

Inside The Chawla Land Deal That Has Stirred Kashmir Politics

Altat Bukhari's Chawla comment has triggered a storm in Kashmir politics, prompting Kashmir Observer to dig deep into the urban hill deal

Haziqah Shaheen

Srinagar: On a slope above Syedpora, the outline of concrete frames rises against the pines that run toward Dachigam.

Local residents point to the site as the place where a Mumbai businessman named Haris G. Chawla began work

after buying roughly 15 kanals and 6 marlas of milkiyat land from 13 individual owners.

The sale deeds passed before the Sub-Registrar of East Srinagar in early 2025 and the revenue records updated in March of that year.

Chawla's representatives later approached the Block Development Officer of



Harwan with a simple claim: the previous owners already held residential building permissions issued in 2023 by the elected Halqa Panchayat of Saidpora.

Those earlier permissions came under Section 12 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act of 1989, read with Rule 155 of the 1996

Rules and Government Order No. 11-RD&PR of 2022.

The Panchayat Secretary signed them, while the framework still treated many rural constructions as matters for local elected bodies.

Chawla's team presented the old papers and sought fresh documentation so the new owner could proceed with

residential houses or huts.

The Block Development Officer's office responded with conditional No Objection Certificates dated 14 May 2025 and 12 June 2025. The documents stated that construction must remain strictly residential, that the applicant must follow all relevant building norms and | [More on P6](#)

SC To Examine EC Decisions Amid SIR Row

Court Says Decisions Not In Accordance With Law Will Be Annulled

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it will examine all decisions of the Election Commission (EC) and annul those found not to be in accordance with law, as it issued notices to the Centre and the poll body following pleas alleging that the EC took several decisions without the approval of the two election commissioners.

The court also made it clear that it has not approved any modifications to Form 6 that was being used by the EC during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various states.

"We will examine all the decisions. If any decision is not in accordance with the law, we will annul it. You know the power of the court," a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said, as it



pointed out that the immunity granted to the CEC is something which even judges don't have.

The bench said that "any modification to Form 6 has not been approved by us. Let's be clear. When records are produced, we would like to see who has modified it".

Form 6 is an application through which an eligible person seeks inclusion in the electoral rolls.

The top court, however, refused to pass any interim direction to restrain Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar from taking any decision till the final disposal of the petition, with CJI Kant saying that the court cannot pass an order by relying solely on newspaper reports and it has to look into the responses of the EC and the Centre.

The developments came ahead of a proposed protest outside the EC headquarters on Tuesday by the opposition INDIA bloc parties, which have been | [More on P6](#)

AI, Robotics Must Be Affordable, Accessible To Small Farmers: LG

Calls for smartphone-based agri-tech solutions and collective ownership through FPOs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called upon agricultural engineers, scientists and innovators to develop technologies that are affordable, accessible and capable of working under real field conditions, particularly for small and marginal farmers.

Addressing the 60th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), co-hosted by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir, the Lieutenant



Governor congratulated ISAE on completing six decades of service and commended SKUAST-Kashmir

for its contribution to agricultural education, research and innovation.

The convention focused

on the themes "Women-Led Engineering Innovations in Smart Farming" and "AI and Robotics for Gen-Z Farming".

Sinha said the themes reflected the transformation of Indian agriculture from an era focused primarily on achieving food security to one in which the country is increasingly seeking to become a global leader in agricultural innovation.

He said Jammu and Kashmir, with its rich agricultural heritage and challenging geographical terrain, provided an appropriate setting for discussions on the future of agricultural engineering.

Recalling | [More on P6](#)

LG Prorogues J&K Assembly After Autumn Session

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday issued an order proroguing the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after its 10-day Autumn session held from September 21 to September 30.

"I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of the

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of powers conferred upon me under Clause (a) of Sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, do hereby prorogue the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative | [More on P6](#)

Experts Seek Faster Rollout of Forest Rights Act In J&K

Delegates from six states share lessons on community forest management and livelihood rights.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Jammu: Families from Hari village in Poonch's Surankote came to a gathering of forest-rights advocates carrying a grievance that had followed them for years.

Their homes had been damaged during a Forest Department action, they told the audience, and they sought justice and rehabilitation under the Forest Rights Act, a law they said had failed to protect them.

Their accounts gave a human face to a two-day national workshop on the Forest Rights Act of 2006, held in Poonch by the J&K Climate Action Group and the National Alliance on Community Forest Resources



& Minor Forest Produce.

The meeting brought together rights advocates, lawyers, environmentalists, civil society groups and forest-dependent communities from Jammu and Kashmir and five other states: Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,

Odisha, Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

The discussions focused on a question that has gained new importance in Jammu and Kashmir: how to turn statutory forest rights into rights that people can understand, | [More on P6](#)

HC Directs Fast-Tracking Dowry, Cruelty Cases

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed all trial courts in Jammu and Kashmir to accord priority to cases involving dowry death and cruelty to women by husbands or their relatives, covered under Sections 304B and 498A of the IPC and corresponding Sections 80 and 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and endeavour to ensure their expeditious disposal in compliance with the Supreme Court's directions.

The directions have been issued by the Registrar General in compliance with the Supreme Court's order dated August 20, 2026, in the matter of State of Uttar Pradesh vs Ajmal Beg & Ors.

Under the circular, the District Judiciary has been

asked to identify cases pending for more than three years, particularly those at the stage of framing of charge or recording of evidence, and monitor their progress through quarterly reviews.

The trial courts have further been asked to endeavour to secure prompt appearance of accused after filing of charge-sheets and consider framing charges

preferably within 60 to 90 days. They have also been directed to commence recording of evidence within a reasonable period after framing of charges and proceed with evidence

on a continuous or day-to-day basis, subject to statutory safeguards and exceptional circumstances.

The Court has also directed trial courts to discourage unnecessary adjournments and record reasons | [More on P6](#)



Medical Interns Await Stipend Hike As Oct 9 Deadline Nears

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the one-month period given by the Jammu and Kashmir Government to finalise the enhancement of stipend for MBBS and BDS interns nearing its deadline, interns are awaiting a formal government order on the long-pending demand.

The interns had called off their strike on September 8 after Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo assured their representatives that the issue would be finalised within 30 days based on the recommendations of the Stipend Enhancement Committee.

The assurance came after an

eight-day agitation by interns across government medical colleges and hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir.

The interns are seeking an increase in their monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

However, the government's commitment was to finalise the matter within the stipulated period and did not amount to an immediate approval of the demanded amount.

The administrative process has continued since then. The Finance Department, in a communication dated September 15, asked the Health and Medical | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Filmmakers Take Their Film Fight To Power

Local filmmakers say a government-backed international festival sidelined the region's own artists, while overlooking years of work to rebuild cinema in the valley.

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: When Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan began organising a film festival in Srinagar in 2017, the valley had no functioning cinema hall.

The absence of screens did little to discourage him. He and his colleagues brought films, filmmakers and audiences together through the Kashmir World Film Festival, trying to keep a cinematic culture alive at a time when even the prospect of reopening cinemas seemed distant.

Nine years later, Khan found himself making a different case for Kashmir's film



community.

This time, he was asking why the people who had spent years building that community had been left out of a government-sponsored international

film festival.

Khan, founder and director of the Kashmir World Film Festival and chairman of the Kashmir Film & Television Association, led | [More on P6](#)

150 Bangladeshis Being Deported From J&K: Govt

Another batch of 150 to be deported on Oct 7; around 600 identified across J&K

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Around 150 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly staying illegally in Jammu and Kashmir were shifted to West Bengal on Monday as part of the deportation process, officials said.

The officials said an administrative survey conducted with the assistance of Jammu and Kashmir Police across the Kashmir Valley identified around 600 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly staying illegally in the region.

Those identified were kept at a camp manned by Srinagar Police before being transported to Bagdogra for their eventual



deportation to Bangladesh, they said.

On Monday, a batch of 150 people was flown to Bagdogra on a special Indian Air Force aircraft, where they were handed over to Border Security Force personnel, | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt Notifies Common Duct Policy 2026

CM Hails Policy As Major Step Towards Modern Urban Infrastructure

Observer News Service

Srinagar: : The Jammu and Kashmir government has notified the Common Duct Policy 2026, aimed at supporting planned urban growth, improving utility management and strengthening digital connectivity across the Union Territory.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the policy as a major step towards modern urban infrastructure, efficient utility management and cleaner cityscapes in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Following approval by the Council of Ministers, the Government has notified the Jammu and Kashmir Common

Duct Policy 2026, establishing a framework for shared utility corridors for power, water, telecom, gas and digital networks," Omar posted on his official X handle on Monday.

The policy mandates integration of common ducts into the planning and construction of new roads, while providing for phased retrofitting of existing infrastructure.

It also provides for single-window Right of Way (RoW) clearances and cost-sharing arrangements among utility service providers.

The policy further introduces digital asset mapping and real-time fault detection through | [More on P6](#)



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اثر نیابت یوٹی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب لطیف احمد خویہ ولد محمد رمضان خویہ سا کی سیلو برادری عظمیٰ EWS
بجین سال خود

اشہار برخاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سال/ سال کے ایک درخواست بخش EWS سرٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سال/ سال کے دھڑا میں بچھنے پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سال/ سال کا کتبہ پڑیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے

لطیف احمد خویہ ولد محمد رمضان خویہ گھر پلو کام 51 سال

محمودہ بیگم زوجہ لطیف احمد گھر پلو کام 48 سال

عابد لطیف پسر لطیف احمد خویہ زیر تعلیم 23 سال

سال/ سال لطیف پسر۔۔۔ 16 سال

سال مذکورہ EWS سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کیسی مہوار آمدنی 66099 روپیہ تک ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا عراض ہو تو وہ بعد اشتہار اخبار سادتوں کے اندر آمد کرے گا عراض عداوت کا کوئی دفعہ کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد ذکر سے عیاد کوئی قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Ganie F/o Aaisha Rashid, R/o Kripal Pora Sari, Matipora Pattan, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir – 193121, hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has inadvertently been recorded as “Aisha Rashid” in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5803-0655-3684, which is incorrect. Her actual and correct name is “Aaisha Rashid.” The said name may accordingly be treated as her correct name for all official, legal and administrative purposes. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Rashid Ganie
F/o Aaisha Rashid fko

Office Address: Forest Complex
Near National Highway Bijbehara
Tel/Fax:- 01932-234287

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Lidder Forest Division Bijbehara

e-NIT No. 12 of 2026-27 DATED: 03-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders under the two-cover system are invited on a percentage basis from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with the Jammu & Kashmir Government/Central Government Organizations for execution of the following works under CAMPA Annual Plan of Operation (APO) 2026-27 & UT-CAPEX 2026-27:

S. No	Name of Work	Work ID	Adv. Cost (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD / Bid Security @ 2%	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	Fencing & Planting in Co. 32e/L Sarbal Batakote	FC/CP/W/348151/2026 (CAMPA)	27.45	₹1,100	₹54,900	A & B Class PWD/Forest	90 calendar days
2	Fencing & Planting in Co. 09/L Brad Manigam	FC/CP/W/349299/2026 (CAMPA)	13.69	₹600	₹27,380	B, C & D Class PWD/Forest	90 calendar days
3	Development of Evicted Areas by way of Providing & Fixing of Chain Link Fencing and Angle Iron with Barbed Wire Fencing at Ganesbhal, Pahalgam Range, Lidder Forest Division, Bijbehara.	FORSS2627100167 (CAPEX)	39.84	₹1100	₹79,680	A & B Class PWD/Forest	90 calendar days

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other relevant details can be viewed/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in

Name of Scheme	CAMPA & CAPEX
Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA/TS	Accorded
Publishing Date	05-10-2026 at 10:00 AM
Download / Bid Submission Start Date	05-10-2026 from 10:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	12-10-2026 up to 12:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid Online	12-10-2026 at 5:00 PM in the office of the Conservator of Forests, Kashmir South Circle, Bijbehara, Anantnag
Opening of Financial Bid Online	To be opened online after completion of Technical Evaluation; date/time shall be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Submission of Bids:** Bids shall be submitted in electronic format only through www.jktenders.gov.in. Technical and Financial bids shall be submitted online with a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC); no hard copy shall be accepted.
- Tender Fee and Bid Security:** Bids must be accompanied by the prescribed Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee, to be deposited in cash in the Centralized Designated Pooling J&K Bank Account bearing No. 0110010200001102, Branch Civil Secretariat, IFSC JAKAOMOVING, in accordance with J&K Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026, and proof of such deposit shall be uploaded along with the bid. The prescribed EMD/Bid Security shall also be uploaded as required under the Detailed Tender Document.
- Validity of Bids:** The bids shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening.
- Performance Security:** The successful bidder shall furnish Performance Security @ 3% of the contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee pledged in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Lidder Forest Division, Bijbehara. The EMD/Bid Security shall be released to the successful bidder only after receipt of the prescribed Performance Security.
- Additional Performance Security for Unbalanced Bids:** Where the accepted bid is unbalanced, Additional Performance Security shall be furnished in accordance with J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) Circular No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025. Up to and including 10% below the advertised/project cost: Nil; beyond 10% and up to 20% below: additional security shall increase by 0.1% for each percentage point below 10%; beyond 20% below: it shall increase by 0.2% for each percentage point below 20%, in addition to 1% of the bid price. The prescribed rounding provisions shall apply. Such Additional Performance Security shall form part of Performance Security.
- Mandatory Documents:** Bidders shall upload scanned copies of the valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/competent authority and renewed for 2026-27, PAN, valid GST Registration, proof of Tender Fee, EMD/Bid Security and other documents required in the Detailed Tender Document.
- GST Compliance and Bank Account:** The bidder shall upload GST registration and the latest GSTR-3B of the preceding quarter. Every participating contractor shall disclose the bank account linked with the GSTIN at the time of bid submission, as per Circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 dated 08-07-2025. Payment shall be released only to the GST-linked bank account of the successful bidder.
- NOC / Non-Default Certificate:** The bidder/contractor shall upload a No Objection Certificate issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, Lidder Forest Division, Bijbehara, certifying that the bidder/contractor is neither a defaulter nor blacklisted/debarred by the Division.
- Labour Registration:** The successful bidder shall produce a valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by the Labour Department after award of contract.
- Online Bidding:** Bidders are advised to download the Bid Submission Manual/Bidders Manual Kit from the portal and ensure a valid DSC. The Department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to technical or other reasons.
- Right to Reject:** The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- Taxes and Governing Conditions:** All applicable statutory taxes, cess and deductions shall be borne/deducted as admissible under rules. All other terms and conditions shall be governed by PWD Form 25 (double leaf) and the Detailed Tender Document.

No: DFO/Lidder/Acctt/2026-27/63-66
Dated: 03/10/ 2026

Divisional Forest Officer
Lidder Forest Division
Bijbehara

DIPK-6421/26
dated: 05-10-2026

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA

SUBJECT: Application of Mohseena Akhter W/O Mehraj Ud Din Najar R/O Narkara Tehsil & District Budgam for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The case of the above captioned applicant is under process for issuance of legal heir certificate. In this regard, report was sought from patwari concerned which reveals that the applicant's husband namely Mehraj Ud Din Najar S/O Abdul Aziz Najar R/O Narkara Tehsil & District Budgam has died on 06-07-2026 as per (Death Certificate). The applicant's deceased husband has left behind the following as legal heirs:-

S.NO	NAME OF LEGAL HEIR	RELATIONSHIP WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	MARTIAL STATUS
1	SARAH	MOTHER	71	OLD AGE	WIDOW
2	MOHSEENA AKHTER	WIFE	38	HOUSE WORKER	WIDOW
3	MUDEEBA MEHRAJ	DAUGHTER	13	STUDENT	MINOR
4	SAQEBA MEHRAJ	DAUGHTER	09	STUDENT	MINOR
5	ADEEBA MEHRAJ	DAUGHTER	06	STUDENT	MINOR
6	IBRAHIM MEHRAJ	SON	02	INFANT	MINOR

In this context, objections are invited from general public regarding the issuance of requisite certificate in favour of the applicant. If anybody has any objection, he/she may submit his/her objections in this office within 07 days during office hours. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

mcb

NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plot No. 25 of size 30x65 in Housing Colony Jawahar Nagar Srinagar has been allotted to Sh. Ghulam Qadir S/o Mohd Sidq R/o Kadi Kadal Srinagar vide Govt. Order No. 472-hd/56-3-B. The ownership rights of the said plot is under the process of transfer to Sh. Ashfaq Ahmad Wani S/O: Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/O: Jawahar Nagar Srinagar on the basis of sale deed. Any person having any objections to this transfer shall furnish the same in writing to the office of Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Bemina Srinagar within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Sh. Ashfaq Ahmad Wani
S/O: Ghulam Mohammad Wani
R/O: Jawahar Nagar Srinagar fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my name as mentioned in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No 256550060414 has been incorrectly recorded as TANVEERA IRSHAD while as my actual name is TANVEERA AKHTER . Now I want to apply for the correction of same in my Aadhar from old name TANVEERA IRSHAD to new name TANVEERA AKHTER . In future I will be known as TANVEERA AKHTER . Any person who has any objections or concerns regarding these changes is requested to raise them within 07 days from the date of this notice.

Name -TANVEERA AKHTER
W/O - IRSHAD AHMAD WANI bmg
R/O- TAJUPORA OSAN BANGIL TANGMARG BARAMULLA J&K 193402

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rafeeqa Begum W/o Ghulam Mudeein Khan, R/o Dargam, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm on oath as under:

That my name has inadvertently been recorded as “Rafiqqa Begum” in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2564-9786-9390, which is incorrect. My actual and correct name is “Rafeeqa Begum.”

I hereby declare that Rafeeqa Begum is my correct name for all official and legal purposes.

Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may submit the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my original marks certificate of class 8th bearing Roll number 860. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Office of the Diet Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Wahid Khazir Mir
S/o Khazir Mohammad Mir
R/o Chukar Tehsil Kunzer District Baramulla I fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulzar Ahmad Dar F/o Abu Bakhar Ibni Ahmad, R/o Chukar, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as “Abu Baker Dar” in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6342-9414-9486, which is incorrect.

His actual and correct name is “Abu Bakhar Ibni Ahmad.” The said name may accordingly be treated as correct for all official, legal and other purposes.

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

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no 567137347695 as Hashim Hashim While my correct name is Mohammad Hashim Mir. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar center Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. A fter that no objection shall be entertained

Mohammad Hashim Mir
S/o Saif U Din Mir R/o Zaloor a fko -r

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, 12th) under Roll No.: 2612455 Session: Annual Pvt (Bi-Annual) Year 2018-19) through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my Name And My Father Name as Tawheed Altaf Magary S/o Altaf Hussain Magary Instead of Tawheed Altaf Magary S/O Altaf Hussain Magary Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Tawheed Altaf Magary
Father's name: Altaf Hussain Magary
Mother's Name: Rukhsana Altaf
DOB: 01-12-2002
Residence: Dawar Gurez
Mobile no: 8491861858 fko

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) ZOONA BEGUM DAR to (New name) ZOONA BIBI. In future I will be known as (New Name) ZOONA BIBI. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

NOTICE

I, PERVAIZ SHEIKH S/o ZULFIQAR SHEIKH R/o TANGDAR NARD, KARNAH, DISTRICT KUPWARA declare that my name is wrongly written as PARVAIZ SHEIKH in my Aadhaar (No. 7030 6813 5486), while my correct name as per my School Certificate is PERVAIZ SHEIKH. Now I am applying for its correction. Objection if any, must reach concerned authorities within a week at the most.

PERVAIZ SHEIKH
S/o ZULFIQAR SHEIKH
R/o TANGDAR NARD, KARNAH,
DISTRICT KUPWARA, J&K

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motor cycle bearing regd no: JK04D 2149 while travelling from From Magam To Narbal Budgam. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Bhat
S/o Mohammad Jaffar Bhat
2ND OWNER Mushtaq Ahmad waza
S/O Mohammad Ramzan Waza
R/O Shiekh pora Bmg-R

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my ward , Salib Naseer Resray, has been wrongly written in his school records as 25-10-2012 while his correct DOB is 20-11-2013 as per Birth Certificate issued by Police Station Kunzer. 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 School within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Naseer Ahamd Resray
F/o Salib Naseer
R/o Usan Bangil Tehsil Kowarhama fko_r

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 254454
Class 10th

Year & Session Annual Private 2009
Registration: 07NKMf 201767

Name : Taniyah Bashir

Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Allaie

Mother's Name : Parveena Akhter

Date of Birth:- 04-03-1994

Residenc:- Marglary Daharmuna Budgam

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: KMAP09 - 1203793 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: R/Cer is-I-DQC/B/KD/22
Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.



PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as DAYIMA JAAN While as my actual name is DAYIMA HABIB C/O HABIBULLAH SHEER GOJRI R/O GULGAM KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

DAYIMA HABIB
C/O :- HABIBULLAH SHEER GOJRI
R/O :- GULGAM, KUPWARA QNS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Maqbool Khan S/o Mohd Iqbal Khan, R/o Maidanpora Lolab, Tehsil Lalpora, District Kupwara, do hereby declare that my correct and official name is Mohd Maqbool Khan and my father's correct name is Mohd Iqbal Khan.

That in the records of the District Police Office (DPO) Kupwara, my name and my father's name have inadvertently been recorded as "Mohammed Maqbool Kahn S/o Mohammed Iqbal Kahn", which is incorrect.

The correct names are "Mohd Maqbool Khan S/o Mohd Iqbal Khan". The discrepancy is due to a clerical/typographical error. The said correction is required for all official, legal and administrative purposes and for necessary rectification in the records of DPO Kupwara.

Objections, if any, may be submitted to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

QNS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Paramjeet Singh S/o Mohinder Singh, R/o Gamaraj (Tral), District Pulwama, do hereby inform the general public that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as "Mahinder Singh" in my Service Book. As per his Aadhaar Card and correct records, his actual and correct name is "Mohinder Singh."

I intend to get the said name corrected in my Service Book. Any person having any objection in this regard may contact the SSP, Railway Department, Srinagar, Kashmir, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Paramjeet Singh
S/o Mohinder Singh
R/o Gamaraj (Tral), District Pulwama
Ph: 9697803221 FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wronglky written in my adhaar card as Rasheeda Akhter while my correct name is Rasheeda Akhter . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has anny objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days.A fter that no objection shall be entertained.

Rasheeda Akhter
W/o Mehraj -Ud-Din Bhat
R/o Ussan Khoie Pattan FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bashir Ahmad Bhat F/o Mohammad Ibrahim Bhat, R/o Kripalpura Bala, Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as "Mohd Ibrahim Bhat" in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3234-7560-5878, which is incorrect.

His actual and correct name is "Mohammad Ibrahim Bhat." The said name may accordingly be treated as his correct name for all official, legal and administrative purposes.

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

fko

JKLCMA Plans Major Beautification of Dole Demb

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Monday inspected the Dole Demb area to assess the condition of the water body and examine the scope for its restoration, beautification and development.

The inspection was aimed at chalking out a comprehensive plan for improving the water body and its surroundings while preserving the ecological character of the area.

Shah was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Collector Land Acquisition, FA&CAO, Executive Engineers of Lake Division-I and Lake Division-II, Technical Officer, Assistant Executive Engineers, Junior Engineers and other officers of the Authority.

During the inspection, the Vice Chairman stressed the need for planned and sustainable development of the site. He directed the concerned officers to incorporate modern landscaping, suitable plantation, improved pathways, aesthetic features and other public amenities in the proposed beautification plan.

He said Dole Demb should be developed as a modern public space without compromising the ecological character of the water body. The development, he added, could also enhance the tourism potential

of the area and contribute to attracting more visitors towards Dal Lake and its adjoining areas.

Shah directed the concerned officers to undertake bush cutting and other site-clearance works immediately to improve the appearance and accessibility of the area. The clearance would facilitate the taking up of further dredging and restoration works at Dole Demb.

He also directed the Engineering Wing to prepare detailed estimates for the proposed beautification and development works.

The Vice Chairman called for close coordination among the Engineering, Revenue and field wings to ensure that the proposed works are planned and executed in a time-bound manner. He emphasised that the development plan should focus on environmental improvement while enhancing the visual appeal, accessibility and overall utility of the site for residents and tourists.

Reiterating JKLCMA's commitment to the conservation and rejuvenation of water bodies, Shah said the Authority would continue to undertake integrated conservation, restoration and development measures aimed at improving urban water bodies and creating clean, attractive and environmentally sustainable public spaces.

He said such initiatives would also play a role in strengthening the tourism potential of Dal Lake and its surrounding areas.

Water Shortage Persists in Bishambar Nagar, Locals Seek Immediate Restoration

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of Bishambar Nagar in Srinagar have been facing an acute shortage of drinking water for the past week, causing considerable inconvenience to households and prompting them to seek immediate intervention from the concerned authorities.

Locals said the prolonged disruption has made it difficult for families to meet their daily water

needs, forcing them to make alternative arrangements for drinking water.

They appealed to the Jal Shakti Department and the concerned authorities to address the issue on priority and restore regular water supply to the area without further delay.

Locals also urged the authorities to ascertain the reason behind the disruption and take necessary measures to prevent such shortages from recurring. [KNT]

Bear Mauls Man in Harwan

Agencies

Srinagar: A 32-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a bear while working in his paddy field in the Dara area of Harwan on the outskirts of Srinagar, officials said.

An official said that the man was attacked by a bear while working in his paddy field at Dara Daird Khore in Harwan.

He said the man was shifted to a hospital soon after the incident, where his condition is stated to be stable. He was identified as Liyaqat, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Kuli, a resident of Dara, Harwan.

Meanwhile, the matter has been taken into notice, while locals have urged the authorities to take measures to prevent further attacks—(KNO)

DLSA Srinagar Conducts Legal Awareness Programmes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar and overall supervision of the Secretary DLSA Srinagar, conducted a series of legal awareness programmes at various educational institutions and Legal Aid Clinics through the PLVs deputised there.

An awareness programme was conducted at Bilaliya School by the PLV deputised at the Legal Literacy Club, wherein students were sensitized about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The students were made aware of the safeguards available to children against sexual abuse and exploitation, besides the

importance of reporting of fences and seeking timely legal assistance.

At the Zoology Department, University of Kashmir, an awareness programme was organized by the PLVs deputised at the Legal Aid Clinic, at Law Department, on various NALSA schemes. The participants were informed about the objectives and benefits of different legal services schemes and the avenues available for persons seeking legal assistance.

An awareness programme was also conducted at Government Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, by the deputised PLVs on Free Legal Aid and Social Welfare Schemes. The students were apprised of their legal rights, eligibility for free legal services and various welfare measures available through Government departments.

International Conference on Breast & Allied Cancers Begins at KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Biore-sources, University of Kashmir (KU), began its Third J&K International Conference on Breast and Allied Cancers at the Main Campus on Monday.

The conference aims to bridge the gap between fundamental cancer research and clinical application by providing a platform for experts and researchers to deliberate on recent advances in precision oncology, cancer genomics, immunotherapy, artificial intelligence in oncology, early detection, biomarkers, drug discovery and personalized cancer care.

The three-day conference is being organised in collaboration with the Breast Cancer Patients Benefit Foundation and is sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Ministry of Science & Technology, JKST&IC and J&K Bank.

The event brings together leading oncologists, surgeons, pathologists, molecular biologists, public health experts, data scientists and young researchers to exchange recent scientific findings and promote interdisciplinary collaborations. Delegates are participating both in-person and online.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between basic research and clinical practice in the fight against cancer. She stressed on the need to promote early detection, scientific innovation and accessible cancer care, particularly in the context of breast cancer. "Research



must ultimately translate into better prevention, early detection and care for patients," she said.

Vice-Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University, Prof. Rana Pratap, noted the growing importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative research in addressing complex health challenges. He highlighted the need for stronger linkages among universities, research institutions, clinicians and other stakeholders to accelerate advances in cancer research and treatment.

Senior Consultant and Oncologist, Dr. Sameer Kaul, stressed on the importance of early diagnosis and timely treatment in improving cancer outcomes and the need to increase public awareness about breast cancer, encourage regular screening and strengthen the connection between scientific research and clinical practice.

Dean Research KU, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Ganaie, and Prof. Nazir Dar, Department of Biochemistry, KU, also shared their views on the occasion.

An abstract book containing research contributions presented at the

conference was also released on the occasion. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Organising Secretary and faculty member, Department of Biore-sources KU, said that the event would provide an important platform for scientific exchange, knowledge sharing and collaboration in the field of breast and allied cancers.

Head, Department of Biore-sources KU Dr Riaz-ul- Rehman proposed vote of thanks on the occasion.

The three-day conference features a breast cancer screening camp besides paper presentations, panel discussions, oral and poster presentations, and plenary lectures by internationally renowned scientists, clinicians and healthcare leaders. The programme also provides opportunities for young researchers and students to interact with experts and learn about emerging developments in cancer research. Students from various colleges across the districts are also participating in the conference, along with researchers, faculty members, clinicians and delegates from different institutions.



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

AIRPORTS
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- BIJBHARA: 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**
23 Rabi-ul-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 06
ZUHR	12:20
ASR	4: 31
Magrib	6: 16
ISHA	7: 37

This Day In History

- 1762 - British troops occupy Manila, Philippines
- 1783 - Benjamin Hanks patents self-winding clock
- 1861 - Revolt of Russian student shuts down university of Petersburg
- 1863 - Battle at Baxter Springs, Kansas
- 1889 - Thomas Edison shows his 1st motion picture
- 1939 - Adolf Hitler denies he intends to go to war against France and Britain

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: 770-W/01/WA/JAT/2025 60-2026-27-JAT-DRM-JAT (to be opened on 27.10.2026) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 27.10.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on the IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System		
Open		Works		Single Packet System		
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time		
05.10.2026		13.10.2026		27.10.2026		
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1	60-2026-27-JAT-DRM-JAT	Civil work for the interlocking of 19 No. manned L-Xing gates over Jammu Division i.c.w. Interlocking of 74 non-Interlocking L.C gates having TVU >20,000 & 50,000 over the Jammu divisions as per Type Plan No. HQ/01/02-2017/R-1 & NRHQ Plan No. 0-97/2017/R1		2,06,51,227.87	60 Days	09 Months

Note: Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids.

3445/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK			
IAPM Department			
Zonal Office Budgam			

E-AUCTION NOTICE				
(For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)				
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable properties mortgaged to Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Khag, Budgam, in the respective accounts mentioned below, the physical possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e auction on 22.10.2026 for recovery of dues to Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Khag Budgam. The description of accounts, property/ies, reserve price and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below:				
S. No	Account Name	Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale)	Reserve price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
1	M/s Khan & Builders Prop: Mr Mohammad Akber Khan S/o Assadullah Khan R/o Lachmanpora Khag Budgam	Residential house along-with a piece of land measuring 08 kanal underneath and appurtenant thereto falling under khasra no 109, khata no 53, khewat no,12 situated in mouza Lachmanpora, Khag,Budgam standing in the name of Mohammad Akber Khan.	Rs.96.00 Lacs	Rs. 9.60 lacs

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> (Contact Persons: **Mr. Ram Sharma** (M) **+918000023297, 9978591888, 9265562821** (O) **079-6813 6844**.) The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before **21.10.2026 upto 4.00 PM**. The e-auction will be held on **22.10.2026 from 11.30 AM-4.00 PM**. The contact details of the bank officials are: **Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather** in charge IAPM Mobile No.**7051061900** and Branch Head Khag, **9797106624**.

Dated:05.10.2026
Place Budgam

Authorised officer
J&K Bank Ltd.

بِسْمِ تَعَالٰی
اِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَاِنَّا اِلَيْهِ رَاٰجِعُوْنَ
مجلسِ ترچيم

بصد رنج وام اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ محترم
سید افضل حسین صفوی
ابن مرحوم و مغفور **سید محمد یسین شاہ صفوی**
ساکن تارہ بل نوا کڈل سرینگر مختصر علالت کے بعد -
20 ربیع الآخر 1448ھ بروز اتوار 04 اکتوبر 2026ء
بوقت ظہر داعی اجل کو لبیک کہکر عازم دارالبقا ہوئے۔

خدائے بخشندہ و مہربان ، روح نوگزشتہ کو بخوار معصومین علیہم السلام میں
مقام اعلیٰ علین عطا فرمائے آمین۔

مرحوم محب محمد وآل محمد، علیہم السلام ، مشفق و ملتسار و خوش خلق
اور نیک سرشت مومن کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی
بروز بدھ **24 ربیع الآخر 1448ھ** مطابق **07 اکتوبر 2026ء**
صبح 07:00 بجے ہمارے آبائی مقبرہ واقع گلستان بابا مزار رزوی بل ،
پر انجام دی جائے گی۔

بعد ازاں مجلس تعزیت و تسلیت کا اہتمام و سلسلہ دن بھر
تارہ بل میں واقع ہماری رہائش گاہ میں جاری رہے گا۔

سوگواران:
سید جعفر حسین صفوی ، سید ظہور حسین صفوی (برادران)
سید احتیاز حسین صفوی (فرزند)
آفاق عالم خان (فرزند نسیتی)

فون نمبر : **9622343434**

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Kashmir's Shared Stewardship

An old Arabic tradition of shared stewardship, revived in Lebanon, suggests a way to bring villagers, scientists and the Forest Department into one system in the valley.



Mauzam Bakshi

Kashmir likes to call its mountains a green capital, and the phrase fits.

Forests regulate water, wetlands absorb it and store it, and alpine meadows feed the animals that pastoral families live on. Springs and streams then keep communities going far from the slopes where they begin.

Climate change, land-use change, forest degradation, fires, unregulated extraction, grazing pressure and spreading human activity are wearing that capital down.

Kashmir already has extensive environmental law and a network of departments responsible for its natural resources. The harder problem is that these landscapes are vast and often inaccessible, and their condition depends closely on what the people around them do from day to day.

Institutions working mostly from outside may struggle to protect them alone, which raises a larger question: does conservation improve when the people who depend on natural resources hold a defined, lawful and accountable role in protecting and managing them?

An old tradition gives a place to start. Hima comes from an Arabic term linked to a protected or reserved area, and it meant setting aside a landscape or a resource and regulating its use for ecological and community purposes.

Forms of it existed in the Arabian Peninsula before Islam, and Islamic traditions of stewardship developed it further. Its rules, boundaries and purposes changed with local ecology and society, so it never worked as one uniform system.

The tradition has outlived its history. Since 2004, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon has worked with communities to revive Hima as community-led conservation built around the health of whole natural systems.

The Lebanese model has been used where biodiversity, local livelihoods and resource management meet.

IUCN, UNDP and BirdLife International have supported its development, which links the approach to present-day goals for biodiversity and sustainable development.

Lebanon shows that Hima does not have to be treated as an attempt to rebuild a medieval system. Its core idea,

collective responsibility for natural resources and locally agreed limits on their use, can be fitted to modern law, science and institutions.

That is where Kashmir comes in. The aim would be to take the principle and leave the Middle Eastern template behind, since the ecology, legal systems and social realities are entirely different.

Kashmir could develop its own co-management framework, with the state keeping statutory authority, scientific institutions setting the ecological parameters and local communities taking a formal part in monitoring, management and stewardship.

The legal ground already exists.

The Forest Rights Act, 2006, now applicable in J&K, recognises community forest rights covering grazing, access to water and minor forest produce, along with the right and responsibility of communities to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage community forest resources.

Co-management could therefore grow from what the law already recognises, where legally appropriate, with clearer mechanisms for ecological monitoring, institutional coordination and accountability.

The Forest Department would keep its statutory role, communities would exercise their recognised rights and responsibilities, and scientific institutions would assess and monitor the ecology.

The test would be whether the arrangement produces measurable ecological improvement.

A spring shows how this could work on the ground.

Water security begins before water reaches a household. The catchment, vegetation, soil and stream banks all affect how much water flows downstream, how clean it is and when it arrives.

Protecting a spring takes more than guarding the point where water emerges, since recharge areas, drainage pathways and surrounding vegetation may all need attention.

A locally based watershed arrangement could identify critical recharge zones, vulnerable stream corridors and sensitive catchments, and it could regulate activities that damage water quality, destabilise stream banks or degrade recharge areas.

Hydrology, terrain and scientific assessment would draw the boundaries, with no uniform distance applied to all watercourses alike.

Residents are often the first to see a spring weakening, sediment increasing, a stream changing course or a new source of pollution appearing.

Their observations help most when they link to scientific assessment and to a government mechanism that can respond, so community knowledge should

complement hydrological and ecological science and never replace it.

The same thinking applies to medicinal plants and other valuable forest resources.

Communities are too often seen only as resource users or potential violators. Selected local institutions could monitor vulnerable species, regulate collection periods within the law and report destructive or illegal commercial extraction.

The alpine meadows make the strongest case.

These high pastures are delicate landscapes and working grazing land at the same time, and their vegetation protects thin mountain soils, supports biodiversity, influences water retention and feeds animals.

Blaming pastoral communities settles little, and assuming that traditional grazing is sustainable settles just as little.

The sharper question asks what level, timing and distribution of grazing a particular meadow can sustain without losing its ecological functions, and only science and local knowledge together can answer it.

Individual meadows could be assessed for vegetation condition, soil vulnerability, water availability and grazing pressure. Grazing could rotate where necessary, sensitive areas could rest and degraded sections could recover.

Pastoral communities would help write the management rules, while scientific assessment would set the ecological limits.

This division of labour makes co-management more realistic than complete government control or unrestricted community control.

The government provides the legal framework, technical capacity and enforcement authority. Communities provide local knowledge, continuous presence and stewardship.

Universities and research institutions undertake ecological assessments, while GIS, remote sensing and field monitoring track vegetation, forest condition, meadow health and land use.

Decisions then rest on evidence of what the land can actually support instead of assumptions about what is sustainable.

Communities are not automatically conservationists, and an honest proposal says so.

Local institutions can suffer from unequal power, competing economic interests and elite capture, and some groups have greater access to resources than others.

Women, landless households, marginalised communities and pastoral groups can be excluded unless participation is built to prevent it.

A Kashmir model would therefore need safeguards: clearly mapped boundaries, documented responsibilities, defined ecological indicators and transparent decisions, along with ways to resolve disputes and appeal rulings.

Community institutions would also have to work within the country's wider environmental and legal framework, which is why co-management is more practical than community control alone.

It also speaks to a persistent weakness in environmental governance, the difference between policy and implementation.

A conservation rule can exist on paper without being understood or accepted locally, while a local practice can hold real ecological value and still lack legal recognition, scientific assessment or institutional support.

A well-designed system could bring those two worlds together.

It could begin modestly.

A few carefully chosen pilot sites, perhaps an alpine meadow, a spring-fed watershed and a medicinal-plant habitat, would replace any attempt to introduce the model over the whole of Kashmir's forests and mountains at once.

Baseline ecological conditions would be documented before any intervention, local institutions identified and representative participation secured.

Management rules would then be agreed, implemented and reviewed over several seasons. Results would decide whether the model grows.

Improved vegetation, less soil erosion, stabilised spring flows or water quality, better biodiversity indicators and fewer disputes over resource use would justify expansion.

A failure would be examined and the framework changed, because serious conservation policy has to evolve through evidence rather than assumption.

A cultural thread runs through all of this.

Where environmental ethics have deep cultural and religious roots, conservation can be understood as a responsibility toward future generations as well as compliance with regulation.

The Islamic concept of Amanah, or trust, supplies one such frame, treating natural resources as something entrusted to human beings.

Seen that way, the maps, indicators and appeals described above are the working document of a trust.

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

KO VIEW

The Smoke Season

Kashmir once taught its children to read the seasons as part of their own lives.

Winter had its cold, spring its flowers, summer its warmth, and autumn had a special place in the valley's imagination.

Schoolbooks turned the changing colours of chinar trees into lessons in poetry, beauty and belonging. Children learned that autumn was a season with its own mood and meaning.

That picture has become harder to recognise.

When the chinars shed their leaves, smoke often rises with them. Leaves and garden waste are burned in neighbourhoods, open spaces and fields, turning a celebrated season into a period of choking air.

The smoke brings coughing and breathing trouble, and people with asthma can find the season especially difficult.

The damage also reaches beyond health.

For some older Kashmiris, autumn has become a reason to leave the valley for the plains until winter passes.

A place that depends heavily on tourism cannot afford to treat its seasons this way. Kashmir has spent decades selling its autumn colours as one of its great attractions. Visitors come to see the golden chinars, walk through parks and gardens, and experience the landscape at a time when the valley looks unlike anywhere else. Smoke turns that same landscape into a warning.

The problem is becoming harder to dismiss. Srinagar has already fallen behind on air quality rankings, while the city's pollution worsens as autumn moves toward winter. Burning leaves may seem like a small household practice, but thousands of small fires can produce a large public health problem when they happen across a valley surrounded by mountains.

Government enforcement has a role here, and the law needs to apply consistently.

Rules against open burning mean little when violations are ignored or treated as harmless customs. Local authorities can work with municipalities, village committees and residents to create practical ways to collect and compost garden waste instead of burning it.

Society also has work to do. A tradition does not become harmless simply because people have repeated it for generations.

Kashmir can preserve its seasonal customs while giving up practices that fill its autumn air with smoke.

Schools can help by teaching children about the seasons as living parts of the landscape, including the responsibility that comes with protecting them.

Autumn should once again mean chinars turning gold, rather than smoke rising beneath them.

Kashmir has spent years teaching its children to love the valley's seasons. It now needs to teach them how to keep those seasons breathable

Turn Bystanders Into Lifesavers

As reports of sudden deaths among young people raise concern, colleges can give students practical training in CPR, first aid and emergency response.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

My social-media feed rarely goes a day without a young person's photograph and the same caption: died suddenly of a heart attack.

A face full of promise becomes an obituary. Family and friends absorb a loss that no post can measure, and the rest of us are left asking why this seems to happen so often.

I am a concerned citizen, and the causes belong to physicians, researchers and public-health institutions. I also want to be careful about what those photographs prove.

One death gets shared hundreds of times, and our phones bring news from far beyond our own neighbourhoods, so a feed cannot tell us whether deaths in any age group have actually risen.

The worry is real all the same, and it calls for a transparent answer built on reliable records.

Words need care too, since a heart attack happens when blood flow to the heart is blocked, while cardiac arrest means the heart suddenly stops pumping effectively.

One can lead to the other, but they are different events, and nobody can diagnose an unexplained collapse from a caption.

"Heart attack" should open an inquiry where the cause is uncertain. Medical institutions can then tell us which deaths have a confirmed cause, which remain unexplained, and what lessons for prevention follow.

An investigation can take months, while a collapse can

leave only minutes to act.

Picture a student falling unconscious in a classroom, a passenger dropping at a bus stand, a player going down mid-match. People gather. Someone phones for a vehicle, someone hunts for a doctor, and others stand back, unsure whether touching the person will do harm.

Willing hands surround the patient, and none of them knows its task.

The American Heart Association advises that a person who is unresponsive and not breathing normally, or only gasping, needs action at once: call emergency services, begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and use an automated external defibrillator, or AED, if one is nearby, following its instructions. CPR started immediately can substantially improve the chance of survival.

Those minutes belong to bystanders, since the ambulance is still on the road.

Colleges and universities are well placed to change what bystanders know. All students should get a practical course in basic life support and first aid, set inside the regular programme with supervised practice and periodic refreshers.

A lecture, a poster or a photograph of an awareness event proves nothing about whether a student can act. Students should work on training mannequins under qualified instructors and learn to recognise a possible cardiac arrest, call for help, give effective chest compressions and use an AED.

The course should cover choking and severe bleeding too, since different emergencies call for different responses.

Knowing when to act counts as much as knowing how. Someone unconscious but breathing normally needs different help from someone unresponsive and not breathing normally, and a supervised room teaches that difference better than any article, this one included.

The training should reach students of law, literature, commerce and engineering, because any of them could be the nearest person when someone falls.

Teachers, hostel wardens, security personnel, sports staff and transport workers belong in the sessions as well, since they are present all over a campus.



A young person's photograph should move us past the condolence message, toward asking whether our institutions are preparing people for the moment another life depends on them. Our lecture halls teach students how to earn a living. They can also teach them how to help save a life.

Institutions can partner with medical colleges, hospitals and recognised training organisations, and make sure all participants practise the skills and get feedback.

Refresher sessions should revisit the material, because a skill learned once fades when it is seldom used.

Campuses also need arrangements that make action possible. Emergency numbers should be displayed clearly. Staff should know who calls for help, who brings the equipment and who guides the ambulance to the patient. Hostels and sports grounds need the same attention as classrooms, because an emergency keeps no office hours.

Where AEDs are installed, they should sit within easy reach, stay maintained and have trained people behind them.

A device locked in an office, or sitting with a dead battery, gives false comfort. Short drills expose such failures before a real emergency does.

Universities already insist that students sit examinations, finish assignments and complete formalities. A short, well-run course in saving lives belongs on that list, judged by the ability students demonstrate in practice, with certificate counts left aside.

The benefit travels, too. Students take what they learn home, to workplaces and neighbourhoods, and a trained student may one day help a parent, a neighbour or a stranger.

Training should lie beside prevention and investigation. Public-health authorities should examine sudden deaths systematically and report their findings responsibly. Doctors should guide the assessment of early symptoms and, where appropriate, of relatives of those whose deaths may involve inherited conditions.

Specialist guidance recognises the importance of investigating unexplained sudden deaths and assessing family members who may be affected. Speculation about one death should never replace evidence.

Even prompt, competent help sometimes fails, and nobody can promise that all lives will be saved.

Those standing nearby can still gain the knowledge and confidence to help while professional care is on its way.

A young person's photograph should move us past the condolence message, toward asking whether our institutions are preparing people for the moment another life depends on them.

Our lecture halls teach students how to earn a living. They can also teach them how to help save a life.

The author is an advocate, a former civil servant and Honorary Chairman of The City School, Kakapora. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

The Long Shadow of the Spray

Studies elsewhere in India have found pesticide residues in breast milk, while Jammu and Kashmir lacks published evidence of comparable testing despite pesticide use far above the national average.



Anuj Kumar Verma

On a morning in Kashmir countryside, a woman can move between rows of apple trees carrying out the same work as the men in her family.

Spraying, pruning, picking and sorting are part of agricultural life for thousands of households. The chemicals used to protect those trees settle on leaves and soil, enter water and food, and travel through the air around the people who work there.

One question remains largely unanswered: What reaches the breast milk of women who spend their working lives around those chemicals?

Research from several parts of India has already found pesticide residues in breast milk.

Studies from West Bengal, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and other agricultural regions have detected organochlorine pesticides and newer compounds in samples from nursing mothers.

Jammu and Kashmir has yet to conduct a comparable study, even as its farmers use chemical pesticides at levels far above the national average.

Research published in Environmental Pollution found organochlorine pesticides, pyrethroids and related chemicals in breast-milk samples collected in Kolkata and Nadia.

Most substances showed higher average concentrations in Kolkata.

A study published in Science of the Total Environment detected

DDT and HCH residues in breast milk from Dibrugarh and Nagaon in Assam.

Another investigation published in the same journal found β -HCH, DDT, DDE, endrin, endosulfan, cypermethrin and chlorpyrifos in breast milk from Punjab.

Research published in 2018 in Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology detected persistent pollutants including DDT and HCH in samples from Bathinda and Ludhiana.

A pilot study in Haryana found p,p'-DDT in 4 percent of samples and p,p'-DDE in 5 percent.

Those studies come with important limits.

Researchers examined selected samples under different conditions, so their findings cannot represent all mothers or infants in those regions. They also cannot establish a nationwide estimate.

Their value lies elsewhere.

Taken together, they show that pesticides can persist in the environment and food chain long enough to reach human milk.

That question takes on particular significance in Jammu and Kashmir, where agriculture and horticulture support countless families and women play a major role in farm work.

Women in parts of Jammu province can spend extensive hours working alongside male family members in fields and orchards. Their exposure deserves direct measurement.

Official agriculture data put Jammu and Kashmir's chemical pesticide use at about 3.69 kilograms per hectare.

Punjab and Haryana use roughly 0.62 kilograms per hectare, while Himachal Pradesh uses about 0.50 kilograms.

The national average stands at roughly 0.22 to 0.29 kilograms per hectare.

Research linked to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences has estimated that Kashmir's orchards receive about



OFFICIAL AGRICULTURE DATA PUT JAMMU AND KASHMIR'S CHEMICAL PESTICIDE USE AT ABOUT 3.69 KILOGRAMS PER HECTARE.

Punjab and Haryana use roughly 0.62 kilograms per hectare, while Himachal Pradesh uses about 0.50 kilograms. The national average stands at roughly 0.22 to 0.29 kilograms per hectare.

7,750 metric tonnes of fungicides and 3,186 metric tonnes of insecticides every year.

Farmers also frequently exceed recommended spraying schedules, according to the research.

A large share of those chemicals never reaches the pests they target.

About 70 percent of pesticides applied during spraying goes to waste, according to the available research.

Residues remain in air and soil, leach into groundwater and enter lakes and rivers. Farmers and their families can encounter them

through agricultural work, while people living near orchards face exposure through air and water.

The pathway from a sprayed orchard to breast milk involves several stages, and researchers need to measure those stages carefully.

Pesticide residues can move through soil and water, enter crops and food, and accumulate in living organisms. Persistent compounds can remain in the environment for long periods, making human testing an important part of understanding the full exposure picture.

A Jammu and Kashmir study

focused on lactating women who work in orchards and fields could provide evidence that the region currently lacks.

Researchers could examine breast milk alongside blood, food, water, soil and occupational exposure, creating a clearer picture of how agricultural chemicals move through local communities.

Such evidence would also give policymakers a stronger basis for action.

Agriculture and horticulture are economic lifelines in Jammu and Kashmir, so pesticide policy must

protect farm production while reducing unnecessary exposure.

Regular testing of food, water, soil and human samples could help authorities identify problem areas. Integrated pest management could reduce dependence on chemical sprays, while stronger enforcement could keep farmers and consumers better protected.

The findings from other states also point toward safer working practices.

Pregnant women and lactating mothers working in heavily sprayed orchards and fields should receive specific occupational guidance, particularly during pesticide application and periods of high exposure.

Authorities can pair that advice with efforts to reduce hazardous pesticide use and promote food with lower chemical residues.

Breastfeeding itself should not stop because studies have detected pesticide residues in breast milk. Mothers should seek medical advice before making decisions about breastfeeding.

The public-health priority lies in reducing exposure at its source and learning how much contamination reaches people in the first place.

The central question for Jammu and Kashmir is therefore simple: How much of what farmers spray on the land eventually reaches the people who work there?

Until researchers test breast milk in the region, the answer remains unknown.

Meanwhile, the orchards keep producing fruit, the sprays keep entering the agricultural environment, and women keep working among them.

A test of the milk could reveal what the landscape has already been telling us about where its chemicals go.

— The author is an environmental advocate and policy writer, and can be reached at verma.anujk@gmail.com.

Food Before Medicine

Fresh, simple food and sustainable habits can do more for everyday wellbeing than expensive fixes.



Rakshanda Gul

We live fast now, with deadlines stacking up and notifications demanding constant attention, and somewhere between the morning rush and midnight exhaustion, we forget that our bodies run entirely on what we feed them.

We grab whatever fills the gap, whether packaged snacks, drive-through windows, or anything that saves precious minutes, and the body pays later because it always does.

Food holds power we rarely acknowledge, and every single bite builds our energy levels, mood, focus, and long-term strength.

The right plate heals while the wrong one slowly dismantles, and this truth sits at the heart of traditional healing systems, grandmothers' remedies, and cultures that treat the kitchen as the first clinic.

Consider anemia, which millions struggle with through low hemoglobin, that creeping fatigue, and the dizziness that strikes mid-afternoon.

Pharmaceutical solutions exist, but so do spinach leaves, beetroot slices, dates, apples, and lentils, and these foods rebuild iron stores naturally because the body recognizes them and absorbs what it needs.

Improvement comes gradually and sustainably without side effects, and small dietary shifts create measurable change that the evidence shows sits on ordinary dinner plates everywhere.

Modern epidemics trace back to modern eating patterns, where excess oil and sugar drive weight gain,

metabolic strain, and chronic conditions that dominate hospital wards.

Meanwhile, those who center fruits, vegetables, and home cooking maintain steadier health at no extra cost, since fresh cabbage beats expensive supplements and a simple dal-rice combination outperforms elaborate processed meals, proving that accessibility matters more than price tags.

Processing poses particular problems because supermarket shelves overflow with engineered products that are brightly packaged, chemically preserved, and designed for shelf life rather than human vitality. They tempt the eye and satisfy immediate cravings, but they rarely nourish, and this reality makes kitchen gardens revolutionary whether through a windowsill pot of mint, a balcony tomato plant, or tiny patches of coriander and spinach.

Home-grown produce holds freshness no factory replicates, and the flavour differs along with the nutrient density and the connection between grower and food.

Better eating transforms daily experience through stabilized energy, diminished headaches, and lifted mental fog, and the properly nourished brain focuses longer, responds calmer, and sleeps deeper.

These connections between gut and mind and between micronutrients and neurotransmitters increasingly dominate medical research, and ancient wisdom anticipated modern science because both point toward whole foods.

Children's plates worry me most because junk food marketers understand psychology better than many parents through bright colours, cartoon characters, and additive flavour profiles that make chips, burgers, pizzas, and sodas dominate young preferences.

The consequences unfold slowly through stunted growth, weakened immunity, early obesity, and diminished concentration, and these patterns harden into lifelong habits that become difficult to break.

Parents face genuine challenges



Traditional cultures understood this intuitively, whether through the Mediterranean diet, Japanese washoku, or Indian Ayurvedic principles, all of which emphasize variety, freshness, and balance.

They developed over centuries of observation while watching which combinations sustained vitality. Modern nutrition science confirms what traditional cooks practiced about diverse plant intake, minimal processing, and attention to individual constitution.

here since complete restriction backfires and creates forbidden fruit appeal, so balance works better by anchoring homemade meals throughout the week while keeping fruits and milk available and making packaged treats occasional rather than default.

Early exposure to diverse, simple foods builds palates that serve children throughout adulthood, and this investment compounds across decades

into healthier future generations.

Awareness alone changes nothing, as millions know what they should eat but habit, convenience, and time pressure override that knowledge daily. Sustainable improvement requires small, stacked victories like a glass of water upon waking, regular meal timing, or one additional vegetable per day, and these modest steps accumulate into significant change

over time.

Perfection remains unnecessary because progress matters more, and our relationship with food defines our relationship with health through every meal offering a choice between building or borrowing from future wellbeing.

The kitchen provides tools for prevention that clinics cannot match, since pharmaceuticals manage crises

while daily nourishment prevents them entirely.

Think about your last week and count how many meals came from whole ingredients versus packages, because that ratio reveals more than calorie counts by showing whether you treat food as fuel or afterthought.

Traditional cultures understood this intuitively, whether through the Mediterranean diet, Japanese washoku, or Indian Ayurvedic principles, all of which emphasize variety, freshness, and balance. They developed over centuries of observation while watching which combinations sustained vitality. Modern nutrition science confirms what traditional cooks practiced about diverse plant intake, minimal processing, and attention to individual constitution.

Start where you stand by adding one vegetable to tomorrow's lunch, replacing one packaged snack with fruit this week, or drinking water before reaching for caffeine.

These actions feel small because they are small, but their impact surprises those who maintain them.

Health rarely demands dramatic intervention, and it usually asks only for consistent attention to fundamentals like sleep, movement, connection, and food that is real, prepared with care, and eaten with awareness.

The pharmacy extends life, but the kitchen creates the life worth extending, and both have roles though we too often overvalue the former and undervalue the latter. Reversing that imbalance gives the most accessible health intervention available to everyone regardless of income or geography.

Your next meal approaches and brings opportunity to build something your body recognizes, something that contributes rather than depletes.

The ingredients await, and the choice remains entirely yours.

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Inside The Chawla

by-laws, that no encroachment on state land, common land or public pathways would be tolerated, that the owner alone remained responsible for any boundary dispute, that the certificates conferred no ownership rights, and that any violation would render them null and void.

Officials who handled the file described the certificates as administrative continuations of earlier permissions rather than fresh statutory grants.

The office simultaneously collected comments from line departments.

The Executive Engineer of the Roads and Buildings Division at Dalgate wrote on 17 July 2025 that the proposed structure stood 67 metres from the central line of the road, well beyond the 12-metre setback required under the relevant Act, and therefore raised no objection provided dimensions stayed unchanged and the use remained residential.

The Public Health Engineering Division at Ganderbal issued its own letter on 28 June 2025, requiring the applicant to arrange water independently, prohibiting the use of drinking supply for construction, and making clear that the certificate did not authorise a private pipe connection.

The Wildlife Warden of the Central Division confirmed on 6 August 2025, after a Range Officer's verification, that the four corner coordinates of the plot fell outside Dachigam National Park and the Dara-Khimber Conservation Reserve.

A separate No Objection Certificate was also issued from the office of the District Development Council Chairman.

Local accounts place one Shabir Reshi, a former District Development Council member associated with the Apni Party, among those who facilitated the original land transfers. A second man of the same name, described as a contractor, later appeared at the site.

The fact that two people shared the same name made every public account of the episode harder to untangle.

Construction activity at Syedpora eventually drew the attention of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority.

The authority had expanded its monitoring of rural Harwan after elected representatives, including MLA Salman Sagar, raised questions about unauthorised buildings.

Officers of the authority served Chawla with a stop-work notice in 2026. Chawla's side approached the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, placing the Block Development Officer's certificates at the centre of the plea and treating them as authorisation to build.

The Rural Development Department answered through a sworn affidavit filed by Mohammad Muqsit Wani, the Block Development Officer of Harwan, and supported by Additional Advocate General Alia-Ud-Din-Ganai.

The affidavit stated that the office functions neither as an authority under the Control of Building Operations Act of 1988 nor as a planning body empowered to enforce Master Plan or zonal regulations.

The certificates, it said, remained purely administrative instruments issued after the purchaser approached the office with the 2023 Panchayat papers.

They were not deciding whether the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority had jurisdiction, whether the proposal followed the Master Plan, or whether it was legal under environmental rules or the 1988 Act.

"The department had simply forwarded routine comments from Roads and Buildings, Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, Agriculture and Wildlife," a senior official familiar with the case told Kashmir Observer. "The affidavit made clear that the office would follow whatever final decision the court reached on the jurisdictional framework."

The larger question of jurisdiction had already reached the same High Court.

Residents of Block Harwan filed WP(C) No. 688 of 2025 seeking a declaration that the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority lacked power over Halqas including Syedpora, Fakirguri, Gandtal, Theed and Dara.

They relied on the Panchayati Raj Act and the 2022 Government Order that had channelled building permissions through local bodies.

A Single Judge dismissed the petition on 17 October 2025. The Division Bench, in LPA No. 270 of 2025, reserved judgment on 9 April 2026 and delivered it on 29 April 2026.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, writing for the Bench that included Justice Sanjay Parihar, traced the statutory chain.

SRO 109 of 27 March 1997 had constituted the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, later renamed the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority, for designated local areas under the Development Act of 1970.

SRO 57 of 10 February 1999 brought CD Block Harwan inside those boundaries.

Section 30 of the 1970 Act requires written permission before any development can begin once a plan is in force. Section 54 stops certain municipal and town-planning rules from applying within the notified area, while leaving other laws unchanged.

The Bench examined Section 12 of the Panchayati Raj Act and found that the duty to regulate buildings amounted to broad spatial provision rather than the detailed work of granting permissions, monitoring violations or ordering demolition.

Halqa Panchayats, the judgement observed, possess neither the master

plans nor the technical capacity for such regulation.

The Government Order of 1 April 2022 had already excluded areas under statutory authorities, such as the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority, from the earlier 22 January 2022 framework.

The Division Bench therefore affirmed that the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority alone holds regulatory control over construction inside the notified area of Block Harwan.

Political voices entered the public record soon after the stop-work notice.

Syed Altaf Bukhari of the Apni Party asked how a Mumbai resident had acquired land for what local accounts described as a multi-storey hotel.

Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister, answered that the government had neither allotted land nor issued building permission, that Chawla had purchased private parcels through registered deeds, and that the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority had halted the work.

Each side pointed to intermediaries linked to the opposite party.

The documentary trail remained the same: a 2023 Panchayat permission, a 2025 registered sale, conditional administrative certificates from the Block Development Officer and line departments, and a High Court ruling that placed final building control with the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority.

The hillside at Syedpora now stands as a concrete illustration of overlapping claims.

One layer records private ownership transferred through lawful registration. Another layer records the 2023 local permission issued under the Panchayati Raj framework that is then in force. A third layer records the limited administrative clearances that followed the change of ownership. A fourth layer records the statutory authority of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority, confirmed by successive High Court judgements, to decide whether any construction may proceed.

The Block Development Officer's own affidavit drew the boundary clearly: the office never claimed the power to grant the permission that the petitioner later invoked.

On the pine-covered slopes facing Dachigam, unfinished buildings mark the point where local practice, government procedure and legal authority came together.

The Court has settled the question of legal authority. Questions about land title, what happened along the way and the exact nature of the work will continue through the same institutions that produced the records now before the court.

SC To Examine

demanding CEC Kumar's removal over the SIR row.

After the court's notice, opposition parties, including Congress, CPI, AAP and BJD demanded that CEC Kumar must resign immediately. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said it is now established beyond doubt that CEC Kumar changed Form 6 "illegally and unilaterally" and that the CEC as well as everyone else involved in this "criminal assault on democracy" will be held accountable.

Election Commission officials, however, asserted that Form 6 was not changed but a declaration was attached to it through its Bihar SIR order.

A declaration was attached to Form 6 during the Bihar SIR order of June 24, 2025, which was upheld by the apex court in its May 27 order, as mentioned in the poll authority's press note of September 26, they maintained.

On its part, the BJP said the Supreme Court's notices are "proof" that all institutions in the country are "functioning independently" and there is no atmosphere of "fear and dictatorship".

During the proceedings, the apex court said that it may examine the immunity clause put in the law which gives protection to the CEC.

Senior advocate Vikash Singh, appearing for petitioner Rakesh Kumar Singh, sought a direction in the interim to restrain Kumar from taking any further decisions. He also sought the CEC's suspension, saying that every citizen is feeling unsafe with respect to voting rights.

The bench also issued notice on a connected petition filed by advocate Shailendra Mani Tripathi and tagged it with Singh's petition.

The bench said that if the CEC is suspended, the functioning of the Election Commission (EC) will be stalled.

"Who will conduct the elections?" the bench asked, adding that the EC has to work in accordance with the constitutional mandate.

Singh submitted that the two election commissioners can discharge the functions.

The bench stated that it has to seek the responses of the persons concerned before passing any order.

Singh submitted that the court should then order that the EC should take decisions only unanimously or by majority.

"There is a mandatory law and we expect them to follow it. If there is any violation, we can very well undo it. If there is no unanimity or majority as mandated under the law, then the court can very well annul those decisions," the CJ said.

The bench said it cannot pass any order ex parte and needs to see the decisions taken by the poll panel.

Singh claimed that the electoral roll itself has been "vitiated" because of the

unilateral decisions by the CEC.

Justice Bagchi then asked whether the court can pass such an order ex parte, without hearing the respondents.

"If records show some decision was not unanimous etc., we will injunct those decisions and say they are ultra vires. Can we ex parte come to a decision that all decisions were unilateral? We expect them to respond in a clear, transparent manner," Justice Bagchi said.

Singh claimed that the press release issued by the EC in the aftermath of the controversy triggered by a news report amounted to admitting to what the article stated.

The Indian Express reported on September 25 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 on SIR of electoral rolls that they said were issued without their knowledge or recommendation. The claim has sparked protests by opposition parties and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), demanding removal of CEC Kumar.

CJI Kant said that the court cannot pass an order by relying solely on newspaper reports and it has to look into the responses of the EC and the Centre.

Issuing notices to the EC and the Centre on Singh's petition, the bench asked them to furnish all relevant details in their responses.

The PIL filed by Singh, a Patna resident, urged the top court to determine whether the CEC has been individually exercising powers that legally belong to the EC as a whole, and, if so, to declare those actions unauthorised and take appropriate legal action.

One of the main issues Tripathi's plea raises is the alteration of Form 6. It alleges that the requirement relating to ancestral details and link with the previous SIR was introduced through the election panel's software without the statutory amendment required under the electoral rules.

According to the petition, the two election commissioners other than Kumar objected to the change and asserted that the prescribed form could not be altered without following the statutory procedure.

The EC on Monday also denied that it had removed its press note of September 26 from its website related to Form 6.

In the press note, the EC had said that "the declaration attached to Form 6 for SIR has been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court". It had also said that for the non-SIR period, the forms applicable as per rules (Registration of Electors Rules 1960) will be used.

Subsequently, it had withdrawn the declaration, seeking details of parents of those applying for enrolment in SIR, from its online portals.

The online version of Form 6 and the declaration used to ask for a one-time password only once for both the documents and not twice. This gave rise to suggestions that the declaration was an integral part of Form 6, EC officials said.

Rahul Gandhi shared on X a screenshot of the September 26 EC statement. "It is now established beyond doubt that Gyanesh Kumar changed Form 6 illegally and unilaterally. This is just one more proof of him abusing his position to help the BJP."

"He and everyone else involved in this criminal assault on our democracy will be held accountable," Gandhi said.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said that approaching the Supreme Court with a PIL, the court holding a hearing and issuing notices to ensure the other party is also heard is a standard procedure and shows there is no atmosphere of fear in the country.

"It is both a democratic and a judicial process... The country is moving in a very democratic way. Everyone is speaking their heart out. All procedures and systems are being followed. Where else could there be a better model of democracy?" he said.

AI, Robotics Must

the evolution of agricultural engineering since the establishment of ISAE in 1960, Sinha said scientists and engineers had played an important role in the Green Revolution through mechanisation and innovations that helped increase agricultural productivity and reduce post-harvest losses.

He urged young engineers and researchers to draw inspiration from these achievements while developing solutions to contemporary challenges, including climate change, resource scarcity and the need for sustainable farming.

The Lieutenant Governor laid particular emphasis on the role of women in agriculture and agricultural technology.

He said nearly 64 to 76 per cent of the rural female workforce is engaged in farming and allied activities, often without wages or land ownership, and called for greater opportunities for women to become innovators and leaders in agricultural technology.

Sinha urged educational institutions, agricultural universities and private-sector stakeholders to support women-led agricultural technology start-ups and create laboratories, fellowships and incubation platforms for young women engineers and scientists, particularly those from rural areas.

"Women-led start-ups in agricultural technology should receive financing with the same confidence with which any other start-up is provided the necessary support and facilities," he said.

He stressed that engineering colleges and agricultural universities should actively nurture women innovators and

help them reach positions of technological leadership.

"Laboratories, fellowships and incubation platforms should be created where a young woman engineer or scientist from a village in Kishtwar or Kupwara can see her idea progress through a credible journey into a market-ready product," Sinha said.

On the growing use of artificial intelligence and robotics in agriculture, the Lieutenant Governor said such technologies should not become solutions accessible only to large land-holding farmers.

He said small and marginal farmers, who constitute nearly 86 per cent of India's farming community, should remain at the centre of technological development.

Sinha called for agricultural technologies that can operate on ordinary smartphones and function effectively in low-bandwidth rural areas.

He also suggested collective ownership and leasing models through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), allowing farming communities to access expensive technologies without having to purchase them individually.

"I urge the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers, SKUAST-Kashmir, and every young engineer and innovator to develop tools with affordability and access at their core," he said.

"Create instruments that work not only on cloud infrastructure, but also on an ordinary smartphone in a low-bandwidth village in Reasi," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for greater use of collective models for agricultural robotics.

"Develop robotic instruments that can be leased through Farmer Producer Organisations or collectively owned by farming communities. I believe that this is the true meaning of developing technology for Gen-Z farming, technology that progresses alongside small and marginal farmers," he said.

Sinha referred to drones, Internet of Things-based sensors and machine-learning models as examples of technologies already transforming agricultural practices.

However, he cautioned innovators against developing technologies primarily for demonstration or conference settings, stressing that agricultural technology must withstand difficult field conditions and deliver tangible benefits to farmers.

"Create technology that can endure in real fields, under real monsoon conditions, and within the limited budgets of real farmers," he said.

"Do not measure your success solely by patents or published research papers. Measure it by whether, five years later, a small farmer in Anantnag, Amritsar or Akola is genuinely better off because of your tools," the Lieutenant Governor added.

Sinha also highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), describing it as a replicable model for other states.

He expressed confidence that agricultural scientists and engineers from across the country would draw lessons from Jammu and Kashmir's experience in precision agriculture and sustainable resource management.

The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated recipients of ISAE awards during the convention.

Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Minister Javid Ahmad Dar; Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production, Ashish Chandra Verma; SKUAST-Kashmir Vice Chancellor Nazir Ahmad Gana; ISAE President SN Jha; Texas A&M University professor VP Singh; ISAE Secretary General PK Sahoo; 60th ISAE Convention Convener Rohitashw Kumar; Organising Secretary Mudasar Ali; and members of ISAE, researchers, academicians, technocrats, innovators, industry representatives, faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

LG Prorogues

Assembly," an order issued by Assembly Secretary M K Pandita said.

The Assembly had convened for its Autumn session on September 21 and concluded its proceedings on September 30.

During the session, the House passed a resolution calling upon the Centre to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Assembly is now expected to convene for its Budget session in Jammu next year.

Prorogation refers to the formal termination of a session of a legislative body without dissolving the House. The Assembly continues to remain in existence and can be summoned for its next session.

Rain, Snow

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.8 degrees Celsius, which was 5.3 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 12.3 degrees Celsius, 3.3 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 31 degrees Celsius, 6.9 degrees above normal, while its minimum temperature was 10.2 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 26.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 7.4 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 23 degrees Celsius and 9 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Jammu, the maximum temperature was 33 degrees Celsius, 0.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 23 degrees Celsius, 2.1 degrees above normal.

No rainfall was recorded at the stations listed by the weather department during the reporting period.

HC Directs Fast

in writing whenever an adjournment is granted. Where counsel for an accused repeatedly remains absent without sufficient cause, the courts may appoint Legal Aid Counsel or an Amicus Curiae to prevent unnecessary delay.

Immediately after framing of charges, trial courts have been asked to prepare witness calendars specifying dates for examination of material witnesses, service of summons and sequencing of evidence to ensure timely attendance and avoid repeated deferment of proceedings.

The circular also provides that in matrimonial disputes arising primarily out of matrimonial discord and not involving death, grievous physical violence or other serious offences, courts may, wherever permissible and considered appropriate, explore mediation or counselling without compromising the rights of the parties or the seriousness of cognizable offences.

The directions have been circulated to all Principal District and Sessions Judges in J&K and Ladakh for necessary compliance and further circulation among judicial officers under their respective jurisdictions.

Experts Seek

claim and exercise.

Participants examined Individual Forest Rights, Community Forest Rights and the governance of minor forest produce, which can provide income to families living near forests.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, chairman of the J&K Climate Action Group, pointed to a basic obstacle.

District administration officials were absent from the national workshop, he said, even as communities sought guidance on a law that directly affects their homes, land and livelihoods.

He called on the Tribal Affairs Department to begin extensive awareness campaigns in rural and forest-adjacent areas. Local nongovernmental organizations and civil society groups, he said, need to work with the authorities so forest dwellers understand their statutory rights.

Experiences from other states showed what such rights can mean on the ground.

Delegates from Odisha, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh described community forest management and access to minor forest produce as tools that have strengthened livelihoods among tribal and traditional forest communities. Speakers urged Jammu and Kashmir to adapt those models to local conditions.

The workshop brought together Dileep Gode and Dr. Kishore Moge from Maharashtra, Sandeep Minhas of Himachal Pradesh, Advocate Viender Kumar of Jharkhand, Kailash Babu and Dr. Chitaranjan of Odisha, and Keshav Gurnoole and Bharat Namdev of Madhya Pradesh, alongside local participants.

Sikender Noorani, Lokesh Sharma, Abdul Rashid Sheikh and Sabir Hussain Bittu also addressed the gathering. Advocate Shakir Parray and Mir Mushtaq led the interactive sessions.

The workshop ended with a joint pledge to continue advocacy and capacity-building across Jammu and Kashmir. For families like those from Hari, the test will come when a law written in 2006 reaches the forest edge and becomes something people can use.

Medical Interns

Education Department to examine the interns' demand for enhancement of the stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000 and take further necessary action as per rules.

The 30-day assurance is set to expire on October 9.

Intern representatives have said they are awaiting a formal government order and implementation of the promised enhancement.

They have also indicated that failure to fulfil the commitment within the stipulated timeframe could lead to renewed agitation.

The interns have announced that they would begin an indefinite hunger strike from October 10 if the government does not issue orders on the stipend enhancement by October 9.

The focus now remains on whether the government will finalise the matter within the timeline given to the interns and issue the formal order they have been seeking.

J&K Govt Notifies

Smart IoT and GIS-based systems, supported by the "Call Before You Dig" platform.

The system will allow agencies and utility providers to identify underground infrastructure before excavation, reducing the risk of damage to existing networks and preventing service disruptions.

The government said the measures would help prevent repeated road cutting for laying and repairing utility networks, thereby protecting public infrastructure and reducing inconvenience to commuters.

The shared infrastructure model is also expected to reduce operational and maintenance costs for utility providers and facilitate faster fault detection and repairs through dedicated inspection chambers.

The policy seeks to reduce visual clutter caused by overhead utility networks and support planned urban expansion across Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar said the policy would help J&K move towards a more coordinated and future-ready approach to urban infrastructure development.

The government said the framework would also strengthen the resilience of utility infrastructure and facilitate the

expansion of digital connectivity across the Union Territory.

150 Bangladeshis

according to officials.

Another batch of 150 Bangladeshis is scheduled to be deported on October 7, they said.

The development comes after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs constituted a High-Level Committee on Demographic Change (HLCDC) to examine demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other factors.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had informed the committee that around 600 Bangladeshi nationals had been identified across various districts of the Union Territory.

The MHA constituted the HLCDC on May 26 and tasked it with studying demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other factors in border areas and recommending measures to address them. The committee has been asked to submit its report within one year.

The committee has sought details from states and Union Territories regarding "visible changes" in religious demography across districts, industrial clusters and border districts over the past 15 years.

According to officials, the committee has also sought time-series data showing demographic changes over the years, relevant administrative datasets, assessments of major demographic trends and data on the religious composition of tribal populations since 2011.

The committee, headed by retired Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar, has been tasked with scientifically assessing demographic changes in various parts of the country due to illegal immigration and other factors, examining their causes and recommending appropriate policy, legislative and administrative measures.

Kashmir Filmmakers

a delegation that met with Tanvir Sadiq Ali, the chief spokesperson of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, in Srinagar on Monday.

The delegation included members of the festival's management committee and other filmmakers from the valley.

Their complaint was pointed: Local filmmakers, technicians and other film professionals had received little meaningful involvement in the planning and execution of the recent government-sponsored festival, even though public money had been spent on it.

The filmmakers said an international film festival needs people who understand the craft behind it, from programming and curation to production and technical work. They argued that government agencies should treat such events as professional cultural undertakings rather than administrative exercises.

The dispute also has a historical dimension.

The filmmakers objected to the recent festival being described as the "first-ever" international film festival of Jammu & Kashmir. Their memorandum pointed to the Kashmir World Film Festival, which began in Srinagar in 2017, when no cinema hall was operating in the valley.

That year remains important to Khan and his colleagues because they were working in an environment where cinema itself had little institutional support. The festival became a way to keep film culture visible and to give local artists and young filmmakers contact with a wider cinematic world.

Khan has since organised five editions of KWFF in Srinagar. He organised the J&K International Film Festival in Pune in June 2022 and served on the international jury at NCIFF-2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. He has also been invited as a special delegate to film festivals in Thiruvananthapuram, Sriganganagar, New Delhi and Mumbai.

The delegation said that history should count when the government records the development of cinema in Jammu & Kashmir.

Its concerns also extended to money. The association called for public disclosure of expenditure on the recent festival and an appropriate audit or review. It also asked the government to recognise and support established local platforms such as KWFF, which the filmmakers said had grown through years of personal investment, professional work and persistence.

Future international festivals, the delegation said, should be entrusted to experienced film professionals, with local filmmakers, artists and technicians involved from the planning stage through execution.

The disagreement raises a larger question facing Jammu & Kashmir as it seeks to develop a film industry: whether the growth of cinema will be built through institutions already working in the region or through new government-led initiatives operating alongside them.

The filmmakers describe KWFF as more than an annual event. They see it as a long-term cultural project intended to connect Kashmir with international cinema while giving local filmmakers, artists and young talent access to audiences and opportunities beyond the valley.

The delegation also sought the chief minister's institutional, professional and financial support for local filmmakers. Tanvir Sadiq assured them that their concerns would be raised with the appropriate authorities.

The filmmakers left with a political assurance and a larger claim: Kashmir's film revival began years before the government's new festival, when local filmmakers kept cinema alive without functioning screens.

74% of MGNREGA Works Taken Up in J&K Remain Incomplete: CAG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Of the 27.14 lakh works planned under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Jammu and Kashmir between 2019-20 and 2023-24, only 20.16 lakh works were taken up for execution, while just 5.34 lakh were completed, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

The CAG, in its report for the period ending March 2024, noted that 14.82 lakh works remained incomplete, accounting for nearly 74 per cent of the works taken up during the period.

The audit, accessed by KNO, further found that Rs 1,897.10 crore had been incurred on these incomplete works as of March 2024.

The reasons for the non-completion of the works could not be established from the records made available to the audit, the CAG observed. The report was recently tabled by the Jammu and Kashmir Government in the Legislative Assembly.

The audit also pointed to substantial pending liabilities under



the scheme. As of March 2024, an amount of Rs 704.39 crore remained unpaid, comprising Rs 49.19 crore towards unskilled wages, Rs 646.92 crore towards material and semi-skilled/skilled wages, and Rs 8.28 crore in administrative expenses.

The report noted that against expenditure of Rs 1,333.25 crore incurred on material, including skilled and semi-skilled wages, during 2019-20 to 2023-24, nearly half—Rs 646.92 crore or 49 per cent—was still outstanding. The pending payments had remained unsettled for periods ranging from one to five years.

According to the audit, the prolonged pendency reflected shortcomings in the financial management of the scheme, particularly in settling payments related to material procurement and wages within prescribed timelines.

The CAG noted that as per conditions attached to sanction orders issued by the Government of India, the UT administration was required to transfer MGNREGA funds to the State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF) within three to 15 days of receiving the funds.

Audit findings revealed that the release of funds by the J&K Finance Department was delayed

on several occasions. During 2019-20 to 2023-24, the release of Rs 2,150.39 crore to the SEG Fund was delayed by periods ranging from four to 122 days. The audit noted that these delays could have attracted interest liability of Rs 44.18 crore, though records did not show that such interest had been claimed.

The audit highlighted a large number of rejected transactions under MGNREGS in J&K, with the majority relating to wage payments to unskilled workers.

According to the findings, 3,16,178 transactions were rejected between 2019-20 and 2023-24. Of these, 2,83,196 transactions (around 90 per cent) involved unskilled workers' wages amounting to Rs 48.91 crore.

The audit attributed the rejections mainly to dormant bank accounts, changes in bank accounts, discrepancies in IFSC codes, incorrect bank account details and failure to link beneficiaries' Aadhaar with their accounts.

Of the 3,16,178 rejected transactions involving Rs 77.24 crore, only 2,67,321 transactions worth Rs 65.45 crore were regenerated.

However, 40,349 transactions involving Rs 8.26 crore were still pending at the bank level as of March 2024, with no reasons recorded for the delay.

The audit also assessed the implementation of one of the key objectives of MGNREGS—providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment annually to rural households.

During 2019-20 to 2023-24, 37,82,594 households demanded employment under the scheme, of which 34,99,449 households (93 per cent) were provided employment.

However, the audit found that only 77,512 households, constituting about two per cent of those demanding work, received the mandated 100 days of employment during the five-year period.

The audit observed that the non-payment of wages, material costs and administrative charges due to rejected transactions led to the accumulation of pending liabilities. It further noted that vendors were also facing difficulties, as payments due to them had accumulated to several crores of rupees each year—(with KNO inputs)

Punjab Clinch National Deaf Men's T20 Cricket C'ship



SRINAGAR: Punjab emerged champions in the IX National Deaf Men's T20 Cricket Championship, which concluded at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, on October 3.

Organised by the All J&K Sports Association of the Deaf under the aegis of the All India Sports Council of the Deaf, the five-day championship was held from September 29 to October 3 with the aim of promoting cricket and sporting participation among deaf athletes.

Punjab finished at the top, followed by Gujarat as runners-up, while Tamil Nadu secured third place. The championship was attended by Chief Spokesperson and Srinagar MLA Tanvir Sadiq, J&K Sports Council Manager Mushtaq Ahmad, Association President Rehana, and President Association of Deaf and Dumb Mohammad Saleem Wani.

The organisers said the tournament provided deaf cricketers a platform to showcase their talent, teamwork and competitive spirit while helping identify emerging players at the grassroots level.

The Association expressed gratitude to J&K Bank for its financial sponsorship and support, and congratulated all participating teams, officials, coaches, volunteers and athletes for promoting sportsmanship, inclusivity and equal opportunity. (Observer News Service)

GOC Reviews Troops' Preparedness in Ladakh

LEH/JAMMU: General Officer Commanding of Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps Lt Gen Madanraj Pande on Monday visited forward areas to review the operational preparedness of the deployed units in the Union territory of Ladakh, the Army said. The general officer commanding (GOC) also interacted with the troops during the visit which was aimed at strengthening operational readiness, the Army said.

"Lt Gen Pande visited forward areas to review the operational preparedness, combat readiness and sustainability of units deployed in the challenging high-altitude terrain," the Army's Fire and Fury Corps said in a post on X.

It said the GOC interacted with troops, commended their high state of operational readiness and exhorted all ranks to maintain the highest standards of professionalism, mission readiness and operational excellence. (Press Trust of India)

Protest over Water Shortage in Sopore Outskirts

BARAMULLA: The residents of Rashidabad area of Borna in north Kashmir's Baramulla district staged a protest on Monday against the Jal Shakti Department over shortage of drinking water, blocking the Bandipora-Kupwara road and disrupting vehicular movement, officials said. The protesters claimed that the area has been without a proper drinking water supply for the past one month, causing hardships to the local population.

The water supply was restored shortly after the protest. However, the residents alleged that the department restores the supply for some time whenever they stage a protest, after which the shortage re-emerges. They demanded a permanent solution to the water shortage and urged the department to ensure regular drinking water supply to the area. (KNS)

J&K Steps Up Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has stepped up surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), with health authorities focusing on early detection, systematic case investigation, improved data collection and identification of gaps in immunisation coverage.

A state-level workshop currently underway in Srinagar is bringing together health officials and experts to strengthen the surveillance mechanism and enhance the response to diseases that can be prevented through vaccination.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Nighat Yasmeen, said the exercise was aimed at analysing disease trends, identifying vulnerable populations and detecting areas where im-

munisation coverage needs to be improved.

"The aim is to identify pockets reporting higher numbers of cases, assess immunity levels and understand where corrective measures are needed," she said while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the workshop.

According to officials, the surveillance programme covers six vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, rubella and tetanus. The exercise is intended to help the Health Department identify disease-prone pockets and vulnerable groups so that targeted preventive measures can be undertaken.

Dr Yasmeen said the surveillance mechanism, which was earlier being implemented with technical support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), is now being transi-

tioned to an indigenous system under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

She said the transition would be carried out in phases, beginning at the state level before being extended to hospitals and other levels of the healthcare system.

"The transition will take place in phases, beginning at the state level and gradually extending to hospitals and other tiers of the healthcare system. The process is expected to be completed by March 2027," she said.

As part of the transition, health officials are being trained in various components of disease surveillance, including identification and reporting of suspected cases, specimen collection, laboratory procedures, data analysis and uploading of information onto a unified portal.

Crime Branch Chargesheets 2 in ₹1.22-Crore Samba Investment Fraud

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch Jammu on Monday filed a chargesheet against two accused persons in a multi-lakh financial fraud case, involving the alleged collection of over Rs 1.22 crore from investors in Samba district.

Police said they identified the accused as Manoj Kumar, Area-Branch Manager, and Vikram Singh, Assistant Branch Manager, associated with Metropolitan Finance Ltd, Mansar Finance Ltd and Vaibhav Pariwar India Projects Ltd.

The investigation, led by Inspector Taranjeet Singh, found that the accused allegedly induced Samba residents to invest their money in various schemes promising lucrative returns, including compulsory convertible preference shares (CCPS) and fixed deposits, according to officials.

Verification from the Reserve Bank of India revealed that the Non-

Banking Financial Company (NBFC) registrations for Mansar Finance Limited and Metropolitan Finance Limited were cancelled for statutory non-compliance. At the same time, officials stated that Vaibhav Pariwar India Projects Limited was never registered as an NBFC.

The investigation established that Rs 1,22,96,324 was collected from investors, including Rs 8,87,442 for Mansar Finance Ltd. and Rs 1,14,08,882 for Metropolitan Finance Ltd. The accused allegedly issued dishonoured cheques and failed to make payments upon maturity, the officials said.

During the investigation, officials seized substantial documentary evidence, including CCPS certificates, debentures, money receipts, and bank records. The chargesheet was produced before the court of the Additional Munsiff, Samba, in connection with a case registered under Sections 420 and 120-B RPC at Police Station Samba, they said.

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

Fax No: - 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/ 20 of 2026-27

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated: 03/10/2026

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

1	Name of the Work	Stabilization and improvement of 33kV lines of various Divisions of KPDC (PDDSS2627100229) by way of stablization of Kralpora line from upper Nechiyan bridge onwards
2	Estimated Cost(in Lakhs)	51.00
3	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non- refundable)	₹ 2001/-
4	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	₹ 1,02,000/-

Critical Dates

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 03 rd October, 2026; 04:00 AM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	06 th October, 2026; 10:00 AM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)/ Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date	26 th October, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	28 th October, 2026; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

Terms & Conditions:

- The Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after site visit, careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table.
- The bidders need to upload the proof/cost of e-Bid document and Earnest Money Deposit as stated in the above table through Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Executive Engineer Electrical STD Sopore. The scanned copy of the Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original instrument should be submitted by the L1 bidder in the office of Executive Engineer STD Sopore.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- The Executive Engineer STD Sopore reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Executive STD Sopore will be final and binding.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) class III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- The Bid Security furnished by a bidder shall be applicable only for the specific tender against which it has been submitted. The same Bid Security cannot be considered for participation in any other tender until it has been formally released by the Department after completion of the process of the concerned tender.
- The contractor has to get the key material, to be provided by him inspected by the PMA (if in place) and representative of Tender Inviting Authority. The price quoted by the bidder shall be inclusive of inspection expenses. No extra charges will be paid. Test certificates of same are to be enclosed with the work done bill.
- Payments will be processed as per the availability of funds against the work done bills.
- The work has to be executed as per the approved GTP and Drawing available at <https://hpdc.hpdc.net/> under "Standards and Specification" or uploaded drawings.
- As per the Govt. Circular No: 03-JK(PDP) of 2022, dated: 23-08-2022, all new electrical installations are to be cleared by the inspection Agency of JKPD and contractor has to process and follow-up for same. Further the inspection charges involved are to be borne by the contractor himself.
- The contractor has to produce Pre-execution, during execution & post-execution photographs (with GPS Coordinates i.e longitude & Latitude) along-with SLD of the site.
- The contractor must follow all SOPs during execution of work. Any deviation in this regard the fine can be imposed and he shall be solely responsible for any un-toward or any accident at site. Besides he shall be responsible for taking all safety measures. In addition to it, he should have group insurance of his workers working at site.
- The provisions regarding exemption of Bid Security (EMD) available to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) under MSME Act / NSIC / Udyam Registration shall not be applicable for this tender, as the present tender pertains to a works contract. All bidders, including MSEs, are required to furnish the prescribed Bid Security (EMD) in full.
- Further all other benefits applicable to Micro and Small Enterprises as like exemption in Experience/Annual Turnover is not applicable to this tender.
- The contractor has to get the work executed under the supervision of qualified Engineer/supervisor as per the SBD conditions.
- The Bidder needs to upload scanned copy of following documents to avoid cancellation in Technical Evaluation Process:
 - Cost of e-Bidding Document, amount specified in the table.
 - Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of DD/CDR/FDR.
 - PAN Card along with Latest filled ITR.
 - Valid Registration Card with validity up to date.
 - GST Registration along with latest GST clearance certificate/receipt of GSTR-3B & GSTR-3R (2024-25/2025-26).
 - Tender Acceptance Letter as per Annexure O of SBD.
 - Annual financial turnover certificate issued by CA last three years.
 - Affidavit as per Schedule E, Checklist as per Schedule C, Details of Bidder as per Annexure J of SBD.
 - Other relevant documents as mentioned in SBD.

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

No: STDS/TS/ 1077-80

Dated: 03/10/2026

DIPK-NB-1801-26

DT: 05/10/2026

Executive Engineer, KPDC

Sub Transmission Division Sopore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS)

NIT No: 84/R&B of 2026-27

Dated: 03-10-2026.

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender Call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Macadamization of Drang Waterfall road Tangmarg.	117.96	2600/-	235920/-	20 days	C&T Sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY	R&B Deptt.	1 st

Position Of AAA: - Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of funds:- committed

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-10-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-10-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-10-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-10-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10-10-2026 11:00 AM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. / name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority).
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money / Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority)(The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (i) of GFR 2017. The earnest money Deposit@2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.
- 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 All the road materials for use shall conform to the specifications laid down in "Rural Roads manual" a publication of I.R.C.
- For items not covered in Rural Roads manual the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) Specifications for Road and Bridge works-Latest edition shall be followed.
- Physical properties of aggregates for bituminous works i.e Shape, Strength, durability and Stripping value should satisfy the requirements prescribed in I.R.C: SP: 20.
- Periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate and periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit shall be carried out to ensure that the proportion of the aggregates as specified is complied with. Conducting of mandatory quality control tests for various components of the advertised work like Thickness tests, tests for impact value, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, tests for density and other tests as prescribed in I.R.C: SP : 20 as per frequency recommended therein, during and after execution of the work will be sole responsibility of the contractor as well as the Correctness of the test results whether performed in his laboratory or elsewhere.
- The location at the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity and capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality. From which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean. tarpaulin covered vehicle shippers and shall be so placed that the manufacturing laving/ spreading and rolling temperatures are within the specified limits as laid down in I.R.C.SP:20.
- The spreading of mix, compaction and quality control during these operations shall be done as per prescribed norms of I.R.C.
- The longitudinal profile of the finished surface shall be tested with a straight edge and the Transverse profile with a camber template. Any irregularity greater than 6mm shall be rectified.
- The defects noticed in the work during execution or maintenance period shall be corrected by the Contractor within the length of time specified by the Engineer. If the contractor does not correct the defects pertaining to maintenance period to the satisfaction of the Engineer within the time specified, the same shall be got rectified at his risk and cost.
- The tender / bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
- As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/ contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".
- Any Typographical error in units or items shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022 or as per Technical sanction.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/5915-25
Dated: 03-10-2026

Sd/-
Draftsman

Sd/-
Technical Officer

DIPK-6399-26
DT: 05/10/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

Ex-Bureaucrats Seek CEC’s Exit, Nariman Raises Alarm

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- The Election Commission faced mounting scrutiny on Monday as former civil servants and rights activists demanded Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar’s resignation, while former Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman warned that the constitutional right to vote was at “great peril” amid the controversy over electoral-roll revisions.

A group comprising former Union home secretary G K Pillai, former Delhi lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung and activist Yogendra Yadav issued a “people’s impeachment” notice against Kumar, accusing him of undermining the Election Commission’s collective functioning and mishandling the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The delegation, however, was stopped from reaching the Election Commission headquarters to submit the four-page notice, with activists alleging that roads leading to the poll panel’s office had been barricaded.

Jung said the group was not opposed to the government but had taken a stand because it believed the functioning of the Election Commission and the scale of alleged disenfranchisement during the SIR exercise were unacceptable.



“Even one citizen cannot be deprived the right to vote,” Jung said, demanding that those responsible for the exercise step down.

Pillai questioned the requirement for citizens to establish their eligibility and citizenship, saying the process had effectively shifted the burden onto ordinary voters.

“You are asking 99.9 per cent Indians to prove for potential 0.1 per cent illegals,” he said.

Six charges against CEC

The “people’s impeachment” notice levelled six broad allegations against Kumar, including undermining the Election Commission’s collective functioning, authorising changes to statutory Form 6, centralising electoral-roll administration through ECINET, causing mass disenfranchisement through SIR, compromising political impartiality and repeatedly

breaching statutory duties.

The notice alleged that important decisions relating to SIR were taken without adequate discussion, consultation or recorded proceedings within the commission.

It also cited reports that the two other Election Commissioners had objected to decisions allegedly taken without their knowledge.

The group further alleged that changes to Form 6 had been introduced despite internal objections and questioned the requirement for previously enrolled voters who were excluded to declare that they were seeking enrolment for the first time.

The notice also raised concerns over ECINET, alleging that it had undermined the statutory authority of electoral registration officers responsible for additions, deletions and corrections in electoral rolls.

The activists claimed the SIR exercise placed a disproportionate burden on women, the poor, migrants, minorities and elderly voters.

Former Intelligence Bureau special director Yashovardhan Azad acknowledged that the initiative had no legal sanctity but said it reflected growing concern among citizens and civil society over the functioning of the poll panel.

‘Right to vote at great peril’

Separately, former Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman raised serious concerns over the Election Commission’s functioning, saying the right to vote was at the heart of the Constitution and democracy.

“The right to vote, which is at the heart of our Constitution, the heart of our democracy, is at great peril,” Nariman said while addressing an event at Rajkumar College in Rajkot on October 4.

He urged the Supreme Court to intervene and “rectify” what he described as disturbing developments concerning the poll panel.

“You cannot have an Election Commission which functions or malfunctions like this,” he said.

Nariman referred to the Supreme Court’s 2023 judgment in the Anoop Baranwal case, saying the court had proposed, until Parliament enacted a law, a selection mechanism involving the prime

minister, Leader of the Opposition and Chief Justice of India.

Parliament subsequently enacted a law in 2023 replacing that arrangement with a panel comprising the prime minister, a Union minister nominated by him and the Leader of the Opposition.

“So that again you are back to square one,” Nariman said.

He said the validity of the new appointment mechanism was before a larger bench of the Supreme Court, while appointments continued under the existing system.

Concerns over electoral-roll revisions

Nariman also referred to controversies surrounding electoral-roll revision, including claims of large-scale voter disenfranchisement in West Bengal.

He cited figures of 90 lakh voters allegedly excluded and said around 22 lakh had filed appeals, of which about one lakh had been decided, with 93 per cent reportedly going in favour of voters.

Nariman also referred to reports that the two Election Commissioners serving alongside Kumar had raised objections to decisions on 14 occasions.

He questioned why the commissioners had not invoked the provision allowing decisions to be taken by majority.

Cop Accused of Harassing Female Journalist Promoted

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi Police assistant commissioner, accused of sexually harassing a woman journalist during a protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar here, was promoted to the rank of additional deputy commissioner on Monday, along with 11 other officers, according to an official order.

A senior police officer said the promotions are routine and the request for the promotions was sent way back.

Those who received promotion are Dr Vikas Sheokand, A Venkatesh, Gursewak Singh, Renu Lata, Vidushi Kaushik, Manu Himanshu, Sakaria Mihir Pravinbhai, Garima Tiwari, Vivek Bhagat, Ashish Kumar, Manish Ladla

and Rohit Gupta.

Three women journalists accused Delhi Police officers of sexual harassment during Saturday’s (October 3) protest against the Election Commission (EC) at Jantar Mantar.

The Delhi Police has received the complaints and forwarded them to Crime Branch for further inquiry.

On Sunday, Delhi Police on their official X handle said, during the October 3 protest in New Delhi area which sparked a “law and order situation”, allegations of sexual harassment were made by three female journalists against police officers.

“New Delhi District has received their complaints and the same are transferred to Crime Branch for fair and impartial enquiry,”

SC Tells Rajpal Yadav: ‘Your Place Is in Jail’

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on actor Rajpal Yadav for failing to honour his undertaking to deposit money towards the dues of a private firm in a long-running series of cheque-bounce cases.

On September 15, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana gave the last opportunity of two weeks to the actor to come out with a concrete proposal to pay an outstanding amount to a private firm and directed him to deposit Rs 2 crore with the apex court registry.

On Monday, the court was critical of the fact that despite expiry of two-week time, no

payment has been made till today, that is October 5.

“They (complainant) are not poor,” Yadav’s counsel said during the hearing.

Justice Bagchi got irked and said, “They may be richer than you, but they are poor to the extent you have swindled them. This arrogance needs to be put in its right place. You should know when to open your mouth. Your place is in jail”.

The bench directed that the payment should be made by Tuesday and listed the case for hearing on Wednesday as the first case.

The bench said it could dismiss Yadav’s appeal but was reluctant to do so because it may jeopardise the complainant’s chances of recovering the money.

3 Scientists Win Nobel Medicine Prize for Brain Research

AP

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded Monday to three scientists working on the mechanisms the brain uses to switch on, or off, the activity of individual nerve cells.

Karl Deisseroth, 54, Peter Hegemann, 71, and Georg Nagel, 73, have carried out research into light-gated ion channels and optogenetics.

The Nobel Assembly lauded their work, writing on X that the method “is now being used in laboratories around the world to reveal the brain’s mysteries”.

The assembly said Deisseroth is based at Stanford University in California, while Hegemann is at Humboldt University in Berlin and

Nagel at the University of Wurzburg, also in Germany.

Optogenetics opened what the Nobel assembly called a new era in neuroscience, the discovery of a light-controlled switch to turn on and off nerve cells and circuits in the brain to better learn how it works — to start unravelling the pathways that lead to behaviour and disease.

It started when Hegemann explored how a single-celled type of green algae can swim toward light. He and Nagel discovered a particular protein that, when illuminated by blue light, opens a channel to create an electrical impulse. Putting that protein into other cells makes them light-sensitive.

Pakistan Champions Withdraw from WCL

DUBAI: Pakistan Champions on Monday withdrew from the ongoing World Championship of Legends (WCL) Season 3 after the PCB refused to grant the required No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) to their players.

The team had been in discussions with the Pakistan Cricket Board over its participation in the tournament after owner Kamil Khan requested the board to reconsider its decision, but the standoff remained unresolved.

“Pakistan Champions regret to confirm that the team will not be able to participate in the ongoing World Championship of Legends (WCL), following the Pakistan Cricket Board’s decision to uphold its refusal to issue the required NOC,” the team said in a statement on Monday. “We respect PCB’s authority and its decision, while naturally being disappointed that our players will not have the opportunity to represent Pakistan Champions at this global gathering of cricketing legends. We sincerely thank our players, supporters and fans for their patience, understanding and continued support,” it added. (PTI)

HC Quashes Kidney Transplant Refusal

KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court on Monday set aside a kidney transplant permission refusal by the designated authorisation committee to a chronic renal ailment patient, directing it to reconsider the request of the petitioner.

The court observed that unless there is definite material to establish financial dealings involving the parties, permission ought not to be withheld or rejected.

“If the donor states that out of love and affection, he/she is making the donation, in the absence of any credible reason, the averment should not be doubted,” the court observed in its judgment.

Justice Krishna Rao directed the state-level authorisation committee for organ donation and transplant to reconsider the petitioner patient’s request and to take appropriate decision within two weeks, setting aside its refusal to allow the kidney donation by the wife of his driver.

The court said the reasons the authorisation committee refused to recommend the petitioner’s case for kidney transplantation were not in accordance with the statute, despite the fact that no commercial transaction was involved and the donor was willing to donate the organ out of love and affection, knowing the recipient for the last three to four years. (PTI)

SC Gets 3 New Judges, Strength Rises to 37

NEW DELHI, OCT 5 (PTI) Three new judges were appointed to the Supreme Court on Monday, taking its working strength to 37, one short of the sanctioned 38.

According to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court; Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court; and Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, Chief Justice, Telangana High Court have been elevated as judges of the top court.

Meghwal made the announcement in a social media post. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the names on September 28. While the current working strength of the apex court is 34, once the three new judges formally take the oath, its effective strength will go up to 37. The top court’s sanctioned strength is 38 judges, including the chief justice of India. It was recently increased from 34 following the Supreme Court Amendment Act, 2026. (PTI)

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