the result as an alternative circle of belonging, the sort of remedy a problem rooted in belonging invites.

The published figures count pledges, activi-

boards control the process internally.

The first study, in August 2016, examined 100 companies and found only 11 using external agencies, whose role was mostly that of facilitator or platform provider, with little part in the evaluation itself. The other 89 used no outside agency at all.

Disclosures about the exercise stayed shrouded in secrecy in most cases, with companies keeping mute.

Other markets treat disclosure as the point.

About 98 per cent of S&P 500 companies disclosed at least some information about their evaluation process in 2025 proxy statements, and the exercise is a formal annual assessment that exchange-listed companies must conduct under NYSE guidelines.

Boards examine leadership, culture, composition, strategy oversight, risk management and relations with management, drawing on anonymous surveys, one-on-one interviews, peer reviews and third-party facilitators, with the National Association of Corporate Directors providing advisory services and frameworks.

An anonymous survey gives a director a way to say what a chairman

audit committee, internal audit and reporting, the territory where Coforge's problem surfaced.

Evaluations done well can examine board composition, skills and diversity, the strength of committee leadership, the culture of the boardroom, the independence of directors, succession plans and the relationship with the CEO and management.

A third party brings the neutral outside view that yields fact-based, objective findings, and Sony Iqbal has argued that Indian companies should submit to rigorous evaluation by peers and senior management, engage a third party and disclose the findings in their filings.

Findings without follow-up prove futile, and investors cannot judge a board when post-evaluation outcomes stay undisclosed.

International investors hold plenty of alternatives in the US, UK, Europe, China, Australia, South East Asia, Africa and South America, and they compare before they commit money.

A board that publishes its findings and its fixes gives them something to compare, while one that



Directors evaluate their board to learn how they perform, and this evaluation ran under the person whose own office falls within its scope, since board leadership belongs among the standard subjects of such reviews.

may prefer not to hear.

The 2025 data show more three-tier evaluations, more individual director evaluations and wider use of outside support.

The UK broke the chairman's hold by design.

Since its 2018 governance code, FTSE 350 companies have had to hire an external consultant at least once every three years, in a cycle of two internal evaluations and one external.

Roughly a third of them, between 110 and 120 companies, undergo the outside review in a given year, and all complete the cycle over three.

Their annual reports set out the process, the key findings and the actions taken on weaknesses.

The National Audit Office built a questionnaire titled "Unlocking your board's full potential" as qualitative criteria with space for the appraiser's comments.

One of its nine groups covers the

publishes only criteria gives them a resignation to interpret.

The seven per cent fall was that comparison, made by the market without the board's help.

The Government could moot evaluation for the boards of state-owned enterprises, which the regulations exempt, and bring them the discipline it would impose.

Coforge had clear criteria, a formal process and a chairman to oversee it. But the regulations did not require the findings to be shared beyond the board.

State-owned enterprises face an even wider gap.

They are exempt from board evaluation altogether, so there are no findings for investors to see.

—
The author served as Director General of Audit for the Government of India and retired as Principal Accountant

Six Years of Saying No

After six years and figures that run to crores, the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan still stakes its success on a decision made in seconds, among friends, with no official in the room.



Sudhansh Pant

The scene is known to anyone who has lived in a college hostel or stood at an office party.

A substance goes from hand to hand, a friendly voice says the others are already doing it, and a moment opens in which a young person weighs the embarrassment of refusing against the discomfort of standing apart.

The Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan starts from the belief that addiction often begins in that moment, less as a decision than as the fear of being left out.

That puts the campaign's focus in a place no enforcement agency can reach.

The person giving the substance is often a friend, and the pressure can feel like a way of fitting in.

The Abhiyaan, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2020, staked its effort on the courage of one person, in a weak moment, to decline in front of peers, a refusal delivered without drama and a moral lecture.

The Prime Minister has set that refusal inside a national ambition.

Speaking of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, he said a country aiming to become developed needs youth who are healthy in body and mind, full of confidence and free of the deadly habit of drugs.

The 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat renewed the call for drug-free youth and a drug-free India. It also took the message beyond institutions and enforcement agencies, bringing in young musicians, students and theatre groups.

The idea is simple: if pressure comes through friends, the message may work best when it comes from voices young people already trust.

The figures show how far that idea has spread.

Six years on, the campaign counts 13.71 crore young people drawn in through pledges and mobilisation, along with more than 31 lakh awareness activities in schools, colleges and communities. Pledges on campuses have become voluntarily common, and a gram sabha now treats the subject as routine business,

—
The author is Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment Government of India.

How IoT Could Transform Life in Kashmir

Dr. Syed Rameem Zahra explains how sensors, real-time data and smart infrastructure could redefine farming, mobility and emergency response



Ashiq Hussain Andrabi

A farmer in south Kashmir could get a phone alert when the soil beneath his apple trees needs water. In Srinagar, live traffic data could help police manage vehicles at Lal Chowk.

Dr. Syed Rameem Zahra sees these as practical uses of the Internet of Things in Kashmir.

Born in Srinagar, she earned her doctorate from NIT Srinagar, trained at IIT Delhi and now teaches at Netaji Subhas University of Technology.

For nearly a decade, she has worked on IoT and data science. In this conversation with Kashmir Observer, Zahra discusses how connected technology could improve farming, transport and disaster response, while warning about the privacy and security risks that come with it.

Let's begin on a lighter note. Could you share a bit about your journey into the world of data science and IoT, and what drew you to these exciting fields?

My journey into IoT began in 2016 when I read about Kevin Ashton and his idea of the "Internet of Things." He believed IoT could change the world, even more than the Internet. This idea seemed crazy then, but now we see its impact in various aspects of life, from baby monitors to military tech. This inspired me to pursue research in IoT to make a difference.

Since Kashmir is known for its rich cultural heritage, how do you envision blending technological innovation like IoT with the preservation of this legacy?

The Kashmir Valley indeed boasts a rich cultural heritage. Preserving this legacy while integrating technological innovations like IoT presents a unique opportunity. In the digital era, where internet access is growing in Kashmir, language barriers hinder participation and knowledge sharing.

To blend technology with cultural preservation, we can initiate efforts to document key aspects of Kashmiri culture, such as stories and oral traditions, through audio and video recordings. These digital resources can serve as building blocks for language and cultural preservation tools.

Furthermore, we can create pronunciation libraries for Kashmiri words, enhancing accessibility through text-to-speech and speech-to-text technologies. Utilizing open-source software like Kathabbidhana, LinguaLibre, and Pronuncify, we can facilitate the recording and preservation of pronunciations.

While these initiatives may not immediately revive the Kashmiri language, they will progressively increase access to information in the native tongue, ensuring that the cultural heritage of Kashmir continues to thrive in the digital age.

Kashmir's landscape poses unique challenges and opportunities. How can IoT-driven insights help local farmers optimize their agricultural practices and yield better harvests?

The fact that nearly 70% of the regional population relies on agriculture highlights its significance. Now, with modern technology like IoT, there's a chance to revolutionize farming practices.

The introduction of the Holistic

Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in Jammu & Kashmir is a promising step. It's bringing in technology-driven projects and setting up 142 AI and precision farming centres, which can drive innovation and sustainability in agriculture.

IoT solutions, with their sensors collecting data, hold immense potential for local farmers. These insights are like a compass in the complex world of agriculture. With climate change and limited arable land, we need to make the most of every inch of farmland. IoT, through smart agriculture, provides real-time information that helps in making decisions. This not only cuts down on labour costs but also improves crop health.

IoT sensors, for instance, can monitor crucial factors such as nutrient levels, disease outbreaks, and soil moisture. This data is gold for Kashmiri farmers. It empowers them to optimize their harvests and manage their farms efficiently. These initiatives indeed paint a promising picture for the future of agriculture in our region.

Picture a futuristic "smart" Kashmir city. How might IoT-enabled infrastructure transform everyday life, considering both convenience and sustainability?

When we think about a futuristic "smart" Kashmir city, it's exciting to see how IoT-enabled infrastructure can transform everyday life, offering both convenience and sustainability.

Smart city planning heavily relies on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to monitor and optimize various aspects of urban living. This includes essential lifelines like roads, bridges, tunnels, railways, seaports, airports, electricity, water, and communication networks. In a "Smart" Kashmir city, we'd witness the integration of features like Smart Energy, Smart Mobility, Smart Healthcare, Smart Economy, Smart Homes, Smart ICT, Smart Infrastructure, Smart Governance, and Smart Citizenship.

The real magic happens when these systems work together, fuelled by IoT data. For instance, IoT can help manage home appliances like refrigerators and washing machines more efficiently, leading to better energy management. Additionally, IoT can monitor natural elements like trees, plants, air quality, and the environment, creating an optimal and sustainable living and working environment.

Kashmir's natural beauty already attracts many people, and envisioning it as a smart city only adds to its allure. With more people coming in, there will undoubtedly be challenges in managing city resources and services. However, the key to addressing these challenges lies in smart and innovative resource management strategies.

A smart Kashmir city powered by IoT has the potential to make everyday life more convenient and sustainable. It's not just about embracing technology but also about creating a harmonious and efficient urban environment that complements the region's natural splendour.

The region's topography can be challenging for connectivity. How can we use IoT to solve and address traffic & connectivity-related issues in the state to ensure that even the most remote areas benefit from IoT advancements?

Absolutely, considering Kashmir's diverse topography, addressing traffic and connectivity challenges with IoT is essential. Let's break it down:

You see, our region is divided into four zones, each with its unique geographical features. We often face traffic issues, especially during harsh winters, highway closures, congestion in cities, and connectivity problems in remote areas like Gurez and Leh.

But here's where IoT can step in as a game-changer. IoT-based smart



roads, combined with ICT, can collect and analyze data for traffic management. Imagine smart roads equipped with sensors, cameras, radars, and 5G devices. They can provide real-time data to streamline traffic and enhance safety. Plus, cloud-based data analysis can offer insights for sustainable mobility and reducing emissions.

Currently, we have limited tech involvement in transportation management, so there are plenty of opportunities. We can deploy IoT for intelligent road infrastructure, like adaptive traffic signals that respond to real-time sensor data.

Additionally, we can integrate weather monitoring systems, digital signage, and more into our existing infrastructure to transform our city into a smart one. IoT can lead to less congested streets, improved safety, extended connectivity, better services, and quicker emergency responses.

Moreover, roadside network deployments can expand wireless connectivity, making it possible to gather almost real-time road data. This can help us proactively tackle issues, improve reaction times, and enhance overall road safety.

I have every reason to say that IoT holds immense potential to address traffic and connectivity challenges across Kashmir, ensuring even the most remote areas benefit from advancements in technology.

Privacy is paramount, especially in a sensitive area like Kashmir. Could you delve into strategies that allow us to reap the benefits of data science while safeguarding individual privacy?

As wearable devices and smart home products become commonplace, privacy issues creep in. IoT devices not only collect information such as pulse, blood pressure, etc. but also tend to record the environmental conditions like the places you have visited, the temperature of the room, etc. The sensors deployed on the roads to measure the levels of noise can record the conversation of two individuals and thus pose a threat to their privacy. Similarly, when people give consent to save their credentials to allow the smart TV to automatically download the content of your choice, a strong security and privacy breach can happen just by hacking into that TV.

It is important for people to know their network, change the passwords from the default ones, run an in-depth analysis of the network if critical information can be at stake, and give out permissions cleverly.

Some additional tips that we can follow to protect our IoT devices will include the use of a VPN when connecting your IoT devices to the internet. This will help to encrypt your traffic and protect it from prying eyes. Disable remote access to your IoT devices unless you need it. This will make it more difficult for hackers to gain access to your

devices. Monitor your IoT devices for unusual activity. If you see anything suspicious, such as a device sending a lot of data or connecting to a strange network, take action immediately.

In essence, it's about striking a balance. We can enjoy the benefits of data science and IoT while safeguarding our privacy through awareness and smart security practices.

Educating communities about data science and IoT is crucial. How can we make these concepts relatable and exciting for people who might not be familiar with the tech world?

As we are nearing the time when every individual in the world will be surrounded by a minimum of 10 IoT devices, it becomes extremely important to educate the masses about the implications that this may have. IoT devices would soon be seen everywhere, human beings would find themselves dependent on these devices just like air and water.

Moreover, due to their rapid proliferation, the amount of data that IoT devices produce, send, and use will go to astronomical figures. As such, if something is going to be everywhere, remaining oblivious of what it is and how it functions is not going to work.

Therefore, educating communities about data science and IoT is essential for ensuring that everyone can benefit from these technologies and stay away from its wrath. We can do this by creating educational resources that are accessible and engaging. We can also work with local schools and community organizations to incorporate data science and IoT into their curriculum.

Imagine you have access to real-time data during a natural disaster in the region. How could this information be leveraged to enhance emergency response and minimize impact?

Certainly, having access to real-time data during a natural disaster is a game-changer. Let's dive into how this information can supercharge emergency response and minimize the impact.

You see, real-time data is abundant in our digital world. It's a powerful tool for disaster management. Firstly, it helps predict disasters early by monitoring weather conditions, seismic activities, and other indicators. This early warning system allows authorities to prepare better, like evacuating high-risk areas and mobilizing emergency services. For example, Cyclone Biparjoy in 2023 was predicted early, enabling timely evacuations and saving lives.

Once a disaster hits, data like satellite images and drone footage becomes invaluable. It helps assess the damage, giving authorities a clear picture of the extent of the

loss. This, in turn, aids in making informed decisions and targeting relief efforts where they're needed most. For instance, during the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in 2021, satellite images tracked lava flow and identified danger zones.

Real-time data also plays a critical role in search and rescue operations. Heat signatures and signals from mobile devices help locate displaced and injured individuals, making rescue efforts more effective. Information on road closures and safe zones can be shared with the public to keep them out of harm's way. In the case of the Nepal earthquake in 2015, mobile phone data was used to track people's locations and assess population displacement.

The era of real-time data has revolutionized disaster management. It allows for proactive measures through early prediction and planning, as well as rapid, data-driven responses during a crisis. Whether it's assessing damage, detecting hazards, or directing rescue operations, real-time data is an indispensable tool that enhances our ability to protect lives and communities during disasters. It's not just a technological breakthrough; it's a lifeline in times of need.

Collaboration fuels progress. How do you envision data scientists, IoT experts, and local communities working together to build a stronger, more resilient Kashmir?

Certainly, collaboration between data scientists, IoT experts, and local communities is key to a stronger Kashmir. They can share knowledge and resources, educate locals, and develop tailored solutions to address specific needs, such as monitoring water levels or livestock tracking. Moreover, this partnership can empower communities by providing training and opportunities for active participation in their own development.

We've seen how IoT devices can make our lives more convenient, but they also open the door to potential security risks.

Could you shed some light on how these devices might inadvertently expose users to scams like phishing and even physical security breaches? How can individuals protect themselves in this ever-connected landscape?

You are right. IoT devices, while making life convenient, can also expose users to security risks like phishing and physical breaches.

The core problem lies in the interdependence of IoT devices. As their numbers grow, so does the complexity of their communication. They not only communicate explicitly but also implicitly, which can create ambiguity.

For instance, a smart home might simultaneously detect smoke and an intruder, causing confusion. Similarly, a hacker can compromise one device to trigger a physical breach, like opening windows by manipulating the thermostat.

To protect against such threats, one should regularly conduct in-depth network analysis, especially for valuable data. Use strong, regularly changed passwords, and limit online information sharing. Keep devices' firmware up-to-date to patch vulnerabilities. Apply security patches promptly and download from trusted sources. Know your IoT network, track devices and permissions. Secure all network points. Maintain critical data backups. Be cautious of unsolicited emails or messages requesting personal information.

These measures can help individuals safeguard their IoT-connected lives in an ever-connected landscape.

Given your keen interest in smart transportation, can you walk us through the exciting ways IoT and data science can team up to design transportation solutions

that perfectly fit the unique mobility challenges of Kashmir?

Let's get to the heart of the matter. Kashmir's traffic management needs a balance between increasing capacity and controlling traffic effectively. Traffic cops play a crucial role in controlling traffic, but they can't handle the technical aspects of managing road capacity and supply-and-demand dynamics.

With a population of over 13 million and a million cars, mobility is a big challenge. Gridlocks in places like Ganderbal, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, and Baramulla are common due to road development and traffic management issues.

To improve, we can explore shared mobility options like efficient public transportation with smart ticketing. Startups and entrepreneurs could offer innovative solutions for traffic management and congestion, focusing on eco-friendly and resource-efficient approaches. It's about finding a blend of capacity expansion and smart traffic management for a smoother Kashmir commute.

Kashmir's road infrastructure can be intricate due to its landscape. How might Intelligent Transportation Systems offer innovative solutions to enhance road safety, traffic management, and overall transportation efficiency in this dynamic environment?

I think improving Kashmir's road infrastructure is crucial for transportation efficiency. Encouraging cleaner fuels and non-motorized transport like smart bicycles can help reduce pollution.

Modern vehicles are now digital marvels, offering real-time information and control through smartphones. Traffic navigation apps, automated signals, and real-time updates on road conditions can combat congestion and enhance safety.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) like Automatic Vehicle Location, Real-time Passenger Information, and contactless ticketing can transform the transportation experience. ITS enables precise scheduling, efficient routes, and enhanced passenger comfort.

To boost road safety, ITS assists in avoiding common driving errors like accelerating instead of braking or exceeding speed limits. It's about creating a smart and efficient transportation system tailored to Kashmir's unique needs.

As we wrap up, let's gaze into the future. Can you paint a picture of what life might look like in the Kashmir Valley a decade from now, with data science and IoT as integral components?

In the very near future, we are going to witness IoT-driven automation in every sector ranging from the management of items with trivial importance like thermostats to the management of life-saving medical implants. The application spectrum of IoT will run from monitoring the dampness in crops to auditing the flow of items through a production line, to remotely observing patients with interminable illnesses and overseeing their restorative devices.

It is to say that the potential application areas of IoT in Kashmir are innumerable and diverse, percolating into all the spheres of individual lives as well as into enterprises and society as a whole.

Your refrigerator will have the ability to contact the retailer on its own when it runs low on milk but the same refrigerator may be used by black-hats to break into your home. In conclusion, life in Kashmir will definitely become a bit more enjoyable with IoT but at the same time, we will need to be a bit more cautious as well.

— The author is a senior scribe from Pulwama, and can be reached at cj.saha.18@gmail.com.

Govt Urges Bank Employees to Avoid Strikes, Resolve Issues Through Dialogue

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- The Finance Ministry on Monday urged bank employees to refrain from resorting to strikes and resolve their remaining demands through dialogue, saying most concerns of the unions have been substantially addressed.

The appeal from the government comes ahead of a three-day nationwide strike called by the United Forum of Bank Unions beginning September 28 to press for 5-day banking and other demands.

The strike, if it materialises, may impact banking services for five days as the weekend before September 28 is a holiday. It would coincide with the half-yearly closing of the banking sector.

The finance ministry, in a statement, said the remaining demand continues to be examined and highlighted that the welfare measures are being introduced for the banking workforce.

"Given that most concerns of the unions have been substantially addressed, that the remaining demand continues to be examined, and that the Government continues to proactively introduce welfare measures for the banking workforce, bank employees are urged to refrain from resorting to strikes, work towards resolving issues through dialogue, and ensure



that banking services remain uninterrupted," it said.

It also said that one of the main demands of the unions is withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which was put in abeyance earlier this month after detailed discussion.

Despite the Government having resolved one of the two major demands of the union, and sustained conciliatory engagement, a one-day strike was held on September 11.

Emphasising that Public Sector Banks play a vital role in the country's economic and social development, the statement said, they have been at the forefront of financial inclusion, digital banking, financial literacy and rural outreach, ensuring that formal financial services

reach every section of society.

Recognising this role and acknowledging that a motivated, secure and efficient workforce is essential for a strong banking system, the Government has taken several measures aimed at improving the working environment, transparency and welfare of bank employees.

These include an increase in salary and allowances along with fixation of new pay scales for all cadres, Staff Welfare Fund (SWF), a hike in the number of executive posts at the levels of Assistant General Manager, Deputy General Manager, General Manager and Chief General Manager.

Further, to ensure prompt implementation of Wage Settlements and timely revision

of bankers' salaries and allowances, the Government, for the first time, has begun negotiations for the upcoming Bipartite Settlement, aiming to complete it well in advance of the November 2027 deadline, it said.

These initiatives reflect the Government's continued commitment towards addressing the genuine concerns and welfare of bank employees, while strengthening the institutional framework and ensuring that the banking sector continues to function efficiently and effectively, it said.

Further, these measures indicate that the Government has already addressed the concerns of a substantial majority of bank employees over recent years, it added.

Stressing that banking as a service is relied upon by every citizen and its continuity directly affects the everyday lives of the general public, the statement said the remaining Saturdays (other than second and fourth) continue to serve as an important opportunity for many citizens to access banking services easily.

The proposed 3-day strike period also coincides with the half-yearly closing of banks on September 30, a date of particular significance for reconciliation, provisioning and treasury, and market operations. A disruption of this nature, combined with the preceding weekend, would result in an effective five-day closure of banking services at a particularly sensitive point in the financial calendar — causing considerable inconvenience to customers, businesses, Government transactions and international banking operations, it said.

Strikes cause disruption in banking services that inconvenience the public, impact the business of the bank, and ultimately harm the interests of bank employees, it said, adding that there is no fruitful outcome that is achieved through stirs.

The government assured that it remains committed to the welfare and well-being of bank employees and to addressing their genuine concerns through constructive engagement.

SC To Hear NHA Plea On Stray Cattle Shelters



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to constitute a special bench to hear a plea by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) challenging a direction asking it to construct shelters for stray cattle across the country. A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalaya Bagchi and V Mohana was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the NHA, that a special bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath had directed the authority to establish shelters for stray cattle.

Mehta said the shelters were required to be constructed by local authorities and that the NHA had been directed to establish them across the country.

According to the NHA, implementing the direction would involve an expenditure

of approximately 7,000 crore.

"Our case is that it should be done by the local district-level administration. We cannot do it pan India," the Solicitor General said.

Mehta also sought reconstitution of the special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria to hear the NHA's application.

"There is a matter concerning stray dogs. I am moving an application on behalf of NHA," Mehta told the bench.

He said the special bench could not be constituted unless specifically directed by the Chief Justice of India.

"We will constitute," the CJ said.

The development came during the hearing of matters concerning stray dogs and cattle, including measures for their management and the responsibilities of various government authorities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly

slogans. Congress legislators Irfan Hafiz Lone and Ifthikhar Ahmad attempted to counter them, while CPI(M) leader Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami urged BJP members to also raise the issue of restoration of statehood.

"Another slogan should be raised here that despite two years of an elected government having taken over, statehood has not been restored," Tarigami told the BJP lawmakers.

National Conference MLAs also stood up and raised slogans demanding restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

BJP legislators subsequently entered the Well of the House and continued anti-government sloganeering. Congress MLAs Irfan Hafiz Lone and Ifthikhar Ahmad, along with Shopian MLA Shabir Kulley and Langate MLA Sheikh Khursheed, attempted to enter the Well but were prevented by marshals.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather repeatedly asked the protesting BJP members to return to their seats and warned that action would be taken against them.

"Go to your seats," Rather said as the BJP legislators continued their protest.

The Speaker also directed that the BJP demonstration not be recorded and proceeded with the legislative business. Despite the disruption, ministers continued responding to questions raised by lawmakers.

Amid the commotion, NC MLA Nazir Gurezi accused the BJP of wasting the House's time and said the party should protest in Delhi rather than in the Assembly.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary alleged that the BJP did not want the government to resolve issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP, however, said it was raising issues concerning various sections of society, including NHM employees, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, CAMPA workers, GRS and technical assistants.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma said the BJP was performing its role as an effective opposition by seeking answers from the government on these issues.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the autumn session provided an opportunity for meaningful debate, constructive deliberations and discussion on issues concerning the welfare and aspirations of the people.

Recruitment Record Draws Opposition Attack

People's Conference president and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone attacked the National Conference government over its recruitment record, claiming that only 899 new jobs had been created in nearly two years against the NC's election promise of one lakh jobs.

Lone described the NC election manifesto as a "litany of lies" and said that at the current pace, it would take 222.46 years to create one lakh jobs.

He also referred to the manifesto promise of filling all vacancies in government departments within 180 days, saying only 7,580 vacancies had been filled in the past two years, while 40,672 posts remained vacant.

Lone also alleged that the government had failed to fulfil its promise of waiving application fees for government jobs and said the government had collected crores in application fees.

Reservation, Unemployment Issues Raised PDP leader and MLA Waheed Para moved an adjournment motion seeking discussion on the rationalisation of reservations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Para said unemployment remained a major concern for youth and cited a figure of nearly 32 per cent unemployment. He also raised the issue of merit, arguing that meritorious

students faced difficulties in education and employment.

He alleged that opportunities were disproportionately distributed under the existing reservation policy and called for its reconsideration and rationalisation.

Statehood Becomes Major Political Flashpoint

The demand for restoration of statehood emerged as another major issue on the opening day.

CPI(M) leader Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami urged BJP members to raise the statehood issue, while NC and Congress members also raised slogans demanding restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

AICC general secretary and Dooru MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir later accused BJP legislators of disrupting proceedings to avoid a united front of political parties demanding restoration of statehood.

Mir said the entire House was prepared to question the Centre over the delay in restoring statehood and alleged that the BJP created a commotion to prevent that discussion.

He also said the Centre's failure to restore statehood was affecting the functioning of the elected government.

Mir questioned the BJP's criticism over casual labourers, saying the party had ruled Jammu and Kashmir for seven years.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had limited powers but had sought time to address the issue of casual labourers systematically.

The BJP, meanwhile, accused the Omar Abdullah government of evading questions on public issues.

Sunil Sharma said the BJP was raising the concerns of NHM employees, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, CAMPA workers, GRS and technical assistants, among others.

He said that when the government failed to address public concerns, it was the opposition's responsibility to hold it accountable in the Assembly.

The proceedings continued amid slogans and protests, with the Speaker repeatedly appealing to members to return to their seats.

The House was eventually adjourned for the day amid the uproar.

Over 40,000 Govt

departments. A total of 3,318 gazetted posts, 24,427 non-gazetted posts, and 12,927 multi-tasking staff (MTS) posts were lying vacant, the government said.

The highest number of vacancies was in the Health and Medical Education department with 2,125 gazetted posts, 8,064 non-gazetted posts and 2608 MTS posts lying vacant in the crucial department.

The Agriculture Production Department has 4,939 posts vacant, Finance has 1,829, and School Education 1,364 vacant posts, the government said.

The government said 17,922 posts have been referred to J-K Service Selection Board and 2,150 posts to the Public Service Commission in the last two years.

The government said it has taken a series of measures to ensure that vacant posts are filled in a time-bound manner.

"These include timely identification and referral of vacancies to the recruiting agencies, adherence to the prescribed statutory framework, advance planning of recruitment cycles, and close monitoring of recruitment timelines at various stages," it said.

Efforts have been made to streamline procedures, strengthen coordination with the recruiting agencies and leverage technology to expedite the recruitment process, while ensuring transparency, fairness and merit, it asserted.

The government has already issued directions to all the departments for timely referring of vacancies, falling under direct quota, to the recruiting agencies, it added. (PTI)

Only 899 New Govt

new posts created at 485, followed by the Housing and Urban Development Department with 266 posts and the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department with 82 posts.

The Jal Shakti Department created 43 posts, while the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) created 16 posts.

The remaining posts included three in the Cooperatives Department, two in the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, and one each in the ARI & Trainings and Transport departments.

The House was also informed that a total of 7,580 selections have been finalised by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) since October 2024.

The government said JKPSC finalised 1,768 selections, while JKSSB finalised 5,812 selections during the period.

According to the government, a total of 1,852 vacancies were referred to JKPSC. These included 855 Open Merit (OM), 198 Scheduled Caste (SC), 166 ST-1, 156 ST-2, 114 OBC, 65 ALC/IB, 149 RBA, 139 EWS, four PSP and six ST backlog vacancies.

For JKSSB, 12,418 vacancies were referred, including 5,173 Open Merit, 1,104 SC, 1,248 ST-1, 1,212 ST-2, 933 OBC, 495 ALC/IB, 1,174 RBA and 1,079 EWS vacancies.

Overall, 14,270 vacancies were referred to the two recruitment agencies for recruitment during the period, according to the government reply.(KNO)

J&K Govt to Move

resolution will urge the Union Government to make the necessary statutory amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

The resolution will seek exemption from the TET for all teachers appointed before January 1, 2019.

"This House further urges the Union Government to take all legal steps and issue the requisite notification through the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for exemption from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)," the proposed resolution states.

Minister for School Education Sakina Masood Ittoo will move the resolution in the Assembly. Meanwhile, as per the list of business, Minister for Rural Development Department Javaid Ahmad Dar will move a Bill seeking to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989.

The Bill proposes to repeal the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999, and provide transitional arrangements for self-reliant cooperatives under the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, along with matters connected or incidental thereto. (ONS)

J&K Assembly

During the obituary references, Rather read out the names of the deceased former lawmakers, while no other member participated in the proceedings by delivering tributes.

The members later observed a two-minute silence in memory of the departed legislators.

Traditionally, obituary references in the Assembly were followed by an adjournment for the day, with no other legislative business taken up.

The practice had generally involved members from different political parties participating in

the obituary proceedings before the House was adjourned.

The change comes after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had suggested revising the procedure during the previous autumn session. Referring to his experience in Parliament, Omar had said obituary references there had earlier involved lengthy speeches and often consumed an entire day.

He had suggested that the Speaker read out the obituary references, followed by a brief silence by members, saying the same practice could be adopted in the J&K Assembly.

The Assembly's decision on Monday effectively brought the revised procedure into practice, allowing the House to proceed with its scheduled business after paying homage to the former legislators. (with KNO inputs)

Teacher Dismissed

order was issued by the School Education Department on September 21 and signed by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma.

Y P Bourney To

and Srinagar, Principal District Judge Leh and Udhampur, Special Judge Anti-Corruption, District Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Udhampur, and Director of the J&K Judicial Academy.

Bourney also served as Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority and worked on judicial infrastructure and training programmes during his tenure at the J&K Judicial Academy.

Millet Can Reduce

Kashmir a new sense of confidence while also helping reduce the risks associated with farming," he said.

Sinha said the administration had prepared a strategy under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan three to four years ago, aimed at improving the health of future generations, increasing farmers' prosperity and protecting the environment.

He said millets, once considered "food of the poor", were now being reassessed through scientific research for their nutritional and climate-resilient properties.

The LG also highlighted the potential of millets to diversify agriculture and strengthen rural livelihoods. He called for greater participation of women's self-help groups and young entrepreneurs in developing millet-based products, packaging and branding.

"I see millet's cultivation as a powerful means of empowering women, promoting dignity and respect for women, and reviving the rural economy," he said, adding that value-added millet products could contribute to the region's emerging rural economy.

Sinha also urged households to incorporate millet-based foods into their diets, citing their dietary fibre and nutrients including iron, calcium, magnesium and zinc. He said greater consumption of millets could contribute to addressing lifestyle-related health concerns.

Calling for a coordinated effort involving farmers, researchers, doctors, entrepreneurs and citizens, the LG said food systems needed to become more diverse, nutritious, sustainable and resilient.

He also cited government data according to which India produced 18 million tonnes of millets in 2024-25 and accounted for 38 per cent of global production, underscoring the potential for expanding value-added millet products.

Sinha urged stakeholders to take the millet message to villages and said millets should be viewed not merely as part of the region's agricultural heritage but as a component of its future strategy for climate resilience.

During the event, the LG released

publications including A Laboratory Manual on Soil Microbiology, Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing and Package of Practices for Minor Millets.

Padma Shri Dr Khadar Vali, popularly known as the "Millet Man of India", Kheti Virasat Mission Executive Director Umendra Dutt, SKUAST-Jammu Vice Chancellor Prof B N Tripathi, IFPRI's Dr Anjani Kumar, SKUAST-Jammu Director Research Prof S K Gupta, besides researchers, policymakers, progressive farmers, agri-preneurs, members of self-help groups, faculty and students attended the event.

LG Felicitates Yatra

thousands of volunteers working round the clock despite difficult weather conditions.

The yatra was affected by rainfall for more than 10 days and witnessed an unexpected rush of unregistered pilgrims during the first four to five days. Sinha said coordination by the Shrine Board, timely decisions and cooperation among stakeholders ensured that facilities and services remained available to pilgrims.

According to the administration, about 82 per cent of darshans were completed within the first 20 days and 95 per cent within 30 days of the pilgrimage.

Around 1.87 lakh pilgrims availed themselves of palanquin and pony services through the digital pre-paid system, which, the administration said, helped ensure prescribed rates and address complaints related to overcharging.

The administration also established 93 medical facilities with more than 595 beds and 26 oxygen booths. DRDO and the Department of Health and Medical Education set up 100-bed hospitals at Baltal and Chandanwari.

Around 1,430 doctors and healthcare workers were deployed along with 48 ambulances, including 4x4 vehicles for difficult routes.

The LG said approximately 7,900 toilet and bathing units were installed and an equal number of sanitation workers deployed as part of the zero-waste objective for the pilgrimage.

Hands Over Appointment

Nowgam area of Srinagar on August 11, 2025. Sinha, who was on a visit to Jammu, assured the deceased officer's family of all possible assistance and support from the administration, the officials said.

During his visit, the lieutenant governor also paid obeisance at the Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir at B C road. He prayed for the happiness, well-being and prosperity of all, they said.

Ex-Grameen Bank

in 25 PMEGP loan accounts before expiry of the mandatory lock-in period without receipt of requisite authorisation or adjustment letter from the implementing agency," the ACB said.

In gross violation of PMEGP guidelines, six loan accounts sanctioned alone in favour of Sheikh and his family members were prematurely closed by adjustment of subsidy, according to the spokesperson.

It has been further established during verification that in 46 PMEGP units financed by the branch head -- involving sanctioned or disbursed amount of Rs 1,66,72,000 -- no business units were found existing during physical verification, the spokesperson said.

This indicates diversion of loan funds and subsidy in conspiracy with the beneficiaries, he added. Accordingly, a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Sections 409, 120-B of IPC has been registered against Saini, Sheikh and others, the official said.

Further investigation of the case is going on, he said.

Kashmir's Shaliganga Mining Bill Soars to Rs 12.30 Crore

Seven months after the J&K Pollution Control Committee imposed a Rs 3.10 crore penalty on NKC Projects, the government says NHAI has been asked to recover the enlarged amount from the company's pending bills.

Ansar Hussain

SRINAGAR: At Panzan in Budgam, the Shaliganga stream became the setting for a legal fight over riverbed mining, environmental safeguards and the cost of restoring a damaged waterway.

Now, more than seven months after Jammu and Kashmir imposed a Rs 3.10 crore environmental compensation on the construction company involved, the bill has grown to Rs 12.30 crore under the government's application of the Polluter Pays Principle.

The government told the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday that it had asked the National Highways Authority of India to withhold and recover the compensation from pending bills payable to NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd.

The disclosure came in a written reply to a starred question from Ali Mohammad Dar, the National Conference legislator representing Chadoora.

The original compensation was imposed by the J&K Pollution Control Committee in February after the Supreme Court upheld the National Green Tribunal's action against mining in



Shaliganga.

The company had received environmental clearance for riverbed mining and was accused of violating conditions attached to that clearance during mineral extraction.

Earlier proceedings had found that heavy machinery was used in breach of prescribed environmental safeguards.

The dispute began with environmental clearances covering three mining blocks along the

Shaliganga Nallah. The National Green Tribunal banned mining in 2022 after a challenge brought by environmental activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat.

The Supreme Court later upheld the tribunal's decision and directed the J&K Pollution Control Committee to act against violations.

The Rs 3.10 crore compensation reflected damage assessed at three locations. The committee calculated about Rs 87.47 lakh for Dreygam downstream,

nearly Rs 70 lakh for Banderpora and about Rs 1.57 crore for the stretch between Panzan Bridge and Lalgam in Chadoora.

The amount has since multiplied under the Polluter Pays formula. Bhat said the compensation doubles when payment remains pending for three months and doubles again after another three months.

That calculation has taken the amount to Rs 12.30 crore, according to the J&K Pollution

Control Committee's order and the latest account placed before the Assembly.

NKC Projects has challenged the compensation in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The government has described the matter as sub judice. The company has yet to deposit the compensation.

The latest government response says the Pollution Control Committee has written to NHAI seeking direct recovery from pending payments due to the company.

Bhat questions the description of the matter as sub judice because, he said, the High Court has not stayed the Pollution Control Committee's compensation order.

He has called for the money to be recovered and used to restore the Shaliganga stretch around Panzan, where he says extraction during 2021 and 2022 caused extensive damage.

The dispute now moves from the riverbed to the accounting of its damage. A penalty that began at Rs 3.10 crore has become a Rs 12.30 crore claim, while the stream that triggered the legal battle still awaits the consequences of that calculation.

₹3.22 Cr Relief Disbursed to Rajouri Flood Victims: CM

403 Roads & Bridges Proposed for Permanent Restoration at ₹185 Crore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that ₹3.22 crore had been disbursed to families affected by flash floods and landslides in Rajouri constituency, while a proposal for permanent restoration of 403 roads and bridges in the district had been prepared at an estimated cost of ₹185 crore.

Replying to a question by Rajouri MLA Iftikhar Ahmed during Question Hour of the Autumn Session, Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction portfolio, said 149 family-wise cases relating to damages caused by flash floods and landslides had been received by the District Administration Rajouri.

He said ₹40.61 lakh had been disbursed to affected families in Rajouri constituency under prescribed State Disaster Response Fund norms.

In addition, ₹2.81 crore had been released to District Rajouri from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and disbursed among affected families in accordance with approved norms.

The Chief Minister said a preliminary assessment of damage to roads and bridges



in Rajouri district had been carried out and a proposal for permanent restoration of 403 roads and bridges had been prepared at an estimated cost of ₹185 crore.

On damage to power infrastructure, he said losses amounting to ₹27.99 crore had been assessed in Rajouri district due to heavy rains and flash floods during July 2026. Of this, ₹9.39 crore pertained to Rajouri constituency.

He said temporary restoration of power supply had been undertaken through installation of an Emergency Restoration System tower on the 132 KV Rajouri-Draba transmission line, while the tendering process for permanent restoration was under way.

The Chief Minister said ₹1.25 crore had been received under SDRF for temporary restoration of power supply in Rajouri district. Of this, ₹57.60 lakh had been allocated to Rajouri constitu-

ency, with the remaining amount distributed among other affected constituencies in the district.

Regarding agricultural losses, Omar said the Agriculture Department had assessed crop damage during Kharif 2026 through field-level verification.

According to the assessment, maize was affected over 416 hectares, with 15 per cent damage recorded, while paddy was affected over 101.50 hectares, with 65 per cent damage assessed.

He said the Jal Shakti and Public Works (R&B) departments had also conducted detailed assessments of damage to water supply, irrigation and road infrastructure in the constituency.

The Chief Minister said all damaged roads, bridges, water supply and power supply schemes had been temporarily restored within one month.

Detailed Project Reports for permanent restoration had been prepared and were under consideration, he said.

He further said flood-prone electrical infrastructure would be strengthened and realigned wherever required to improve its resilience against future eventualities. Adequate spares would also be kept available for immediate restoration of electrical infrastructure in case of future damage or disruption.

1-Hour House a Mockery of People's Expectations: MLA Mehraj Malik

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Terming the one-hour proceedings of the Legislative Assembly a "mockery" of people's expectations, MLA Mehraj Malik said legislators should have continued the House proceedings as people had pinned high hopes on the session.

"It was a mockery. They should have continued the House as people had expectations, but they made a mockery of the proceedings as the House ran for only an hour," Malik told KNO while reacting to the disruption of proceedings amid protests over power



tariff hikes, regularisation of daily wagers and the demand for the restoration of statehood.

He questioned those who had earlier criticised his conduct, saying leaders should also be answerable for failing to meet people's expectations.

"Those who were questioning my behaviour and called it ill-mannered,

what about these leaders who ruined people's expectations within one hour?" he asked.

Malik said the seven-day Assembly session was already too short to adequately discuss the issues confronting Jammu and Kashmir and urged legislators to remind the government of the promises made in its manifesto.

On employment and the regularisation of casual and daily-wage workers, Malik said political parties had sought votes by making commitments on these issues and were responsible for fulfilling them. (KNO)

Amazon Great Indian Festival to Begin Oct 8

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amazon India has announced that its annual Great Indian Festival will begin on October 8, offering customers deals across smartphones, electronics, televisions, fashion, beauty, home and kitchen products, appliances, grocery and other categories.

The festive shopping event will feature what Amazon described as some of the lowest prices of the year on crores of products, along with new launches from leading brands. Customers using SBI Credit and Debit Cards, including EMI transactions, will be



eligible for a 10 per cent instant discount, while Prime members will have access to additional benefits of up to 10 per cent.

The sale will include Blockbuster Deals, Top 100 Deals, Mega Deals and 8 PM Deals, besides offers such as Buy More Save More, Exchange Mela, Sample Mania and Amazon Combos. Customers will also be able to avail themselves of No Cost EMI and exchange offers

across various categories.

Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India, said the Great Indian Festival would bring together customers, sellers and brands for a major festive shopping event, with deals, new launches and a wide selection of premium and value products.

Amazon said it had created more than 160,000 seasonal work opportunities across its pan-India operations network covering 400 cities. The company has also expanded its operations infrastructure with 20 new fulfilment centres, six new sort centres and 150 new last-mile delivery stations.

NC May Take 222 Years to Deliver 1 Lakh Jobs: Sajad Lone

SRINAGAR: Reacting to Government's admission in Assembly that only 899 new jobs have been created in the past two years, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Monday ridiculed the National Conference's election pledge of creating one lakh jobs, saying at the current pace it would take the party more than 222 years to deliver on its promise.

In a post on X, Lone termed NC's manifesto is a litany of lies. "The NC manifesto is nothing but a litany of lies," Lone said in the Assembly. In their election manifesto, NC promised to create 100,000 new jobs. Till date they have created 899 jobs. It means that at current rate it will take them 222.46 years to create 100,000 jobs. What a joke. The bigger joke is on those people who bought this lie," he said.

Lone said that NC had also promised to fill all vacancies within 180 days.

"In their election manifesto, NC also promised to fill all vacancies in government departments within 180 days. Today, it was revealed that only 7,580 vacancies have been filled in the past two years. As on date, 40,672 posts remain vacant. Data shows that 24,427 non-gazetted posts, 3,318 gazetted posts, and 12,927 multi-tasking staff positions are still unfilled at this pace, it will take more than a decade to fill up these 40,672 posts," he said.

Lone further pointed out that the NC had vowed to fill all government vacancies within 180 days, yet official figures show only 7,580 posts have been filled in two years. "As on date, 40,672 posts remain vacant-24,427 non-gazetted, 3,318 gazetted, and 12,927 multi-tasking staff. At this pace, it will take decades to clear the backlog," he said. (Observer News Service)

Examining Uniform Framework for Regularisation of Daily Rated Workers: Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the House that it is examining a uniform framework for the regularisation of temporary workers, including daily-rated workers, casual and seasonal labourers, and other contractual and need-based employees engaged across departments.

In a written response to a question raised by MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, the government, according to KNO, said the matter is being examined by a committee constituted through Government Order No. 384-JK (GAD) of 2025 dated March 19, 2025.

The committee has been tasked with examining the humanitarian, legal and financial aspects of the regularisation of such workers, the government said, adding that it is also reviewing the varying terms and conditions under which different categories of workers were engaged over time.

The government said any proposed policy would have to conform to applicable statutory provisions, the prevailing legal position and the prescribed recruitment framework, while also taking into account the financial implications.

It said the committee is undertaking a comprehensive exercise to formulate a framework that is legally enforceable and administratively implementable across departments.

The government added that consultations with the concerned departments and an examination of the issue from administrative, legal and financial perspectives are required before a final policy decision can be taken.

On the committee's report, the government said the matter remains under examination and that a considered decision will be taken after the exercise is completed and requisite inputs are received from the concerned departments and authorities—(KNO)

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EXTENSION OF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
NOTICE NO. 06 OF 2026-27 DATED: 07.09.2026

Due to poor response, the dates for downloading, submission and opening of tender floated vide Short Term Notice No. 06 of 2026-27 dated: 07.09.2026, regarding Insurance Policy of the Students studying at GCET, Jammu are hereby extended as per the schedule given below: -

1.	Last date for downloading of Tender Form	: 24.09.2026 upto 2.00 P.M.
2.	Last date of Receipt of Tender	: 24.09.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.
3.	Date of opening of Tender	: 25.09.2026 at 01.00 P.M.

All other terms and conditions of above referred Short Term Tender Notice shall remain the same.

No.: GCET/Accts/2026-27/858
Dated:- 18-09-2026

Principal
GCET, Jammu

DIPK-5944-26
DT: 21/09/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject:- Selection of candidates for the post of Assistant PTI in the (Higher Education Department), Divisional Cadre Jammu - Advertisement No.06 of 2020, Item No. 187 (Division Jammu).

NOTICE

The following candidate who has been recommended by the J&K Services Selection Board for appointment to the post of Assistant PTI (advertised vide Advertisement No. 06 of 2020, Item No.187 (Division Jammu), pursuant to letter No. JKSSB-Scry/ 07/ 2026- 03 (E-7861331) dated: 05.06.2026 is hereby directed to submit his e-mail ID and contact number details (as per Annexure 'A') to Director Colleges, J&K within a period of seven (7) days positively for uploading the same on the Employee Verification System (EVS), failing which it shall be presumed that he is not willing to take up his appointment as Assistant PTI in the Higher Education Department and he shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice:-

Final Selection list for the post of Assistant PTI, advertised vide Notification No. 06 of 2020 under item No. 187, for which the OMR based written examination was held on 16-02-2025.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Permanent Address	Selection Category
Waiting list under RBA Category				
1	Mr. Aubid Hussain Parray	Mohd Akbar Parrey	H. No 199, Herpora, Kamad, Anantnag, 192210	RBA

ANNEXURE 'A'
to Notice dated: 19. 09.2026

Name (1)	Parentage (2)	Address (3)	Email-ID (4)	Mobile No. (5)

No. HED-NGZ/71/2026-04(7761224)
Dated: 19.09.2026

DIPK-5961-26
DT: 21/09/2026

(Syed Ishrat Parvez)
Under Secretary to the Government

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
CIVIL SECRETARIAT JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

(Email- secretary-culture@jk.gov.in, 0191-2548715, 0194-2506264)

**ANNEXURE-A
NOTICE**

The draft Cultural Policy of J&K(2026) has been uploaded on the Departmental Website of Department of Culture, with URL: <https://culture.jk.gov.in>.

The stakeholders are requested to furnish their comments/suggestions/objections, if any, within a stipulated period of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice on email id: secretary-culture@jk.gov.in

Sd/-
DIPK-5970-26
DT: 21/09/2026

Principal Secretary to the Government
Department of Culture

'RS 370 BIRYANI' REMARK

SC Issues Notice on Comedian More's Plea to Club FIRs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Faced with multiple FIRs after a guest on his show made the infamous "Rs 370 biryani" remark, dubbed misogynistic and crass, comedian Pranit More on Monday asked the Supreme Court to club all the FIRs against him. Responding to his plea, the apex court sought notices from the Centre and the governments of Maharashtra and Haryana.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana passed the order after the counsel for More told the court that

the comedian has apologised on all forums, including the National Commission for Women.

"I have apologised before all the forums, and I was just the host of the show. I understand the gravity of the situation, but the only thing I am seeking is that the Gurgaon FIR be clubbed with the Bombay FIR. I'm ready to face the trial..."

"Even before the FIR was registered, as soon as I got to know about the gravity of the situation, I deleted the video. I was travelling at that time, and the PR team that I have, they did not take my approval before publishing the video," the counsel



told the court.

A Gurugram-based firm had earlier sacked its employee, web developer Himanshu Jangra, who went viral for making the controversial "Rs 370 biryani" remark during More's show after widespread social media outrage over the incident.

Jangra faced a backlash for his comment, prompting his employer, Starvik Design, to fire him from his job. Vivek Vishwakarma, the founder of the firm, had confirmed his sacking in a video posted on X.

The controversy began after Jangra, during the show, recounted a date when he spent Rs

370 on a plate of chicken biryani. When the woman asked him to drop her home, he sought sexual favours for the money he spent on the biryani, Jangra said. More was seen laughing at Jangra's comment.

Later, both More and Jangra apologised for the incident after facing backlash on social media, with the latter also deactivating his Instagram account.

After the comment went viral, social media users termed it insensitive and derogatory towards women. Some also criticised More for not objecting to the remark and laughing it off instead.

Sikh Group Stopped from Praying at Zero Line

Press Trust of India

DERA BABA NANAK: The BSF troops on Monday prevented a group of Sikhs led by Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaj from going to the Zero Line to hold a prayer for the re-opening of the Kartarpur Corridor.

Gargaj visited Dera Baba Nanak here to participate in a joint prayer programme organised by Sikh communities on both sides of the India-Pakistan border for the early reopening of the Kartarpur corridor.

The programme was organised after an invitation from the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

On the Pakistani side, a 'Nagar Kirtan' was carried out from Gurdwara Sri Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, to the Zero Line to commemorate the Jyoti Jot Diwas of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, said Gargaj.

On the Indian side, Sikh devotees assembled at Dera Baba Nanak following an appeal from Gargaj, and proceeded towards the Zero Line in a jatha led by him.



Talking to the media, Gargaj said it was not appropriate on the part of the BSF to stop Sikhs from even offering 'ardas' (prayer) at the Zero Line.

He said the governments of both countries should understand Sikh sentiments and, respecting those sentiments, immediately reopen the Kartarpur corridor.

The Kartarpur corridor, which facilitates devotees to pay obeisance at the historic gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, has remained shut since May 7 last year, when the Indian armed forces carried out pre-dawn missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

The issue of the Jathedar's visit to the Zero Line had been discussed since morning with BSF and Punjab Police officials through Harmandir Sahib manager Rajinder Singh Ruby and Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak Manager Ranjit Singh, according to a statement.

The officials were informed that Gargaj, accompanied by some Sikh devotees, would offer 'ardas' at the Zero Line.

When the Sikh jatha approached the Zero Line, BSF officials stopped them and said that if they wished to offer prayers, they could do so at the nearby gurdwara.

Gargaj asked the BSF personnel to consult their senior officers and allow a group of five Sikhs to proceed to the Zero Line so that 'Rumala Sahib' Sri Guru Granth Sahib and 'Siropaos' (robes of honour) for the 'Panj Piaras' (five beloved ones) could be handed over to the Pakistani Sikh sangat participating in the Nagar Kirtan.

However, permission was not granted.

Following this, Gargaj and the accompanying Sikhs sat on the ground in front of the BSF barricade.

'Rehras Sahib' (evening prayer) was then recited, followed by 'Shabad Kirtan' and 'ardas' for the reopening of the corridor and peace between the two countries.

Gargaj said Sikhs have been praying every day for the welfare of all and that the 'ardas' offered on Monday was also for the immediate reopening of the Kartarpur Corridor, peace between India and Pakistan, and the opening of cross-border trade through Punjab.

Gargaj also said that political leaders visiting here are often provided VIP facilities and taken up to the Zero Line, while the Sikh sangat faces restrictions.

Pak Minister Arrives in Tehran Amid Regional Tensions

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi landed in Tehran on Monday for talks with Iranian leaders and officials, as Islamabad seeks to revive its diplomatic efforts to ease tensions between Iran and the US amid a continuing standoff.

Naqvi was received by his Iranian counterpart Eskandar Momeni, Iranian state-run news agency IRNA reported.

"Exchanging views on bilateral relations and the provisions of the agreement between the two countries that has been signed by the high officials of both countries are among the goals of this trip," according to IRNA.

The visit comes at a time when Pakistan is seeking to revive an interim peace agreement, termed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by the US and Iran in June, which was disrupted by renewed military escalation between the two sides.

The key sticking point is the Strait of Hormuz. The



waterway through which roughly a fifth of global energy supplies passed in peacetime effectively remains blocked.

Pakistan had played a key role in facilitating the US-Iran negotiations that led to the interim peace agreement, and it had signed the MoU as a guarantor. Islamabad has since sought to keep the diplomatic channel open.

Diplomatic sources familiar with the details of Naqvi's visit said that, apart from bilateral matters, the ongoing regional tensions were the main focus of the talks.

"Pakistan has been trying to revive the Islamabad MoU and the visit is part of those efforts," said one of them.

Naqvi has made several visits to Tehran in recent months as part of Pakistan's engagement with Iran. During his previous visit in August, he met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghchi.

Naqvi is also considered close to Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir. On several occasions, his visits to Iran have been followed by visits by the Field Marshal.

The visit also comes at a time when fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthis have intensified, with the former carrying out airstrikes against Houthi positions and the group launching drone and missile attacks against Saudi territory.

It has raised concerns over the security of Saudi energy infrastructure and shipping routes around the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Roughly 10 to 15 per cent of global maritime trade normally passes through them.

On Saturday, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar spoke to Araghchi over phone and stressed the importance of uninterrupted energy supplies and the safe and expeditious passage of ships, particularly given their implications for developing countries and global supply chains.

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15 Years	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
20 Years	₹51.8L	₹12.0L	6.5x
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