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J&K Establishments Owe ₹6,870 Cr In Power Dues

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government, semi-government, commercial and industrial establishments, along with security forces installations in Jammu and Kashmir, owe over 6,870 crore in unpaid electricity dues to the Power Development Department (PDD), the Legislative Assembly was informed on Monday.

The figures were provided by the government in response to a question raised by Pampore MLA Hasnain Masoodi during Question Hour.

According to the details placed before the House, government and semi-government establishments account for the largest share of the outstanding dues at ₹3,155.69 crore.

The commercial sector owes ₹1,833.60 crore, while industrial consumers have pending dues of ₹1,005.89 crore. Security forces installations owe another ₹874.97 crore.

The combined outstanding amount across these categories stands at ₹6,870.15 crore.

The government said the DISCOMs have been undertaking sustained measures to recover outstanding electricity dues through systematic monitoring of arrears, issuance of demand and payment notices, liquidation of outstanding dues and disconnection of electricity supply in cases of persistent default.

"Disconnection of electricity supply for nonpayment of dues is an ongoing enforcement measure," the government said, adding that such action is taken by the concerned field formations after following the prescribed procedure.

The House was | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Passes Statehood Resolution, BJP Walks Out

BJP moves motion against Speaker; four MLAs marshalled out amid protests

Omar questions delay in statehood restoration, says J&K's right cannot be treated as charity or favour

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a resolution calling for the immediate and urgent restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, amid a prolonged uproar by opposition BJP members, who opposed the resolution, moved a motion seeking the removal of the Speaker and later staged a walkout.

The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday, was passed by voice vote after members who had proposed amendments seeking the restoration of special status agreed to withdraw them following the Chief Minister's appeal.

The resolution stated that, in addition to resolutions passed by the House on June 26, 2000 and November 6, 2024, the Assembly called upon the Government of India for the "immediate



and urgent restoration of full statehood" to Jammu and Kashmir and resolved that it be forwarded to the Centre.

The 2000 resolution, passed by the then National Conference government headed by Farooq Abdullah, had sought restoration of greater autonomy as it existed before August 9, 1953. The resolution passed by the House in November 2024 had sought

restoration of special status.

Several members, including those from the ruling National Conference, had moved amendments seeking to include restoration of special status in the latest resolution.

However, Omar urged the members not to press the amendments, saying the House had already passed resolutions on special status and that | [More on P6](#)



CM Introduces 6 Bills In J&K Assembly

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday introduced six bills in the Legislative Assembly during the ongoing Autumn Session, proposing changes to laws governing ease of doing business, taxation, salaries and pensions of ministers and legislators, and

the rationalisation of certain offences. Omar, who also holds the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, designated as L.A. Bill No. 11 of 2026.

The proposed legislation seeks to replace

permission-based control with rule-based governance and promote ease of doing business and ease of living in the Union Territory. It aims to enable citizens and enterprises to plan, invest and operate with greater certainty, while promoting employment generation, | [More on P6](#)

consideration and passage of a slew of legislations tomorrow, including amendments to municipal laws, GST provisions, and salary and pension statutes for ministers and legislators.

Prominent among the bills is the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 10 of 2026), which seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000.

The Chief Minister will also move a bill (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 2026) tomorrow to "consolidate and amend the law to replace permission-based control with rule-based governance" — a measure aimed at enabling citizens and | [More on P6](#)

Fresh Snowfall In Gulmarg, Rain Lashes J&K Parts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh snowfall was recorded over the Affarwat peak in Gulmarg on Monday as light rain and thundershowers lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing a brief spell of cooler weather across the Union Territory.

The fresh snow over the higher reaches of Gulmarg added to the wintry appearance of the popular tourist resort, while rainfall was reported from several areas across J&K.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said the weather remained generally cloudy, with light rain and thundershowers at many places during the day.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 20.8°C and a minimum of 5.5°C, with the minimum being the lowest of the season so far and 1.4°C below normal.

In Kashmir, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.8°C and a minimum of 11.5°C, while Pahalgam recorded 24.8°C and 7°C, respectively.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 31.4°C.

Batote received 1.4 mm of rainfall and Baderwah 6.2 mm during the past 24 hours, while the highest rainfall of 16.5 mm was recorded at ARG Bakore.

The Meteorological Centre has forecast generally dry weather from September 29 to October 3.

From October 4 to 6, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with the possibility of light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places. | [More on P6](#)

Shah Calls For Automated Counter-Terror Response

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Emphasising the importance of ensuring "zero delay" in counterterrorism operations, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday called for institutionalising an "automated response mechanism" at every level of the country's counter-terror framework 'PRAHAAR'.

Inaugurating the conference on 'PRAHAAR - CT Policy and Strategy', Shah also launched a dedicated extradition portal aimed at expediting efforts to bring fugitives back to India.

The new portal brings on one platform MHA, MEA, CBI and state agencies in the extradition efforts when a fugitive is detained abroad and extradition request is supposed to be



transmitted to the country with the approval of the competent court, sources said.

Shah stressed the need for a "proactive, result-oriented approach to counterterrorism" and urged agencies to institutionalise an "automated response mechanism" at every level.

He also

Kashmir RTI Movement Flags Rise Of Digital Misinformation

As information disorder becomes a global concern, an RTI Day event in remote Kupwara brought the debate into a Kashmir classroom, urging students to question sources and seek facts from public records.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: A global debate over misinformation found an unlikely setting on Monday in Kalaroos, a remote area of Kashmir where students gathered to discuss a problem that reaches them through the same phones used by people thousands of miles away: how to know when information can be trusted.

The occasion was International Right to Information Day. The Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement, in collaboration with the Civic Research and Development Foundation, held an awareness



programme at Government Higher Secondary School Kalaroos, turning the international debate over information disorder into a discussion

about something more practical: checking a source, seeking a record and asking an authority for facts.

This year's | [More on P6](#)

J&K Extends Old Pension Scheme Benefit To Pre-2009 Recruits

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Government has extended the benefit of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to employees appointed against posts advertised or notified before December 24, 2009, but who subsequently joined government service under the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

The decision was taken by the Council of Ministers and formalised through a government order issued on Monday.

Under the order, eligible employees have been given a one-time option to switch from the NPS to the OPS. They must exercise the option through the proper channel within three months from the date of issuance of the order.



The government has clarified that the option, once exercised, will be final and cannot be withdrawn.

Employees who fail to exercise the option within the stipulated three-month period will continue to remain covered under the NPS.

The decision is expected to benefit thousands of employees whose | [More on P6](#)

631 Non-Residents Buy 386 Kanals In J&K, Data Shows

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Srinagar: As many as 631 non-residents have purchased 386 kanals and 128 square feet of land in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019 for a total consideration of Rs 129.97 crore, according to official data placed before the Legislative Assembly.

The data presented by the Revenue Department shows that 378 non-residents purchased 212 kanals, 13 marlas and 128 square feet of land in the Jammu region, while 253 buyers acquired 173 kanals and seven marlas in Kashmir.

The figures cover land transactions recorded after the changes made in the

legal framework governing land ownership in J&K in 2019.

Year-wise data shows that one non-resident purchased one kanal in 2020 for Rs 10.06 lakh. The number of buyers increased to 57 in 2021, 127 in 2022, 119 in 2023, 169 in 2024 and 158 in 2025.

In 2025 alone, non-residents purchased 106 kanals, 11 marlas and 201 square feet of land for a reported consideration of Rs 37.17 crore.

Around 350 of the 631 buyers were residents of Ladakh, while others were identified as being from Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand and Bihar, among other places.

The data also | [More on P6](#)

Sexual Crime Reporting Must Protect Victims' Dignity: SC

Top court urges media to avoid sensationalism, graphic descriptions and insensitive language while reporting sexual offences

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Monday said media outlets, journalists and publishing platforms must practise responsible, empathetic and restrained journalism while reporting sexual offences, stressing that victims' dignity must remain central to such coverage.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran said sensationalist

headlines, graphic or lurid descriptions of sexual violence and insensitive language served no public interest and could cause severe secondary trauma to victims and their families.

The observations came as the court took cognisance of three alleged sexual violence cases in Delhi, including the alleged gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park in south Delhi, the alleged gang-rape and murder of | [More on P6](#)



Kashmir To Host Major Science Congress At IUST

The three-day gathering will bring together researchers and policymakers around science, innovation and technology with a focus on Jammu and Kashmir.

Shahid Mir

Srinagar: Artificial intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology, climate research and water security will share the same stage this week at a gathering designed to ask a practical question: what can science do for Jammu and Kashmir now?

The Islamic University of Science and Technology will host the JK Science Congress 2026 from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, bringing scientists, academicians, researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry representatives and students to its main campus.

Manoj Sinha, the lieutenant governor of Jammu and



Kashmir and chancellor of IUST, will inaugurate the Congress on Tuesday.

The three-day event, organised with the Jammu and

Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council and the Department of Science and Technology, carries the theme "Science, | [More on P6](#)



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2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 93 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27/E-TENDERING/7656-65 DATED 24-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Tendered Cost (Rs in lacs.)			Cost of document (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion For Construction work	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online	Class of contractor
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part	Total cost of work						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Upgradation/Strength ening of Moman Shirpora Road including Gundichahal Hafizabad . (NABARD RIDF XXXI)	176.79 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 149.83 + (18% GST Amount 26.96)	17.68 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 14.98 + (18% GST Amount 2.70)	194.47 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 164.81 + (18% GST Amount 29.66)	0.026	3.536	03 Years	ist	02-10-2026 At 11:00 A.M	AAY Class Only

Project Authority: PWD(R&B) Department.

Position of AAA: Accorded Vide Order No. CE(R&B) SK/AA/03 of 2025-26, Dated 06.12.2025.

Position of TS: Accorded Vide Order No. CE(R&B) SK/TS/316 of 2025-26, Dated 26.02.2026.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-09-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 25-09-2026 (09:00AM) To 01-10-2026 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 25-09-2026 (09:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 01-10-2026 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	02-10-2026 (11:00AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag

- Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt.

(The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be deposited by the Successful Bidder in Performance Security Deposit Head. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-6177/26
dated: 28-09-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farooq Ahmad Khan, S/o Noor Din Khan, R/o Zirhama, Kupwara, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my wallet in Kupwara, containing important documents, including Aadhaar Card, Driving Licence, PAN Card, RC No. JK09C-6310, E-Shram Card, and 1,500 cash.

If anyone finds the wallet, he/she is requested to contact me at 9541708483. I have also applied for duplicate copies of the lost documents. Any person having any objection may report the same to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Farooq Ahmad Khan
S/o Noor Din Khan
R/o Zirhama, Kupwara

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Waseem Sultan Yatoo, S/o Mohd Sultan Yatoo, R/o Yadipora, Pattan, hereby inform the general public that the number plate bearing No. JK05F-7982 of my Yamaha scooter has been lost/ misplaced. I intend to obtain a duplicate number plate from the concerned authority.

Any person having any objection may submit the same before the ARTO Sopore within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Waseem Sultan Yatoo
S/o Mohd Sultan Yatoo
R/o Yadipora, Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Imtiyaz Ahmad Najar S/o Ali Mohammad Najar, R/o Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward, Mirha Binti Imtiyaz, has inadvertently been recorded as Lubna Jan in the DOB Certificate issued by Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar, bearing No. B202601903070014193 dated 31-08-2026.

The correct name of my ward is Mirha Binti Imtiyaz. I have applied for correction of the said record and issuance of a fresh DOB Certificate with the correct particulars.

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

Imtiyaz Ahmad Najar
S/o Ali Mohammad Najar
R/o Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I HAVE CHANGE MY NAME : RAFIQUE AHMAD LONE TO NEW NAME: RAFIQ AHMAD LONE. IN FUTURE I WILL BE KNOWNS AS RAFIQ AHMAD LONE. IF ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTIONS MAY FILE TO RPO SRINAGAR WITHIN 7 DAYS R/O NAIK MOHALLA BONGAM SHOP I I 192303 PASSPORT NO L5694497

Turay

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 6444 3422 1885 the name is entered as AMINA while my actual name is AMEENA BANO. 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.
AMEENA BANO W/O SHAMIM AHMAD MALIK
R/O PEERBAGH HYDERPORA SRINAGAR

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I have lost my Passport bearing Passport No. N5233952 while travelling from Srinagar to Heing. I am now applying for a duplicate passport in this regard. If anybody has any objection, he/she may file the same before the Passport Office, Srinagar, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Sharukh Ahmad Hajam
S/o Ali Mohammad Hajam
R/o Heing Rajpora Tehsil Kwarhama
(PS) Kunzer District : Baramulla

ZK

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khatija Begum, W/o Ghulam Ahmad Malik, R/o Malik Mohalla, Palhalla, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Khateeja" in Aadhaar Card No. 3745-3152-4505, whereas my correct and actual name is "Khatija Begum."

I have applied for publication of the required Gazetted Notification regarding correction of my name in the Government Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Khatija Begum
W/o Ghulam Ahmad Malik
R/o Malik Mohalla, Palhalla, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Faisal Shafi, S/o Mohammad Shafi Khan, R/o Zawoora, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Faisal Iqbal" in Aadhaar Card No. 5373-9137-4836, whereas my correct and actual name is "Faisal Shafi."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Faisal Shafi
S/o Mohammad Shafi Khan
R/o Zawoora, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Kumar, F/o Tuiba Jan, R/o Ramnagri, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Toibha Jaan" in Aadhaar Card No. 6066-2530-8412, whereas her correct and actual name is "Tuiba Jan."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Manzoor Ahmad Kumar
F/o Tuiba Jan
R/o Ramnagri, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tariq Ahmad Bhat, F/o Mansi Tariq, R/o Hilloo, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Maansiya Tariq" in Aadhaar Card No. 5722-8102-0714, whereas her correct and actual name is "Mansi Tariq."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Tariq Ahmad Bhat
F/o Mansi Tariq
R/o Hilloo, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Aslam Chaychee, F/o Shehzan Aslam, R/o Saidpora Pain, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Shazan Aslam" in Aadhaar Card No. 9109-2976-7982, whereas his correct and actual name is "Shehzan Aslam."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohd Aslam Chaychee
F/o Shehzan Aslam
R/o Saidpora Pain, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Peerzada Yawar Amin, S/o Peerzada Muhammad Amin, R/o Pinjoora, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Mir Yawar Amin" in Aadhaar Card No. 9339-8793-9126, whereas my correct and actual name is "Peerzada Yawar Amin."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Peerzada Yawar Amin
S/o Peerzada Muhammad Amin
R/o Pinjoora, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Ikhtaliq Bhat, F/o Aayat Ul Islam, R/o Saidpora Pain, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Aytul Islam" in Aadhaar Card No. 9068-7995-4394, whereas her correct and actual name is "Aayat Ul Islam."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohd Ikhtaliq Bhat
F/o Aayat Ul Islam
R/o Saidpora Pain, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, F/o Momin Ali Bhat, R/o Odina, Tehsil Sonawari, District Bandipora, J&K UT, hereby declare that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as Momin Manzoor in Aadhaar Card No. 7330-7427-6044, whereas his correct and actual name is Momin Ali Bhat.

I seek publication of a Gazetted Notification regarding the said name correction in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat
F/o Momin Ali Bhat
R/o Odina, Tehsil Sonawari, District Bandipora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Teli, F/o Mohammad Salmaan Teli, R/o Teli Mohalla, Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby declare that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as Mohammad Zubair Teli in Aadhaar Card No. 8206-1095-4348, whereas his correct and actual name is Mohammad Salaam Teli.

I intend to publish a Gazetted Notification regarding the said name correction in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Nazir Ahmad Teli
F/o Mohammad Salmaan Teli
R/o Teli Mohalla, Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nidhat Jan, D/o Bashir Ahmad Sofi, R/o Amshipora, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Nidhat Bashir" in Aadhaar Card No. 9475-4380-7374, whereas my correct and actual name is "Nidhat Jan."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Nidhat Jan
D/o Bashir Ahmad Sofi
R/o Amshipora, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Meema Akhter, W/o Gulzar Ahmad Ganie, R/o Chattawatan, Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Meema Jan" in my Aadhaar Card, whereas my correct name is "Meema Akhter", as recorded in my school and other relevant documents.

I have applied for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Meema Akhter
W/o Gulzar Ahmad Ganie
R/o Chattawatan, Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ashaq Hussain Ganaie, F/o Qasid Hussain, R/o Reshnagri, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Qasid Hussain Ganaie" in Aadhaar Card No. 2898-6605-6511, whereas his correct and actual name is "Qasid Hussain."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Ashaq Hussain Ganaie
F/o Qasid Hussain
R/o Reshnagri, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shabir Ahmad Laadi, F/o Ruksana Akhter, R/o Amshipora, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Rikhsan Akhter" in Aadhaar Card No. 6647-3265-7500, whereas her correct and actual name is "Ruksana Akhter."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Shabir Ahmad Laadi
F/o Ruksana Akhter
R/o Amshipora, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Aslam Chaychee, F/o Ehsan Aslam, R/o Saidpora Pain, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Aisan Aslam" in Aadhaar Card No. 2796-6340-2978, whereas his correct and actual name is "Ehsan Aslam."

I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohd Aslam Chaychee
F/o Ehsan Aslam
R/o Saidpora Pain, District Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where as I FAIZAN ALTAF S/O MOHMMAD ALTAF DAR R/O WATRAD DALBAL KHANSAHIB BUDGAM KASHMIR intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style M/S RIWAYAT E KASHMIR tour & travels Travel company situated at Ompora Budgam, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000). Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub - Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/ Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency / Adventure Tour Operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public / Financial Institute/ Bank / Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valey. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Rafiq, S/o Roshan Din, R/o Bagan Kote, District Reasi, hereby declare that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Modh Rafiq in Aadhaar Card No. 9358-9376-0879, whereas my correct and actual name is Mohd Rafiq. The correct name is recorded in all my other personal and official documents.

The correction is required due to a clerical error in the Aadhaar Card. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Mohd Rafiq
S/o Roshan Din
R/o Bagan Kote, District Reasi

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zubair Ahmed, F/o Abas Ali, R/o Kanthol, District Rajouri, hereby declare that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as BAS ALI in Aadhaar Card No. 8477-7130-7082, whereas his/her correct and actual name is ABAS ALI. The correct name is recorded as ABAS ALI in all other personal and official documents.

The said correction is sought due to a clerical error in the Aadhaar Card. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Zubair Ahmed
F/o Abas Ali
R/o Kanthol, District Rajouri

fko

نائب تحصیلدار

KU Begins National Conference on Sociosyntax & Bharatiya Linguistic Area

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir (KU), began a three-day national conference on 'Sociosyntax and the Bharatiya Linguistic Area: Structure, Variation and Contact' at the Main Campus, with a focus on advancing interdisciplinary research at the interface of grammar, culture and society in Bharat.

Sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, and the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, the conference aims to explore the relationship between language structure, social variation and linguistic contact, while

India's extraordinary linguistic diversity and the importance of documenting and studying its languages. She also noted the rich linguistic heritage of the Kashmir Valley and the need for sustained research to understand its linguistic features and diversity.

Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary academic engagements in expanding the scope of linguistic research and encouraging meaningful scholarly exchanges.

Dean Research, KU, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Ganai, and Registrar, KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in their remarks, highlighted the importance of promoting



providing a platform for scholars to exchange ideas and strengthen interdisciplinary research.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan highlighted the importance of linguistic research in understanding India's rich linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

"Language is a reflection of our history, culture and social diversity. Such academic engagements provide an important platform to explore our linguistic heritage and strengthen research through interdisciplinary collaboration," she said.

Padma Shri awardee and renowned linguist, Prof. Anvita Abbi, highlighted

research-oriented initiatives and promoting academic collaborations to strengthen the University's research ecosystem.

Earlier, Head, Department of Linguistics, KU, and conference convener, Prof. Musavir Ahmad, highlighted the objectives of the conference and stressed on the need to promote research on the relationship between language, society and culture.

The three-day conference features research paper presentations, expert lectures, panel discussions and interactive sessions, bringing together scholars and researchers from the campus and institutions across the country.

Srinagar Road Safety Plan to Focus on Black Spots, Pedestrian Safety

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo on Monday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the road safety situation in the district and assess measures being undertaken to prevent accidents and ensure safer mobility for commuters and pedestrians.

The meeting, held at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, focused on improving road and allied safety infrastructure, addressing identified accident-prone black spots, strengthening pedestrian safety measures and ensuring timely emergency medical response and post-crash care.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the mechanism for expeditious settlement of assistance and compensation claims for road accident victims, with an emphasis on reducing fatalities and improving support for affected families.

Labroo stressed the need for greater outreach to accident victims and their families to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are able to avail themselves of assistance under the PM Rahat (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme.

Under the scheme, every eligible road accident victim on any category of road is entitled to cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh per victim for seven days from the date of the accident.

The DC directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) to ensure that information about the scheme reaches accident victims and eligible beneficiaries promptly, enabling them to access the available benefits without delay.

He also underscored the importance of close coordination among departments and agencies involved in road safety, directing them to work in tandem to implement corrective measures and minimise the risk of accidents.

During the meeting, Labroo directed the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department to prepare a comprehensive Road Safety Plan under the District Road Safety Fund. The plan, he said, should incorporate corrective measures for identified black spots, pedestrian safety engineering



interventions and other measures required to improve road safety across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the need for effective implementation of the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD), directing concerned agencies to ensure timely and accurate reporting of road accidents through the system.

He said reliable and comprehensive accident data was essential for identifying accident-prone locations and planning evidence-based interventions to address safety concerns.

The meeting was attended by

Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer Sai Kiran, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineers of R&B North and South Shabir Ahmad and Tatheer Manzoor, Joint Commissioner Hamid Iqbal Mir, Chief Education Officer Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, Executive Engineers Abdul Qayoon and Khalid Mehmod, District Health Officer Dr Rubeeana, ARTO Showkat Ahmad, District Informatics Officer Shahnaz, Accounts Officer Mohammad Iqbal and other officers of concerned departments.



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
16 Rabi-ul-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 02
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4: 38
Magrib	6: 26
ISHA	7: 44

This Day In History

- 522 BC - Darius I of Persia kills Magian usurper Gaumâta, securing his hold as king of the Persian Empire
- 480 BC - Battle of Salamis: The Greek fleet under Themistocles defeats the Persian fleet under Xerxes I
- 61 BC - Pompey the Great celebrates his third triumph for victories over the pirates and the end of the Mithridatic Wars on his 45th birthday.
- 219 - Batavian soldiers consecrate altar on Hercules Magnusus Rome
- 235 - St Pontianus ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 440- Pope Leo I the Great, installed
- 855- Benedict III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1227- Pope Gregory IX excommunicate German emperor Frederik II
- 1364 - Battle of Auray, English forces defeat French in Brittany
- 1564 - Robert Dudley becomes Earl of Leicester
- 1567 - War of Religion breaks out in France - Huguenots try to kidnap King Charles IX
- 1580 - Treaty of Plessis-lez-Tours signed between Duke of Anjou and Dutch Staten-Generaal
- 1608 - Captain Christopher Newport arrives in Virginia, for the second time, with supplies from England for colonists
- 1650 - 2nd Fronde, the Fronde of the Princes uprising ends in France

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Abid Manzoor Din Khan , S/o : Manzoor Ahmad Din Khan , R/O: Dolipora Kreeri have studied at BMS Harnow Kawcheck, I require my School Leaving Certificate (SLC) from the said school. If anyone has any objection regarding the issuance of the said SLC in my favour, they may communicate the same to the concerned school within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Name: Abid Manzoor Din Khan
Class: 6th
Date: 28-09-2026

fko-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Name of my daughter has been wrongly written in her dob as Anaya Irshad while her corect name is ASyesh Irshad . 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 concerned Adhaar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Irshad Mohd
F/o Ayesha Irshad

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Fayaz Ahmed Mir, S/o Wali MOHAMMAD Mir R/o Usmanabad, Upper Ashpeer, Sopore, hereby inform the general public that the name of my child is wrongly recorded as :

HOOR FAYAZ instead of HOOR ZARA (Daughter)

I am in the process of renewing her passport with the correct names as mentioned above. If anyone has any objection regarding the above corrections, they may file the same in writing before the Post Master, Post Office Baramulla, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**FAYAZ AHMED MIR F/O HOOR ZARA
R/O USMANABAD, UPPER ASHPEER, SOPORE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Fayaz Ahmed Mir, S/o Wali MOHAMMAD Mir R/o Usmanabad, Upper Ashpeer, Sopore, hereby inform the general public that the name of my child is wrongly recorded as :

MOHAMMAD RAAEF MIR instead of MOHAMAD RAAEF MIR (Son)

I am in the process of renewing her passport with the correct names as mentioned above. If anyone has any objection regarding the above corrections, they may file the same in writing before the Post Master, Post Office Baramulla, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**FAYAZ AHMED MIR F/O MOHAMAD RAAEF MIR
R/O USMANABAD, UPPER ASHPEER, SOPORE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the electricity connection pertaining to:

Consumer Id: 0204020007370 Installation No: 105384

Address: Dhobi Ghat, Hazratbal, Srinagar (Kashmir)

presently recorded in the name of Abdul Salam Gujree, is required to be transferred / changed in favour of Ms. Jawahira, as per her Aadhaar Card and other valid identity documents.

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

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

Sd/-

Ms. Jawahira

inf

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER DREYGAM

AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified for public information that the dilapidated building/s of Middle schools CD Pora will be auctioned on the 06.10.2026 by the auction committee framed under Government order No. 774-Edu of 2017 dated 12-10-2017. Chief Education Officer Budgam has framed auction committee vide his order No. CEOB/Plg/2021/23961-66 dated 16-01-2021.

Bidders can submit EMD for auction by or before 01-10-2026 with cash/Demand draft at J&K Bank, amounting 2000 Two thousand rupees. Terms and conditions documents can be had from the office chamber of Zonal Education Officer Dreygam. Auction will be held in the school premises from 11:00 am to 01:00 pm on the date of auction. For further details contact 9419458363/7006891517/95968 88667.

S.No	Name of school where auction to take place	Location	Date of auction	No. of Structures to be auctioned
1	MS CD PORA	CHITROO DANGER-PORA BUDGAM	06.10.2026	2

No: ZEO/DG/Estt/2026/1699-1700

DIPK-6171/26

Dated: - 28.09.2026

Zonal
Education Officer
Dreygam



**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955 Website: www.iust.ac.in

Tender Notice for supply and refilling of 19.0 kg Commercial Gas (LPG) Cylinders

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir, sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs.5/- are invited from the Authorized Dealers/Distributors for supply and refilling of 19.0 kg commercial gas (LPG) cylinders to the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir (UT of J&K).

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from the University website: www.iust.ac.in and is to be submitted in the office of Assistant Registrar, Procurement & Stores by or before 16-10-2026 (04.00 pm).

No. IUST/Reg/P&S/Tender_LPG/26/310
Dated: 28-09-2026

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
(Procurement & Stores)

DIPK-NB-1742/26

dated: 28-09-2026

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

The Right To Know

September 28 marks the International Day for Universal Access to Information, built on a simple democratic principle: people have a right to know.

This year's global theme, "Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age," brings that principle into a world where false claims can spread in seconds and verified information can take far longer to find.

That challenge has particular pertinence in Kashmir. Information can touch politics, security, communal relations and public trust. A claim posted online can quickly enter public debate before anyone checks where it came from. An official statement can exist beside an unverified post, leaving citizens to decide which one to believe.

That is where the Right to Information Act becomes important. It gives citizens a legal route to seek records from public authorities instead of relying on rumours, forwarded messages or claims circulating online. A question about a government decision, public spending, recruitment, a development project or a welfare programme can be directed to the institution holding the record.

RTI is therefore not only a tool for activists or journalists. It gives ordinary citizens a way to check public claims against official documents. Information becomes something that can be verified rather than simply accepted.

Government institutions also have a responsibility to make verified information easier to find.

Official social media accounts for public offices at district and block levels could help citizens identify genuine government announcements and distinguish them from unauthorised claims. Digital communication cannot replace RTI. It can make basic public information easier to access.

The other part of the problem lies with citizens. Digital literacy cannot mean knowing only how to use a phone or share a post. It also means checking the source, looking for evidence and knowing where an official record can be found.

Schools have a role in building these habits early. Students who learn to question information are better prepared to participate in public life.

RTI also depends on the conduct of public institutions. A legal right has limited value if citizens do not know how to use it or face unnecessary obstacles while seeking information. Public offices need clear systems for receiving questions, locating records and giving dependable responses.

Kashmir's information environment makes these principles especially relevant. Unverified claims can acquire public significance quickly, particularly when they touch sensitive political or social issues. Reliable information gives citizens a way to check those claims before they harden into accepted facts.

International RTI Day should prompt a practical question in Kashmir: can an ordinary citizen find the official information needed to check a public claim, and obtain the underlying record when that information is unclear?

A functioning information system does not ask citizens to trust blindly. It gives them the means to verify.

RTI provides that legal right. Accessible public information, accountable institutions and informed citizens give the right its real value.

A State in Waiting

The Assembly resolution seeks to restore the state that existed before 2019, while opening a wider debate on federalism.



Dr S. Bashir Ahmad Veeri

The resolution seeking restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is fundamentally a question of federalism, representative government and the political space available to address regional aspirations. It need not, and should not, be framed as a contest between nationalism and regional identity.

The distinction is important. The resolution adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on June 26, 2000, during the government headed by Dr Farooq Abdullah, was an Autonomy Resolution. It sought restoration of the constitutional position that existed prior to 1953. It was not a demand for restoration of statehood, and the Union Cabinet of the day did not accept it. The present resolution is narrower: it seeks restoration of the State that existed until its reorganisation in 2019.

Yet the two questions are connected by a larger principle: India's federalism has never depended upon complete constitutional uniformity. The Constitution has accommodated distinctive arrangements for different regions. Articles 371A to 371J are themselves examples of such asymmetric federalism. In its 2023 judgement on Article 370, the Supreme Court expressly described Article 370 as an instance of asymmetric federalism and observed that different States may enjoy different benefits within the federal framework.

This is consistent with the broader federal approach articulated by the Sarkaria Commission, which emphasised cooperative relations between the Union and the States and the strengthening of institutions of federal governance. Jammu and Kashmir was, in this sense, a distinctive and longstanding example of constitutional asymmetry within the Union.

Its history also deserves to be understood without reducing it to competing political narratives. Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India took place in the exceptional circumstances of 1947, following the tribal invasion from Pakistan. The political mobilisation of that period rejected the communal logic of the two-nation theory and emphasised Kashmir's plural social character. Article 370 subsequently became the constitutional framework through which the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Union evolved.

The events of August 9, 1953, followed by subsequent political and constitutional developments, generated considerable mistrust in sections of Jammu and Kashmir. Yet the people repeatedly returned to electoral politics and constitutional participation. That continuing engagement is an important democratic fact.

There is also a contemporary precedent for political accommodation across ideological divides. The 2015 Agenda of Alliance between the BJP and PDP acknowledged their differing positions on Jammu and Kashmir while providing that the existing con-



stitutional position, including special status, would be maintained during the coalition's tenure. It also envisaged dialogue with political groups irrespective of ideological differences and confidence-building measures, including expanded cross-LoC travel, trade and contacts.

The significance of that episode is not whether one agrees with the politics of that coalition. It demonstrates that constitutional differences can be managed through political accommodation and dialogue without questioning the unity of the Union.

The circumstances changed fundamentally in 2019, when the erstwhile State was reorganised into two Union Territories. The Supreme Court's December 2023 judgement recorded the Union Government's position that statehood would be restored to Jammu and Kashmir. Elections have subsequently been held, and an elected government is functioning.

Restoration of statehood therefore has significance beyond nomenclature. An elected government requires adequate constitutional and institutional space to respond to unemployment, economic constraints, infrastructure needs and the social challenges confronting the people. Political accountability is meaningful only when responsibility for governance is accompanied by commensurate authority.

Jammu and Kashmir is also not politically homogeneous. Jammu, Kashmir and the areas that constituted Ladakh before 2019 have distinct historical experiences and developmental interests, while each contains further regional and sub-regional aspirations. A durable political framework must provide

institutional avenues for these differences to be expressed and negotiated rather than leaving them outside the formal political process.

Statehood will not resolve Jammu and Kashmir's entire political history. Nor should it be presented as a substitute for a wider political dialogue. But it can restore an important element of the federal government and create the institutional space in which such dialogue can proceed.

There is little reason to fear democratic conversation. If the present resolution becomes an occasion for political parties and representatives of different regions and sub-regions to engage with one another, it should be regarded as a constitutional opportunity.

The strength of a federation lies not in eliminating difference but in accommodating it within institutions. Federalism is not disintegration; political accommodation is not anti-nationalism; and dialogue is not surrender.

Restoration of full statehood would therefore not settle every question confronting Jammu and Kashmir. It would, however, restore an important part of its federal architecture and provide greater political space to address its future through representative institutions, constitutional means and democratic dialogue.

The author is a serving legislator from South Kashmir's Bijnbehara constituency and contributes occasionally to public policy discourse and contemporary political issues. He can be reached at drveeri2@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Natural Coolers Are Disappearing

Kashmir towns are heating up faster than the climate alone explains, because the wetlands, canopies and streams that once cooled them are being treated as land waiting for a better use.



Mauzam Bakshi

Srinagar grew around the Jhelum and a web of lakes, wetlands, marshes and channels, and for generations that water did work no machine has been asked to do.

Dal, Anchar, Gilsar, Khushal Sar and Hokersar stored rain, sustained wildlife, tempered local conditions and gave the city somewhere to put its excess.

Orchards, streams and mature trees added their share, and the houses built among them took their form from cold winters and warm summers.

Much of this inheritance survives, but planners still treat it as scenery or vacant land, when it works as a cooling system that conventional infrastructure could replace only at substantial cost.

The Controller and Auditor General of India has documented the disappearance and decline of Kashmir's lakes and water bodies against their historical records. A count of lakes on a map still misses the larger loss.

A lake that is silted, polluted, cut off from its inflows or ringed by dense construction can exist geographically while performing a fraction of its former functions.

Open water cools its surroundings through evaporation, and wetlands hold water, feed vegetation and keep moisture in the landscape.

Fill them, narrow them or disconnect them from drainage networks and the city loses both its storage and its microclimate. Flood exposure grows as well, because paved surfaces send rain running off at the very spots where marsh once held it.

Trees follow the same logic. A mature chinar intercepts solar radiation, shades walls and pavements, and releases water vapour through its leaves. A small ornamental shrub planted after the canopy has been cut cannot match that cooling for years, and meanwhile the city gains surfaces that behave differently.

Concrete, roofing materials and glass ab-

shade the finished road provides and whether the new trees have enough soil, water and space to grow up.

Buildings tell a parallel story. Taq and Dhajji-Dewari construction evolved from the valley's climate and local materials, and its timber frames, earth, masonry and modest openings gave useful thermal buffering. Modern construction brought strength, durability and standardisation, but many new buildings follow generic practice with large glazed areas, thin shading, poorly insulated roofs and walls, and orientation chosen without regard to the sun.



Srinagar and the valley's other towns could map canopy, water bodies, drainage, sealed surfaces and heat-prone districts, then ask new development to show how it will handle stormwater, limit heat gain and keep its vegetation.

sorb sunlight and give the heat back slowly, while dense construction restricts air movement and removes the shade that once cooled the street. Built-up areas become warmer than their surroundings, and the heat-island effect sets in.

Road building shows the contradiction most plainly.

Cities need greater natural cooling capacity at the moment when they are removing some of it. Urban mobility needs investment, but a planner who sees a mature tree only as an obstacle has ignored what a street with canopy does that an exposed concrete corridor cannot.

Counting saplings after a project closes answers the wrong question. Better ones ask how much existing canopy survived, how much

Summer heat pours in and winter heat pours out, so households lean on mechanical heating and cooling. Air-conditioning brings real relief in extreme heat, but it pushes warmth outdoors and raises electricity demand, which leaves the wider urban environment hotter than before.

Cutting the heat that enters a building is the more durable answer, and it works best when insulation, orientation, shading, ventilation, glazing and roof construction are settled during planning.

Roofs demand particular care. Ahmedabad and other warm parts of India have used cool roofs that turn back sunlight to lower indoor temperatures, but a valley with severe winters cannot import that

solution whole.

Insulation comes first, since a well-designed roof limits summer gain and winter loss together. Ventilated assemblies, reflective coatings and temperature-responsive roofing can be tested in local pilots before anyone adopts them widely.

Green roofs may suit flat-roofed public and institutional buildings, where they improve insulation, hold back part of the rainfall and add evaporative cooling, though snow loads, waterproofing, drainage and upkeep call for designs made for Kashmir specifically.

Singapore has woven greenery into dense

development through roofs, terraces and facades, and China's Sponge City programme lets permeable surfaces, rain gardens, wetlands and retention areas absorb rain that engineers once hurried away.

Kashmir can borrow the principle without borrowing the model, and its best use is at the scale of the watershed.

Srinagar's drains, wetlands, lakes, streams and the Jhelum belong to one system, and planning should mark where water gathers, where it can be safely held, where it can soak in and where building should stop because the land is doing hydrological work.

Restoration would then need a stricter measure. A lake cleaned while its feeder channels stay blocked is only half restored. Trees planted

with no plan for their survival do not amount to urban forestry, and drains built without protecting natural retention areas may simply move a flood to another locality.

Canopy cover, water-retention capacity, infiltration, surface temperature, biodiversity and the long-term survival of restored ecosystems are figures a project can be held to.

Kashmir will keep urbanising and will keep needing roads, housing, markets and public facilities, so development is no longer the question. The question is whether those investments strengthen or weaken the systems city life rests on.

A wetland is working land, a floodplain does more than wait for a developer, a mature tree gives shade and a living stream drains a neighbourhood. Srinagar and the valley's other towns could map canopy, water bodies, drainage, sealed surfaces and heat-prone districts, then ask new development to show how it will handle stormwater, limit heat gain and keep its vegetation.

The valley cannot go back to an idealised past, since its climate and population have changed. Its lakes can still store water, its wetlands can still absorb runoff, its trees can still shade streets and its soils can still hold moisture.

The atmosphere above Kashmir sets its summers, and the landscape beneath decides how much of that heat a city keeps.

A filled wetland or a felled canopy is a decision about the next July, and the low-lying neighbourhoods will read the result in water and heat.

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

Between a Bargain and a Sale

Srinagar's street markets show how trust, transparency and small improvements can strengthen local trade.



Irshad Mushtaq

I went out on a crisp autumn afternoon to buy chestnuts and walnuts, expecting nothing more than a quick errand. Srinagar's markets throbbed with their familiar pulse: vendors calling out prices, the scent of roasted corn hanging in the air, and some tourists threading their way through the local crowd.

But the few stops I made told a bigger story about how business is done in Kashmir and why it needs a fresh approach.

The first chestnut seller, a local, weighed out 80 grams for 100 rupees. He spoke of high cleaning costs and superior quality, but the numbers did not add up when other stalls nearby offered 100 grams for the same price.

I paused, and he quickly lowered his offer to avoid losing the sale. The price drop felt less like generosity and more like a hidden margin finally exposed.

Bargaining is part of Kashmiri culture, but it also signals how many vendors start with inflated rates and wait for resistance before revealing a fairer figure.

A few stalls ahead, another chestnut vendor, this one from outside the valley, worked differently. He displayed his prices on a small cardboard sign: 110 grams for 100 rupees, 250 grams for 200. He packed the nuts neatly, pointed to



Vendors face real hardships, like rising freight charges, unpredictable tourism, and limited access to bank loans. But these same challenges make service, clarity and innovation even more important.

the cleaning process, and even remembered that I had bought from him the week before.

There was no guessing game, no last-minute discount, only a clear

pitch and a friendly nod.

The contrast was hard to miss: where one relied on haggling, the other relied on trust.

The walnut stop sharpened the

lesson.

The vendor sat scrolling on his phone, barely acknowledging me. After repeated questions he named a steep price, claiming his walnuts were polished and rare. When I mentioned a lower wholesale rate, he stiffened and justified his figure by citing personal financial strain.

His story might have been true, many small traders in Kashmir struggle with high transport costs, unstable tourist seasons and weak credit access, but the approach pushed me away instead of drawing me in.

These brief encounters reveal three habits that hold Kashmiri street markets back.

Customer engagement is the first. A greeting, a bit of recognition, or a

simple explanation of quality can turn a casual buyer into a loyal one.

Transparent pricing is the second. Starting high and bargaining down may feel traditional, but it erodes trust and wastes time.

The third is adaptability. Clean packaging, digital payments, and clear signage are small upgrades that can set a stall apart in a crowded bazaar.

Kashmir economy leans heavily on small traders. According to government data, over 70 percent of local retail jobs are in the informal sector, which remains vulnerable to seasonal shocks.

Vendors face real hardships, like rising freight charges, unpredictable tourism, and limited access to bank loans. But these same



Kashmir economy leans heavily on small traders.

According to government data, over 70 percent of local retail jobs are in the informal sector, which remains vulnerable to seasonal shocks.

challenges make service, clarity and innovation even more important.

A better market culture builds credibility that attracts repeat customers and strengthens the valley's wider economy.

I left the market with a heavier bag of chestnuts and walnuts, but the real takeaway was a lesson in business.

Transformation does not always need big investments or government schemes. Sometimes it begins with a vendor who looks up from his phone, greets a customer, and offers a price that makes sense the first time.

—The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator, and can be reached at drm757@gmail.com.

The Faith of a Father

An old Lambretta, a circuit of shrines and a father's example turned a childhood ritual into a lifelong inheritance.



Syed Majid Gilani

Some memories never leave. They wait in the air like the first call to prayer before dawn, in the scent of burning oil lamps, or in the steady hum of a scooter on a Kashmiri winter morning.

Every 11th day of the Islamic month, Gyarhvi Sharif, carries that sound and fragrance for me. It brings back the pulse of my father's faith and the innocence of my own beginnings.

My father, Syed Iftikhar Gilani, believed that faith should travel, through streets, lives, and generations.

On those mornings, he would polish his silver-grey Vijay Super Lambretta until it gleamed. I would climb up in front of him, my hands gripping the handle, as he kicked the engine to life.

The sound filled our lane, rising above the chatter of neighbours and the cawing of crows.

The ride to Khanyar felt like a small pilgrimage.

Srinagar in those days smelled of wood smoke and fresh bread. Men walked briskly with prayer caps tilted to one side, and women arranged flowers in brass vases for the home shrines.

As we crossed Fateh Kadal bridge, the wind grew sharper. My father wrapped his pheran tighter and said, "Faith is a journey, not a habit."

I didn't understand him then. I only cared about the taste of nadir munji he had bought from a street vendor, the crisp lotus stems seasoned with salt and chili.

At the Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, the world seemed to slow. Men stood shoulder to shoulder, their palms raised. The air carried the soft hum

of Darood Sharif, the murmur of Qur'anic verses, and the rustle of prayer beads.

I watched my father close his eyes. His face glowed in the lamplight. When he bowed, I bowed too, not because I knew what he was saying, but because I could feel his peace.

After Khanyar, he would take me to the Naqshband Sahib Shrine at Khwaja Bazar. The streets there felt older, narrower, filled with shopkeepers who whispered their own prayers between sales.

Our final stop was the Khanqah of Shah-e-Hamdan, its wooden façade glowing in the afternoon sun.

That circuit of shrines, traced faithfully each Gyarhvi Sharif, became our family's map of devotion.

Years later, I came to understand what my father was teaching without words. He followed the path of Hazrat Ghousul Azam Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (R.A.), the saint whose name we invoked every month.

The founder of the Qadriyah order preached self-purification, sincerity, and service to others. His teachings, gathered in works like Ghunyat-ut-Talibin and Futuh-ul-Ghaib, call the believer to cleanse the heart before seeking heaven.

His message took deep root in the valley. Even today, on Gyarhvi Sharif, Kashmir turns into a field of devotion.

At Dastgeer Sahib, men chant Azkaar in measured words, women offer plates of rice for charity, and the sound of Qur'an recitation spills into the alleys.

The spiritual energy gathers like mist, soft yet firm. For a few hours, Srinagar seems to breathe as one body of faith.

My father said that faith was never meant to be loud. It needed to be lived. "A believer's worth," he told me once, "lies in how he treats another human being."

He gave without record, prayed without display, and carried his devotion into daily life. He fixed a neighbour's roof without being asked. He refused to speak ill of anyone, even those who wronged him.

I think about that now, in a time

when rituals often outshine their meanings. The lights at shrines are brighter, the processions grander, but the inward silence that faith requires feels harder to find.

To observe Gyarhvi Sharif is to remember not only a saint but a way of life, one that binds faith to compassion and worship to action.

Every year, as this sacred day approaches, I open my father's old prayer beads. They still carry the faint scent of his hand. I read verses from Futuh-ul-Ghaib, where Hazrat Ghousul Azam (R.A.) writes that true worship begins when one forgets the self.

Those words linger. They remind me that the real offering is not in the food we distribute or the lamps we light, but in the humility we nurture.

Sometimes, when evening settles over the city, I hear an old scooter coughing to life somewhere down the lane. Its sound cuts through the air like memory made mechanical.

For an instant, the years fold back. I see my father again, his face calm, his eyes steady, and his hand on the throttle. The sky above Khanyar glows in a faint blue haze.

Beyond two people, the Vijay Super carried faith across generations, winding through Srinagar's alleys, leaving behind traces of devotion on every turn. My father's lessons remain that faith has a rhythm, that love for the Prophet (PBUH) and the Ahlul Bayt (A.S.) is inseparable from kindness, and that the path of saints runs through ordinary streets and ordinary lives.

When I close my eyes now, I still feel the pull of that Lambretta ride, the sound of prayer merging with the hum of the engine, the scent of rosewater in the wind, and the warmth of my father's arm around me.

Faith, I have learned, does not always sit in mosques. It often travels beside us, steady and sure, guiding us home.

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Lal Ded's Unfinished Legacy

Centuries after Kashmir's great women poets, a new generation can reconnect professional ambition with the language and ideas that influenced its cultural inheritance.



Uzma Qadir Mir

A nine-year-old girl stopped me near Rajbagh last autumn. She asked about my running shoes. I answered with a common phrase of comfort: "Keh chune parwaye."

She stared blankly, uncomprehending. The child spoke English with polished fluency. Kashmiri remained foreign to her ears.

This encounter illuminates a deeper crisis. Kashmiri women have gained tremendous professional ground. They pilot aircraft through mountain passes, perform complex surgeries, manage banks, and launch technology startups. Young women master artificial intelligence and biomedical research.

These achievements deserve genuine celebration, but something essential fades beneath these triumphs.

Fourteenth-century Lal Ded and sixteenth-century Habba Khatoon built an intellectual tradition that modern professional success often ignores.

Lal Ded stripped away Brahminical orthodoxy through intense spiritual inquiry. She taught that truth lives inside the self, rendering temples secondary. Habba Khatoon elevated the Vatsun folk form into high art. She sang of the Lo-lo, that specific Kashmiri longing that transcends ordinary heartbreak. She transformed personal exile into political commentary.

Both women mastered their interior lives first, external achievements followed naturally.

Current discussions about Kashmiri women focus heavily upon

victimhood or endurance. These frames restrict the debate, and position women as objects rather than originators of thought. We need a shift toward intellectual leadership.

This means more than holding positions or earning substantial salaries. It requires commanding the philosophical traditions that once made Kashmiri women spiritual anchors for their communities.

Today's feminist moment celebrates visibility above all. We see the pheran-clad activist, the technology founder, and the social media influencer. Images travel faster than ideas. This emphasis produces a hollow empowerment.

Real power involves shattering the jar of ego, a task deeper than breaking glass ceilings.

The glass ceiling metaphor comes from Western corporate feminism. It focuses upon entry into boardrooms. The jar of ego comes from Sufi psychology. It focuses upon exiting the prison of self-importance.

Habba Khatoon sought validation from her own emotional depth and the mountains around her. She looked toward Pampore rather than Paris. Her authority came from specificity and rootedness.

Lal Ded wandered through markets, singing verses that challenged religious power. She needed zero institutional approval to attain mastery over truth itself.

Language presents the clearest example of our current distance from these models. Kashmiri children speak excellent English while their mother tongue gathers dust. Many consider Kashmiri a backward dialect suited only for kitchens.

A friend received mockery from her educated peers after speaking Kashmiri to her mother during a picnic. The group treated her heritage as a mark of low status. The child in Rajbagh represents thousands who cannot access Lal Ded's verses in their original tongue.

This represents intellectual bankruptcy. Lal Ded and Habba Khatoon exceeded mere speech. They forged the language itself, and proved that

Kashmiri handles complex theology, philosophy, and politics with grace.

Dropping this tongue cuts women off from specific ways ancestors understood joy, sorrow, and endurance. It forces translation through colonial filters.

We need an intellectual excavation rather than simple nostalgia. The sixteenth century lies behind us. We should build new institutions that honour old principles.

Women need spaces for rigorous theological discussion, economic analysis, and climate debate filtered through Kashmiri values.

These intellectual Khanqahs would surpass mere networking, and generate knowledge specific to this soil.

Sacred and secular wisdom must meet again. Lal Ded merged spiritual inquiry with daily life seamlessly. A doctor treating patients in 2026 extends that same tradition of service. An engineer solving water scarcity follows the same calling.

Professional work gains meaning when connected to these deeper currents. Financial independence matters little without philosophical grounding.

Habba Khatoon bore the name Zoon, meaning moon. She would urge today's women to find that same light within themselves. The moon remains constant while tides change around it.

Kashmiri women have always been poets, mystics, rulers, and philosophers. They participated actively in history as creators and leaders.

True power involves more than securing a seat at someone else's table. It demands the authority to determine the conversation itself.

When a young woman opens her laptop in Srinagar today, she stands upon centuries of intellectual tradition. She should speak with a voice that needs zero apology.

She should speak Kashmiri.

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CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly Passes

adding the demand again would provide the BJP an opportunity to oppose the resolution.

"This House has already passed resolutions twice for special status -- one in (former CM) Farooq Abdullah time, and the other in 2024 soon after formation of this government," he said.

"We have asked the Centre to restore the special provisions which we had before 2019. So, I request my colleagues not to press the amendments which will give the BJP an excuse to oppose it," he added.

Following the Chief Minister's appeal, the Speaker asked the eight members who had moved the amendments whether they intended to press them. All eight agreed to withdraw them.

The Speaker then put the resolution to vote as BJP members continued their protest. It was passed through a voice vote, following which the BJP staged a walkout.

BJP Moves Motion Against Speaker
The proceedings had witnessed disruptions from the beginning, with BJP members moving a motion seeking the removal of Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

BJP MLA R S Pathania said the resolution brought by Omar had been admitted in violation of Assembly rules and demanded that Rather step aside until the motion against him was decided.

Citing Rule 215(2), Pathania said 23 MLAs had supported the motion.

"You (Speaker) cannot conduct the proceedings. Someone else will have to," Pathania said, referring to precedents in Parliament where presiding officers had stepped aside while removal motions were considered.

Rather rejected the demand, saying the motion would be dealt with according to the rules.

"If you read Rule 215, the procedure to be followed is laid down in the rules. A motion should be entered in the list of business, any day after 14 days of submission of the motion," he said.

The Speaker also referred to the precedents cited by Pathania, saying they did not apply in the present circumstances because leave had first been granted by the House.

The BJP members continued their protest and raised slogans including "Kursi chodo, kursi chodo, Speaker sahab kursi chodo" as the Speaker proceeded with Question Hour.

BJP members also accused the treasury benches of violating the Constitution and alleged that the resolution was contrary to the constitutional position.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the BJP supported restoration of statehood but objected to the manner and contents of the resolution.

"J&K is a sensitive state and we have enemies around. We don't want to do opposition for the sake of opposition. We want that statehood be restored. It is our agenda. But the kind of resolution they have brought, it is in violation of the Constitution and is unacceptable," he said.

BJP Members Enter Well, Conduct Mock Proceedings

The protests escalated after the Speaker declined to immediately entertain the motion against him.

BJP legislators entered the Well of the House, tore business papers and raised slogans including "Desh drohiyon ka agenda nahi chalega", "Samvidhan se mazak, band karo" and "Samvidhan ki hatya band karo".

BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma conducted mock proceedings in the Well, while other party members sat on the floor.

The disruptions led to repeated exchanges between the opposition and treasury benches.

Minister Sakina Ittoo criticised the BJP members, accusing them of creating a spectacle for the galleries.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary also questioned the BJP's opposition to the statehood resolution and asked what had happened to the Centre's earlier assurances on restoring statehood.

"Are we going to give up statehood? What is wrong with the resolution for statehood?" Chaudhary asked.

He referred to assurances made by the Union government and before the Supreme Court and questioned why statehood had not yet been restored.

Four MLAs Marshalled Out
The ruckus continued as members of the treasury and opposition benches exchanged slogans.

Sunil Sharma raised the slogan "dhoke baaz CM kursi chodo kursi chodo" against Omar Abdullah, prompting a response from National Conference members.

Congress members also raised slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre, including "vote chor gaddi chor", while Congress MLA Irfan Lone held a banner demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Deputy Chief Minister Chaudhary asked the Speaker to direct the Leader of Opposition to apologise for what he termed unparliamentary language.

"This is not a street," he said.

The situation further escalated when BJP MLAs allegedly attacked Congress members with a microphone

stand. Assembly marshals intervened and brought the situation under control.

BJP MLAs Vikram Randhawa and Arvind Gupta, along with Congress MLAs Irfan Lone and Iftikhar Ahmad, were marshalled out of the Assembly.

The Speaker subsequently warned members against disrupting proceedings and said strict action would be taken against those who failed to maintain discipline.

Omar Questions Delay in Statehood

Participating in the debate, Omar questioned the Centre's delay in restoring statehood and referred to the Supreme Court's December 2023 judgment on Article 370.

The Supreme Court had upheld the abrogation of Article 370 while directing that Assembly elections be held in Jammu and Kashmir by September 2024 and statehood be restored "at the earliest".

"Two years have passed since elections. The Supreme Court has said in the Article 370 judgement that statehood be restored as soon as possible after elections. Which dictionary says as soon as possible means two years?" Omar asked.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had been patient but questioned how long they were expected to wait.

"We want justice for the humiliation that we have gone through. It is not charity or favour from the Centre; it (statehood) is our right. The Centre has made promises, and they should fulfil them," he said.

Omar also said he had expected the BJP to oppose the resolution and claimed the party had sought to portray it as a demand for the restoration of Article 370, Article 35A or special status.

"I carefully worded the resolution to avoid anything that could give the BJP an excuse to disrupt the house," he said, adding that the House was "only asking for a vote for statehood".

The Chief Minister also criticised arguments linking restoration of statehood to peace and the complete eradication of militancy.

He said making statehood conditional on the last gun falling silent could effectively allow actors outside India to influence the timing of the decision.

"Are you linking it to militancy and the last gun falling silent? If that is the case, then the decision will be taken in Islamabad and not in New Delhi," he said.

Omar referred to the Pahalgam, Uri and Pulwama attacks while making his argument and questioned whether the Centre intended to delay restoration of statehood until militancy was completely eliminated.

"Is this statehood only for me? No, it is for all the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He also said that if the Centre was hesitant to restore statehood under a National Conference-led government, it should have been transparent about its position before the Supreme Court.

CM Flags Governance Constraints
Omar also outlined what he described as practical difficulties faced by the elected government under the Union Territory arrangement.

He cited bureaucratic delays and said several important administrative decisions remained outside the elected government's control.

Referring to a Law Department opinion on the resolution, Omar said the Speaker had received an opinion from the Law Secretary and Chief Secretary, but that he himself, despite being the Law Minister, had not been provided the opinion.

"This can only happen in a UT, not a state," he said.

He also cited the delay in the regularisation of daily wagers. According to Omar, a committee formed to examine the issue had been given six months to submit its report but had not done so even after a year.

He also pointed to the absence of an Advocate General for two years, despite proposals being submitted by the elected government.

Omar questioned why the Revenue Department remained outside the elected government's control, while noting that security and law and order were already under the Lieutenant Governor's domain.

He also questioned the elected government's limited role in institutions including the Cultural Academy, the Islamic University of Sciences and Technology and Bana Ghulam Shah Badshah University.

He said that under the erstwhile state structure, the Chief Minister had served as ex-officio chancellor of the universities but no longer had that role.

Omar also referred to delays in improving the government's business rules and said the administration had remained patient while seeking consensus.

"We remained patient, but for how long? We wanted to build a consensus," he said.

Row Over 'Jammu Ke Jaichand'
Remark

Omar also criticised BJP MLA Devyani Rana over the use of the slogan "Jammu ke jaichand" against some treasury bench members.

"It is unfortunate that Devyani Rana raised the slogan of 'Jammu ke jaichand'. This slogan was used most against her father, the late Devender Rana, who was a very close aide of mine," Omar said.

7 Bills Lined Up

enterprises to plan, invest and work with confidence, and to foster Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in a manner that generates employment, attracts investment and sustains long-term economic growth in the Union Territory.

Another key legislation on tomorrow's agenda is the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 2026), seeking to amend the J&K GST Act, 2017.

The Chief Minister will also table amendments to laws governing the salaries and allowances of ministers and members of the legislature tomorrow. These include L.A. Bill No. 13 of 2026 to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Ministers' and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956; L.A. Bill No. 14 of 2026 to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Act, 1960; and L.A. Bill No. 15 of 2026 to amend the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984.

In addition, L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026 seeks to amend certain enactments for "decriminalising and rationalising offences" for ease of living and ease of doing business, besides repealing certain enactments Attention Notices

Before the legislative business tomorrow, the House will take up Calling Attention Notices on matters of urgent public importance.

MLA Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi) will call the attention of the Deputy Chief Minister (Minister Incharge Public Works) to the situation arising due to lack of connectivity from the Kulgam-Qazigund Road to Chaki Badwani, causing significant inconvenience to the people.

MLA Ajaz Ahmed Jan will call the attention of the Chief Minister (Minister Incharge Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction) to the situation arising due to recent flash floods and landslides in Poonch, Rajouri and Pirpanchal, which caused loss of precious lives and extensive damage to houses, roads and public property, necessitating immediate government attention for relief and restoration of connectivity.

MLA Sheikh Ahsan (Pardesi) will call the attention of the Deputy Chief Minister (Minister Incharge Mining) to the situation arising from recent Mining Department directions requiring environmental clearance for lifting and removal of loose material, which has caused serious difficulties for persons dealing with stone quarries and allied activities.

MLA Javaid Riyaz (Bedar) will call the attention of the Minister Incharge Jal Shakti to the scarcity of potable drinking water in Village Alambal, Mirgund area of Pattan Constituency.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan will call the attention of the Deputy Chief Minister (Minister Incharge Public Works) to the encroachment of a Nallah on Jail Road, Kathua, by jail authorities, which has obstructed the free flow of the Nallah, causing damage to the road, inconvenience to commuters and affecting the health of residents.

Justice (Rtd) Hasnain Masoodi will call the attention of the Deputy Chief Minister (Minister Incharge Industries and Commerce) to the continuous use of Pet Coke by cement factories in the Khrew-Khanmoh area, which is producing deadly pollution and posing a grave threat to human and animal life.

The session tomorrow is scheduled to begin with Question Hour before moving to the listed business the official communication reads. (KNS)

CM Introduces 6 Bills

investment and long-term economic growth.

The Bill has already been published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

The Chief Minister also introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Amendment Bill, 2026, L.A. Bill No. 12 of 2026, seeking amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

Three other Bills seek amendments to laws governing the salaries and benefits of ministers and members of the legislature.

The Jammu and Kashmir Ministers' and Ministers of State Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2026, L.A. Bill No. 13 of 2026, seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Ministers' and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956.

L.A. Bill No. 14 of 2026 seeks to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Act, 1960.

The Chief Minister also introduced L.A. Bill No. 15 of 2026 to amend the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984.

Another key legislation, L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026, proposes amendments to certain enactments for the decriminalisation and rationalisation of offences to promote ease of living and ease of doing business.

The Bill also proposes repealing certain enactments and making related provisions.

All six Bills have been published in Extraordinary issues of the Official Gazette.

The Bills were introduced during the Assembly proceedings amid an uproar over the resolution seeking restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. (ONS)

Fresh Snowfall

Similar conditions are likely on October 9 and 10, while October 7 and 8 are expected to remain largely dry.

The weather department has advised farmers to continue harvesting apples, paddy and other crops and ensure safe storage of the harvested produce.

J&K Establishments

informed that 88,387 electricity connections belonging to government, semi-government, commercial, industrial and security establishments were disconnected during the financial year 2025-26 over non-payment of dues.

A further 50,226 connections were disconnected during the financial year 2026-27.

The government said electricity supply is restored after consumers clear the requisite outstanding dues and complete the prescribed reconnection formalities.

The DISCOMs are also strengthening their revenue recovery mechanisms, with particular focus on commercial, industrial and other high-value defaulting consumers, the government said. (inputs from KNO)

Shah Calls For

stressed on the need for consistent efforts to strengthen and improvise the PRAHAAR strategy through a "continuous analysis of terror incidents" and establishing a strong and concrete mechanism for the next 10 years, a government statement said.

Focussing on percolation of the tenets of PRAHAAR up to the 'thana' (police station) level, Shah called for adopting a proactive approach towards every aspect of the PRAHAAR initiative.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had unveiled country's first national counter-terrorism policy in February titled 'PRAHAAR', outlining a multi-layered strategy anchored in "zero tolerance", intelligence-led prevention and co-ordinated disruption of extremist violence.

In the conference on Monday, Shah mentioned various steps undertaken for mitigating terrorist threats, the statement said.

Impressing upon the necessity of result-oriented approach towards each pillar of PRAHAAR, Shah called for "zero delay" in action and underlined that coordination among stakeholders is essential, stressing that each pillar of the strategy should have a result-oriented approach.

He pointed out that as a result of better coordination among agencies, more than 40 modules of Shahzad Bhatti network involved in cross-border smuggling of weapons, explosives and narcotics were busted, more than 100 FIRs were registered and 350 individuals were arrested across 15 states.

He also said that at the same time, the Modi government declared Shahzad Bhatti network a terrorist organisation under UAPA.

The conference focused on the seven pillars of the PRAHAAR strategy: Prevention, Response, Aggregating Internal Capacities, Human Rights, Attenuating Conditions for Terrorism, Aligning International Efforts, and Recovery and Resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

The new extradition portal is intended to bring together and streamline efforts to secure the return of fugitives from abroad, the statement said.

Shah urged state police forces to establish dedicated teams to work closely with central agencies on extradition cases.

He said from 2019 to 2026, the Modi government successfully brought back 288 fugitive criminals to India from 36 countries.

The conference was attended by Union home secretary, foreign secretary, heads of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organizations, directors general of police from 15 states and Anti-Terrorism Squad chiefs from all states and Union territories.

Other state police chiefs and senior police officers participated virtually.

Kashmir RTI Movement

global theme, "Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age: The role of access to Information in addressing Information Disorder," put public access to information alongside the growing challenge of misinformation.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, chairman of the J&K RTI Movement, told the students that the Right to Information Act can provide a way through the confusion created by false or unverified information.

The law gives citizens a formal route to seek information from public authorities. That can turn a claim circulating online into a question that an

official record can help answer.

"We deliberately chose to reach out to students at Kalaroos Kupwara which is one of the remote areas of the Kashmir valley," Bhat said. "It was great to interact with the students on this important day."

Bhat also called on the government to establish dedicated official social media accounts for public offices at the district and block levels. Such accounts, he said, could give citizens verified updates directly from authorities on the digital platforms they already use.

The suggestion points to a basic problem with the digital information environment. People often receive information before they know its source. An official channel can give citizens a place to check what they see elsewhere.

Dr. Umar Saif, a scientist and director of research at Orchid University, focused on the other side of that equation: the person receiving the information.

He urged students to develop critical thinking, verify sources and actively seek credible information. Rapid digital communication, he said, has made source-checking increasingly important.

The discussion also moved beyond misinformation to civic participation. Senior members of the J&K RTI Movement, including Sajad Rasool and Shahid ul Islam, interacted with the students and explained mechanisms through which citizens can seek information and answers from public institutions.

The setting gave the discussion a particular relevance. Kalaroos lies far from the centres where government decisions are made, while digital platforms can bring official announcements, rumours and unverified claims into the same phone screen.

Zahoor Hamdani, principal of Government Higher Secondary School Kalaroos, thanked the speakers for explaining the RTI Act and transparency in governance. Peerzada Mashooq, a teacher at the school, conducted the programme.

International RTI Day brought a global debate into a remote Kashmir classroom, where the lesson was simple: check the source, seek the record and ask for the facts.

J&K Extends Old

posts had been advertised or notified before the introduction of the NPS but who joined government service later and were consequently brought under the new pension framework.

The order provides such employees an opportunity to opt for the pension scheme applicable under the OPS, subject to the conditions and provisions laid down by the government.

631 Non-Residents

showed that 11 buyers from Delhi purchased land in Kashmir, while one buyer from West Bengal figured in the reported lists.

While most transactions involved relatively small parcels, some larger purchases were reported in Srinagar.

Delhi-based Luxury Resorts Pvt Ltd was reported to have acquired three parcels measuring 22 kanals, three kanals and six kanals at Chatterhama, taking the combined area to 31 kanals. Another buyer, identified as H.G. Chawla, was reported to have acquired 15 kanals at Harwan.

The issue of land transactions involving non-residents has also figured in the political debate in recent days, with Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari raising allegations concerning land purchases linked to hotel projects. The allegations have been part of the wider discussion over outside investment and land ownership in J&K.

Sangarmal Deal A Separate Transaction

Separately, around 45 kanals of Srinagar Development Authority land surrounding the Sangarmal City Centre have been offered through an online forward-bidding process, with the successful bid reaching Rs 421.75 crore.

Parmesh Construction Company Ltd emerged as the successful bidder in a consortium involving J&K-based Pahalgam Green Hotels and Bhutani Infra Ltd.

The Sangarmal transaction is distinct from the private land purchases listed in the Assembly data. The government-owned property has not been sold outright but has been offered on a full-lease basis for development.

The J&K Land Grants Rules, 2022 define a lease as an arrangement under which the lessor conveys the use and occupation of land for a specified purpose and period in return for consideration. The rules also provide for companies and other business entities to be lessees.

The Sangarmal bidding reportedly involved three bidders, with Parmesh Construction emerging ahead of Construction Engineers and Garuda Construction and Engineering Ltd.

Located near the Kashmir Golf Course, Polo View and Lal Chowk, the Sangarmal property occupies a commercially significant area of Srinagar.

The Sangarmal City Centre was developed as a major commercial project but remained substantially

underutilised for years, with its commercial inventory including shops, Craft Bazaar spaces, kiosks, food courts, a restaurant and office spaces.

The latest lease arrangement is aimed at facilitating redevelopment of the surrounding land and reviving the stalled commercial project.

The available records therefore point to two separate forms of outside participation in J&K's property market—private land purchases recorded by the Revenue Department and government-owned land being offered for commercial development through a lease.

However, the publicly available data does not provide a complete name-wise list of all 631 non-resident purchasers or establish that all the transactions were undertaken for commercial purposes. (with KNT inputs)

Sexual Crime

a teenage girl in Swaroop Nagar, and the alleged sexual assault of a minor girl inside a moving sleeper bus that travelled more than 47 km from Greater Noida to Delhi.

"Media reporting on sexual offences carries a profound constitutional and ethical duty," the bench said, emphasising the obligation of media organisations to maintain restraint and sensitivity while covering such cases.

The court also reminded print, electronic and digital media organisations of the statutory prohibition on disclosing, directly or indirectly, the identity of victims of sexual assault and minor children under Section 72 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 23 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The bench said headlines and reportage must prioritise dignity, factual accuracy and institutional accountability over sensationalism, while ensuring that public discourse remained focused on justice and safety.

It further directed the district administration to convene a meeting with media houses and urged them to provide dedicated space in newspapers and electronic media for information about protective measures and telephone numbers that could be accessed for immediate assistance in the event of a perceived threat.

The court said it expected print and electronic media organisations to provide such information pro bono.

The bench appointed senior counsel Liz Mathew as amicus curiae to assist the court on the issue and directed the Registry to provide her a copy of the order along with the newspaper cuttings attached to it.

The matter concerns broader issues surrounding the reporting of sexual offences and the need to balance the public's right to information with the privacy, dignity and safety of victims.

Kashmir To Host

Innovations and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable and Viksit J&K."

Its programme goes well beyond a sequence of academic presentations. Twenty-six technical sessions and five plenary sessions will examine how scientific research and emerging technologies can be turned into applications for the region.

Artificial intelligence and quantum science will feature alongside nanotechnology, biotechnology and healthcare. Other sessions will focus on sustainable energy, climate and environmental sciences, water, biodiversity, disaster resilience, innovation, entrepreneurship and smart engineering systems.

The selection of subjects points to the problems the Congress is trying to place within a scientific framework. Climate and environmental pressures intersect with water resources and biodiversity. New technologies can influence healthcare, energy systems and disaster preparedness. Research can also reach sectors that directly support the regional economy.

Food processing and tourism will receive dedicated attention, with sessions examining how science and technology can be applied to both.

Students will also have a place in the programme. A School Students' Science Programme, including a segment with the National Children's Science Congress, will bring younger participants into the event and focus on developing scientific curiosity.

The Congress will also include invited talks, cultural programmes and outreach activities, creating space for interaction among researchers, industry representatives, policymakers and the wider community.

The real significance of the gathering lies in what happens when those fields meet. A climate scientist may be discussing environmental change while an engineer works on smart systems, a researcher studies water or biodiversity, and an entrepreneur considers how an innovation can reach the market.

Three days at IUST will put those strands in the same room.

The Congress begins with science as its subject. Its larger test will be whether the ideas discussed there can become tools for solving problems in Jammu and Kashmir.

5 Killed, 8 Injured in Karnah Accident

LG Sinha expresses grief, directs best possible treatment

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Five persons, including a 9-year-old child, were killed and eight others injured after a passenger vehicle they were travelling in plunged into a river in North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday.

An official said that the driver lost control of the vehicle near Seemari Road in Karnah, following which it skidded off the road and plunged into the Kishenganga River.

He said five persons died on the spot, while eight others sustained injuries. The injured were rushed to a Hospital for treatment. "Of the eight injured, six were referred to Srinagar, while



two are presently undergoing treatment at SDH Tangdhar," the official added.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Idrees (32),

son of Kaser Din; his 9-year-old daughter Hamza; Sayeed Begum (30), wife of Mohammad Idrees; Shabir Ahmad (70); and Raja Irshad (27), son of Majeed Khan.

The injured have been identified as Sajid Ahmad of Semari; Naveed Ahmad, son of Ghulam Hussain; Mushtaq Ahmad, son of Ghulam Nabi, of Semari; Farhan

Khursheed, son of Khursheed Ahmad, of Teetwal; Javid Ahmad of Kadhama; Ashia Begum, wife of Abdul Hameed, of Semari; Ajaz Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad, of Semari; and Shariq, son of Mukhtar Ahmad, of Teetwal.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and said he had directed the District Administration to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured. "Deeply pained by the loss of lives in an unfortunate road accident in Kupwara. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured," the LG wrote on X—(KNO)

1238 Posts Referred for Recruitment in Health Deptt: Govt Informs Assembly

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that it has referred 1238 posts in the Health and Medical Education Department to recruitment agencies in the recent past.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Wagoor-Kreeri Irfan Hafiz Lone, the government, according to KNO, informed the house that 480 Medical Officer (Allopathic) posts were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JK-PSC). Of these, 416 candi-

dates were recommended and 335 have been appointed. The doctors are being deployed in peripheral, underserved and far-flung areas as per administrative requirements.

It further said 466 non-gazetted posts were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), while another 292 non-gazetted posts under the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, including MCH and Immunisation wings, have also been referred for recruitment.

According to the government, the recruitment drive is aimed at address-

ing staff shortages and improving healthcare delivery, particularly in underserved areas. It added that the National Health Mission (NHM) continues to supplement manpower through various approved programmes.

On healthcare infrastructure in Wagoora-Kreeri, the government said the constituency's population of 90,781 is served by 19 health institutions, including one CHC, two PHCs, three NT-PHCs and 13 Sub-Centres. Eleven facilities operate from government-owned buildings, while eight Sub-Centres function from rented accommodation.

J&K Congress Members Protest, Seek CEC Gyanesh Kumar's Resignation, Arrest



Press Trust of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress protested in the Jammu region on Monday, demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and arrest over alleged "vote chori".

In Jammu, the District Congress Committee Jammu Urban and Rural staged a protest at Shaheedi Chowk, where party workers raised slogans and carried placards before attempting to march towards the DC office.

Police stopped the march amid heavy deployment.

Former minister and DCC Jammu Urban president Yogesh Sawhney, who led the protest, demanded that decisions and orders taken during Kumar's tenure as CEC be withdrawn and called for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation, holding the government accountable over the issue.

"Today we have four demands. First, we want Kumar's resignation. Second, he should be jailed. Third, all decisions taken during his tenure should be withdrawn. Fourth, those behind these moves should also resign," he said.

Addressing the protesters, Working President J&K Congress Raman Bhalla said the Election Commission must uphold

its constitutional responsibility and ensure transparency in the electoral process. He said allegations about the integrity of elections could not be ignored and urged authorities to address the concerns raised by the opposition and the public through a transparent, credible process.

The protesters carried a symbolic handcuff and a poster depicting the CEC while raising slogans demanding his arrest. Bhalla said the Congress would continue its agitation until its demands were addressed.

Congress workers staged similar protests in Poonch and Udhampur, where the party raised concerns over the functioning of the Election Commission and demanded accountability over the alleged electoral irregularities.

In Poonch, scores of Congress workers marched towards the Deputy Commissioner's office and protested against the CEC.

Similarly, in Udhampur, scores of Congress workers took out a march towards the Deputy Commissioner's office and

held a demonstration against the CEC.

The protests were also reported in Kathua, Samba, Ramban, Rajouri, and Doda districts.

DCC Jammu Rural president Neeraj Kundan and former minister Mula Ram, besides other senior leaders and workers, participated in the protest.

The protest demanding the CEC's resignation came after an Indian Express investigation reported that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months to decisions and orders they said were issued without their knowledge. The objections included changes to statutory voter registration Form 6 and the centralisation of control over the electoral roll database, according to the report.

The Election Commission, however, has asserted that its official orders, decisions and administrative directions have full legal sanction, and that differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberations within any institution.

No Place for Pakistani Agenda in J&K: LoP Sharma

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Monday said there was "no place for any Pakistani agenda" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the Union Territory would remain an integral part of India.

Addressing reporters, according to KNO, Sharma said the BJP was committed to the restoration of statehood but opposed references to the 2000 autonomy resolution and the 2024 special-status resolution included in the resolution moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"J&K is an integral part of India, and it will always remain. There is no room for any Pakistan agenda here," Sharma said.

He said the BJP would support a resolution confined to the restoration of statehood, but would not accept references that, according to him, went beyond the statehood issue.

"If the CM brings only a statehood resolution, we will support it. Statehood is the agenda of the BJP and we are committed to it. It will come," he said.

Sharma objected to the references to the 2000 and 2024 resolutions, alleging that these raised issues linked to the pre-1953 constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The resolution was moved by the CM. If it was only for statehood, we would have taken part. But the references to 2000 and 2024 violate the Constitution," he said.

The LoP also questioned the Congress over its position on the issue and asked whether the party supported a return to the pre-1953 constitutional arrangement and restoration of provisions associated with Article 370 and Article 35A—(KNO)

Kashmir, India Changing; 'new change' on Horizon: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said the country was changing and "a new change" was on the horizon.

"Kashmir is changing, India is changing. A new change is on the horizon, God willing," Abdullah told reporters here when asked about the changing Kashmir.

Abdullah, who attended a musical event at Tagore Hall, did not elaborate on his remarks.

The three-time former chief minister described the musical event as a "great initiative".

"We hadn't made such an effort before. They have come from Bombay. This is their fourth programme. The talent that these children have here can be brought forward so that they can present their art not just at home, but before everyone," he said.

Asked about controversies surrounding films, Abdullah said politics should sometimes be kept aside.

"Are you covering music or politics? Politics never leaves you alone! For God's sake, leave politics aside for once," he told reporters. (Press Trust of India)

School Dropout Rate Decreases at Primary, Upper Primary Levels: Govt

SRINAGAR: The government Monday said that the drop out ratio at primary and upper primary level has decreased during 2025-26.

According to KNO, the government in a reply to the question tabled by Mehraj Malik in Legislative Assembly said, "Drop out ratio at the Primary level (Class I-V) has declined to 1.1 percent during 2025-26 as compared to 1.6 percent during 2024-25."

The government also informed the house that the drop out ratio at the Upper Primary level (Class VI-VIII) has also declined to 2.8 percent during 2025-26 as compared to 3.20 percent during 2024-25.

"Performance of students in JKBOSE examinations has shown significant improvement over the previous academic year by almost 10 percent," the government said.

Stating the reformative measures taken by School Education Department since 2019, the government informed the house that it introduced the Cluster, School Complex System for optimal utilization of manpower and other resources.

"746 Cluster and School Complexes have been constituted and made functional for sharing the resources within the cluster. The department undertakes Annual Transfer Drives (ATD) and staff rationalization regularly to ensure optimum utilization of available teaching resources," the government said.—(KNO)

IACAM CME Concludes in Srinagar, Stresses Child Rights

Observer News Servic

SRINAGAR- The 4th National Mid-Term CME of the Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (IACAM) concluded here on Sunday after three days of deliberations on the ethical, legal and clinical dimensions of child and adolescent mental healthcare.

The CME, held from September 25 to 27, was organised by IACAM in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Psychiatric Society (JKPS) under the theme "Children, Ethics and Laws". It brought together psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, legal professionals, researchers and mental-health practitioners from across the country.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean, Government Medical College, Srinagar, who highlighted the expansion of mental-health services in Kashmir and acknowledged the efforts of professionals working in the field.



IACAM Life President Dr Savita Malhotra stressed the need to train and deploy more mental-health professionals to address the growing psychological and developmental needs of children and adolescents.

IACAM President Dr Vivek Agarwal and General Secretary Dr Rachana Bhargava emphasised the importance of integrating ethical and legal considerations into clinical practice to ensure responsible, rights-based and child-centred care.

The scientific programme examined the interface between mental healthcare, child rights and the legal framework governing children and young

people. Sessions covered ethical dilemmas in clinical practice, legal issues involving children, mental-health assessments, child protection, developmental concerns and professional responsibilities.

A panel discussion titled "From Chalkboards to Chatbots" explored the implications of artificial intelligence and chatbots for education and human development.

Speakers said AI was an evolutionary development that was here to stay and could make education more equitable and individualised. At the same time, they cautioned that excessive dependence on AI could affect independent thinking, creativity and critical inquiry.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM.

SUBJECT: AUCTION OF DRY WASTE ACCUMULATED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT, MC BUDGAM AUCTION NOTICE.

GEM -AUCTION ID :- 40939 Dated :28/09/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, online bids are invited through the E-Auction option of GeM Portal from reputed and financially sound Agencies, Firms, or Parties for AUCTION OF DRY WASTE ACCUMULATED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT, MC BUDGAM under the jurisdiction of Municipal Council Budgam for the year 2026-27 , The minimum reserved bid amount for the aforesaid contract has been fixed at:

S.no	Item	Minimum Reserved bid (Rate per Kg)
01	Pet Bottled (Bailed)	Rs:- 15 per Kg
02	Plastic	Rs:8 per Kg
03	Polythene	Rs:5 per Kg
04	Waste Paper/Card Board	Rs:3 per Kg
05	Iron	Rs:18per Kg
06	All Type Of Fabric/Cloths	Rs:5 per Kg
07	Other Mix Items	Rs:7 per Kg
08	Aluminium	Rs:- 50 per Kg

SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES

1	Pre-Qualification Submission Start Date & Time (Documents)	28/09/2026 from 10.00 AM
2	Pre-Qualification Submission End Date &Time (Documents)	03/10/2026 up to 4:00 PM
4	Pre-Qualification assessment End Date & Time	07/10/2026 up to 01:00 PM
5	EMD Payment Start Date & Time	07/10/2026 from 01:30 PM
6	EMD Payment End Date & Time	08/10/2026 up to 4.00 PM
7	Auction Start Date & Time	08/10/2026 from 4.15 PM
8	Auction End Date & Time	09/10/2026 at 4.15 PM
9	Submission of CDR/ EMD	The bidder shall furnish a Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only), issued by a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank and pledged in favour of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam.

Other Terms and conditions can be downloaded from gem portal.

DIPK-NB-1737-26
DT: 28/09/2026

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Budgam

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 19/WSMP of 09/2026, Dated: - 26-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from the registered PWD Contractors for the work mentioned below.

S No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (In lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	Time of completion in days	Class of Contractor
1	Providing, Laying and Fitting of 100mm (4") dia DI Water Supply Pipeline Bemina Bridge to Jammu University Campus, Rakhi Arth including Construction of 15000 Ltr. RCC Sump. (under UT Capex).	33.29	1000/-	2% of advertised Cost.	23 days	AAY & BEE

The E-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

CRITICAL DATES

S. No.	Description	Date		
		DD	MM	YYYY
1	Publishing date of ENIT	26	09	2026
2	Download start date	26	09	2026
3	Bid submission start date	26	09	2026
4	Bid submission end date	03	10	2026
5	Bid opening date	04	10	2026

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 6 of the table above.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE WSMP Division SGR. (Tender inviting Authority)
 - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/E-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder with draws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid , action under rules shall be taken against him and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
 - Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
 - The above mentioned works are funded under Major Head District CAPEX
 - Queries by email if any should be made at xenwsmp@gmail.com

No. WSMP/CC/5864-71
Dated:26-09-2026

DIPK-6172-26
DT: 28/09/2026

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) WSMP Division Sgr

SC Seeks Centre's Response on UPI MDR Above Rs 2,000

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant an interim stay on the imposition of merchant discount rate (MDR) on specified UPI person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000 coming into effect from October 15.

The top court agreed to examine the challenge to the imposition of MDR and asked the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to respond within four weeks on the plea.

The apex court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Anjan Datta challenging the Centre's decision to impose MDR on specified Unified Payments Interface (UPI) person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000. The plea has challenged the Centre's September 14 notification and the MDR framework announced on September 15.

Ending nearly six years of fully free UPI payments, the govern-

ment has introduced a 0.4 per cent fee on transfers worth over Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the UPI platform from October 15 while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transactions and small payments from any charge.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana issued notice to the Centre, the RBI and the NPCI seeking their responses on the plea.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that 96 per cent of people using the gateway were exempt.

"The Government of India is not taking even a single rupee out of it," the law officer said.

The bench asked the Centre to file its counter affidavit explaining the basis for the move to impose a fee on transfers worth over Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the UPI platform.

Venkataraman said the charges for essential services are capped at Rs 5.



"It is neither a tax nor a fee," he said.

"We need all these facts in a short affidavit. It will help us understand better. It is less a legal issue and more a technical issue," the bench observed.

During the hearing, the top

court said it would like to see the legal source of implementing the charge.

"Is it a tax or a fee? If not a fee, then what is the executive basis for making this expropriation?" the bench said.

The law officer said it was not

an expropriation.

He said it was a settlement fee between the payment aggregators and the banks.

"The government is several steps away from this money," he said.

After the bench issued no-

tice on the plea, the counsel appearing for the petitioner said, "Please stay it till then".

The bench refused to grant any interim stay on the Centre's decision to impose MDR.

The MDR will be capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above.

Essential and thin-margin sectors -- railways, telecom, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs -- will pay a flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction above Rs 2,000.

Payments into mutual funds, securities and through stockbrokers and dealers will attract 0.02 per cent MDR, also capped at Rs 300.

Person-to-person (P2P) transfers, which make up 37 per cent of UPI's transaction volume and 70 per cent of its transaction value, will continue to attract zero charges, irrespective of size.

The plea alleged that the levy has been introduced without adequate statutory safeguards, transparency or public consultation.

It challenges the constitu-

tional validity of the amended Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, alleging that it gives unguided powers to the executive to decide which electronic payment modes would receive the no-charge protection.

"Declare that no MDR or analogous compulsory charge may be imposed or recovered merely on the strength of a press release or FAQs absent a duly authorised, authenticated and published statutory instrument," it said.

The petitioner has also questioned the distinction between UPI transactions and RuPay debit card payments, pointing out that the notification continues the no-charge protection for RuPay debit cards without a monetary ceiling.

The plea alleges that the framework is arbitrary and discriminatory, and may adversely affect merchants, particularly those with low margins, while also raising concerns over possible indirect consumer burden and digital exclusion.

Netanyahu Meets Emirati Leader in Secret Trip to UAE

AP

JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travelled secretly to the United Arab Emirates over the weekend to ask its president to deny reports that he had warned the Israeli leader about a looming Hamas threat ahead of the Palestinian militant group's Oct 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel.

The meeting between Netanyahu and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan took place on Sunday, two people who were briefed on the Israeli leader's trip confirmed on Monday.

Netanyahu's trip was first reported by Israel's Channel 12 TV station.

One person familiar with the matter said the talks focused on a report published by the Israeli daily Haaretz earlier this month that said the Emirati leader had

delivered a warning to Netanyahu about a looming attack by Hamas just ahead of its Oct 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war.

Netanyahu asked Sheikh Mohamed to deny the report, according to the person who purported to have first-hand information about the meeting.

Netanyahu's office had previously denied the Haaretz report.

The person, along with a regional official briefed on the meeting, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the secret trip.

The UAE's Foreign Ministry declined to comment on reports about the meeting. But it said it maintains "open and direct lines of communication" with Israel and shares "all relevant intelligence".

There was no immediate comment from Netanyahu's office.

SCO Meet Opens in Pakistan, India Among Participants

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: India is among the countries attending a three-day meeting of the National Coordinators of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which commenced in Islamabad on Monday to prepare for the next year's Council of Heads of State summit.

The SCO member states included Russia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus and China. The delegation from India, a key member of the SCO, is being led by its National Coordinator Alok Dimri.

Pakistan's National Coordinator Mohammad Faisal is chairing the deliberations, aiming to firm up cooperation, coordination, and preparations for the SCO Heads of State summit scheduled to be held in Islamabad in August 2027.

The Indian delegation has been visiting Islamabad for the meeting, which is the first such visit after last year's brief conflict.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishan-

kar led India's delegation to Islamabad on October 15-16, 2024, for the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting.

Earlier, the Pakistani foreign minister said in a statement that the meeting from September 28 to 30 will discuss a "wide range of issues relating to SCO cooperation and coordination", including the "programme of activities under Pakistan's Chairmanship", preparations for upcoming SCO meetings and events, and other matters on the organisation's agenda.

Pakistan, which holds the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026-27, would seek to advance the organisation's objectives under the theme "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity", according to the FO.

"In this regard, Pakistan's Chairmanship would focus on promoting greater connectivity, fostering innovation, enhancing economic cooperation, and strengthening people-to-people contacts," the FO said.

SIR: Advocates and Activists Demand Rollback

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A group of senior lawyers, activists and civil society members on Monday demanded rollback of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls nationwide, restoration of names deleted as part of the exercise and resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

At a press conference under the banner "Together We Stand", the participants also demanded that forthcoming elections be held on basis of pre-SIR electoral rolls and sought an independent inquiry into the constitutionality and legality of decisions taken by the Election Commission (EC) during the exercise.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the EC's functioning has become "tainted", also asserting that the manner in which the Supreme



Court had viewed the matter made it necessary for citizens to come forward.

"If free and fair elections are disrupted, what's left of democracy?" Sibal said.

The issue of mass deletion and addition of names as part of SIR has been raised before the Supreme Court several times. "It is now proven that it was wrong. Many elections have happened since then," Sibal said, demanding all decisions with respect to SIR be withdrawn as they were not

taken by the EC, but allegedly pushed through by the CEC, and therefore were devoid of legitimacy.

He said the Supreme Court must be told that issues it had earlier considered decrees of the EC were not its decisions at all, but taken unilaterally by the CEC.

Asked if the SIR exercise was aimed at disenfranchising Muslims, Sibal said the criteria of 'logical discrepancies' was engineered for this very purpose.

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