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J&K Eases School Approval Norms

Schools To Submit Self-Attested Certificates For Safety Compliance



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has amended the J&K School Education Rules, 2010, replacing several certification requirements for schools with self-attested certificates.

The amendments have been notified by the School Education Department under Section 29 of the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act, 2002, through an order issued by the Lieutenant Governor.

Under the amended rules, schools seeking approvals will submit self-attested certificates confirming compliance with traffic safety requirements, building safety norms and fire safety measures.

Schools will also be required to provide a self-attested certificate confirming that chemicals, if any, are stored safely in laboratories in accordance with directions issued by the Supreme Court and other courts from time to time.

The Government has also omitted several sub-clauses under Rule 6 of | More on P6

Cabinet Hails Modi's 25 Years Of Leadership

Adopts Resolution, Credits Modi With Reforms, Welfare And Infrastructure Push

KO Web Desk



Srinagar: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of uninterrupted leadership as head of government, first as Gujarat chief minister and later as prime minister, saying his journey has been guided by the principle of "Nation First and Citizen First".

In a resolution adopted at its meeting, the Cabinet said three electoral mandates in Gujarat and victories in three successive Lok Sabha elections reflected the "enduring trust" placed in Modi by the people.

Briefing reporters, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the resolution was more than a customary tribute and sought to highlight the continuity between Modi's governance in Gujarat and his tenure as prime minister.

The resolution cited several initiatives launched in Gujarat and subsequently expanded nationally, including SWAGAT, which enabled citizens to raise grievances directly, and the Jyotigram scheme for separate electricity feeders for agriculture. SWAGAT later inspired PRAGATI, a platform for reviewing stalled projects and resolving implementation issues.

The Cabinet resolution also highlighted welfare initiatives, citing nearly 60 crore Jan Dhan accounts, more than four crore houses and an estimated 25 crore people moving out of poverty. It also referred to around 3.5 crore Lakhpati Didis and the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

Vaishnaw said the resolution highlighted PM-KISAN transfers exceeding Rs 4 lakh crore and targeted support for particularly vulnerable tribal communities under PM-JANMAN.

The Cabinet also credited Modi with pursuing major reforms, including the implementation of the GST, changes in welfare delivery and replacement of several colonial-era laws.

On infrastructure and self-reliance, the resolution noted that public capital expenditure had risen from around Rs 2 lakh crore to more than Rs 12 lakh crore, while highway expansion and railway electrification had accelerated. Electronics production, it said, increased from around Rs 2 lakh crore to more than Rs 13 lakh crore.

The resolution also highlighted UPI, Aadhaar and mobile connectivity, along with India's development of COVID-19 vaccines and the Chandrayaan-3 mission. It said private participation in space and work in artificial intelligence, quantum technology and biotechnology reflected the government's emphasis on technology and self-reliance.

On national security, the resolution cited the 2016 surgical strikes, 2019 Balakot air strikes and 2025 Operation Sindoor as examples of what it described as Modi's "decisive leadership". It also referred to the abrogation of Article 370, One Rank One Pension and the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff's post.

The Cabinet resolution further highlighted India's diplomatic | More on P6

J&K Braces For Rain, Snow From Oct 8

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Light rain lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday as the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecast intermittent showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at several places over the coming days.

The weather remained generally cloudy across the Union Territory, with light snowfall also likely over higher reaches during spells of precipitation, the weather office said.

According to the latest forecast, generally dry weather is expected on October 7, although brief spells of light rain may occur at a few places.

On October 8, generally cloudy weather with light rain and light snowfall over higher reaches is likely at scattered places. Another brief spell of light rain may occur towards the evening of October 9.

Weather conditions are expected to become more unsettled on October 10, with light rain or snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds likely at many places, particularly during the morning and | More on P6

CENSUS 2027

Enumeration Completed In J&K's Snow-Bound Areas

J&K Tops UTs, Ranks Eighth Nationally In Self-Enumeration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Population Enumeration for Census 2027 has been completed across the designated snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire Union Territory of Ladakh, covering 5,292 Enumeration Blocks, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma said on Tuesday.

The exercise covered 4,597 Enumeration Blocks in J&K and 695 in Ladakh. The field operation was conducted in September following the self-enumeration phase held from August 17 to 31.

In Ladakh, the entire UT was covered, comprising 367 Enumeration Blocks in Leh and 328 in Kargil. Ladakh has thus become the first Union Territory in the country to complete Population Enumeration for Census 2027.

In J&K, the snow-bound exercise covered 16 districts and 95 Charges. Kishtwar, designated fully snow-bound, became the first district in the country to complete Population Enumeration for Census 2027.

Doda recorded the highest number of completed Enumeration Blocks in J&K at 798, followed by Kishtwar with 602, | More on P6

Forest Rights in Limbo, J&K Activists Seek Speaker's Intervention

Thousands of claims filed under the Forest Rights Act remain undecided, prompting calls for faster implementation across Jammu and Kashmir.

Syed Sammar Mehdi



Srinagar: Thousands of forest-rights claims filed in Jammu and Kashmir over the past four to five years remain undecided, prompting a delegation of activists to approach Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday with a demand for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

The delegation, led by Jammu and Kashmir Climate Action Group chairman Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat and National Alliance on Community Forest Resources and Minor Forest Produce (NACM) national convener Dileep Gode, met Rather in Srinagar and urged him to intervene in the matter.

The Forest Rights Act provides a legal framework for recognising individual and community forest rights and the rights of forest-dependent communities over minor forest produce.

The activists said implementation of the legislation in J&K has remained limited, leaving thousands of claims pending and communities uncertain about their legal rights and access to forest resources.

The delegation included members of NACM's national steering committee from Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh.

During the meeting, the delegation raised the issue of pending claims in Poonch district and referred to alleged evictions carried out by the Forest Department in Hari village of Surankot several years ago.

The meeting came after a two-day | More on P6

AI-Generated Content Must Be Clearly Identifiable: PM

Calls For Affordable Digital Access, Global Tech Standards

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed that democratisation of technology is essential to ensure that no section of the society is left behind and that technology and digital services should be made affordable and accessible, particularly for the Global South.

Interacting with the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) board members here, Modi also emphasised that technology must become a tool for inclusive and sustainable development.

The prime minister stressed that democratisation of technology is essential to ensure that no section of the society is left behind, according to a statement issued by the PMO.

Modi underlined the need to make technology and digital services affordable and accessible, particularly for the Global South, and highlighted the importance of taking technology to the last mile to prevent a widening digital divide.

"In my interaction with the GSMA Board, stressed the following: Technology for the last mile. Affordable access for the Global South. DPI as a force multiplier. Technology-led solutions to cyber fraud. Global standards for emerging tech. Clear identification of AI-generated and deepfake content. Our digital future must expand opportunity while strengthening trust," he said in a post on X.

The interaction took place ahead of the India Mobile Congress. The GSMA is a global organisation unifying the mobile ecosystem, | More on P6

New J&K Industrial Policy In Final Stages: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government's new industrial policy is in its final stages and will seek to address shortcomings and bottlenecks in the previous policy, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters, Choudhary said the government was working to ensure that the benefits of the industrial policy reached people without discrimination or a "pick and choose" approach.

"Our effort now is to plug those bottlenecks and lapses, open things up, and ensure that people genuinely benefit from the industrial policy," he said.

He said the Industries and Commerce Department was consulting stakeholders while framing the new policy.

"If people were not happy with the previous industry policy, that is why we are bringing a new | More on P6

Omar Backs SC Voter Deletion Scrutiny

Rules Out UCC In J&K, Questions Rohingya Action

Observer News Service



Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's intervention on alleged voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, while noting that the extent to which the court's intervention will lead to rectification remains to be seen.

"It is good that the Supreme Court is also raising questions now, especially regarding the deletions that took place from the voter lists. The Supreme Court has also sought responses from the Election Commission and the Government of India. To what extent this will be rectified through the court, we will have to wait and see," Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar.

On the INDIA bloc MPs' march to the Election Commission in Delhi, Abdullah said the campaign would continue, noting that the Opposition had repeatedly raised concerns over the electoral-roll revision.

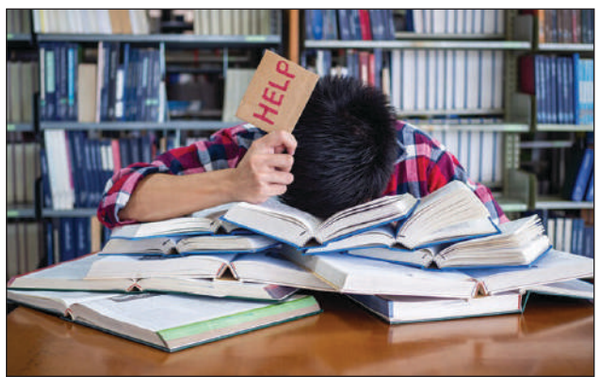
"This process will continue. We had been raising this issue repeatedly, but very few people paid attention. Now the media has also started speaking about it," he said.

On the | More on P6

Kashmir Study Eyes Mental Health Curriculum For Youth

Culturally Tailored Intervention Targets Suicide, Substance Use Among Young People

Observer News Service



Srinagar: A study by researchers from the University of Kashmir and the Centre of Excellence in Mental Health at PGIMER has proposed a culturally tailored mental health intervention for young people in Kashmir that could eventually form the basis of a mental health curriculum in schools and colleges.

The study protocol, published in the Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine, focuses on primary prevention of substance use and suicide among youth aged 16 to 24. It seeks to identify locally relevant mental health risk factors, screen young people at risk and assess the effectiveness of a structured intervention.

The researchers said the intervention has been designed around the social, cultural and linguistic context of Kashmir, with the objective of making mental health prevention more accessible and relevant to young people.

The study involves four broad phases: mapping mental health risk factors among youth, screening for those at risk, administering the intervention and evaluating changes through pre- and post-intervention assessments.

For mapping risk factors, the researchers plan to draw inputs from psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, lawyers, religious leaders, teachers, students, parents and police personnel. The information will be | More on P6

J&K Raises Retirement Age Of Judicial Officers To 62

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved enhancement of the superannuation age of judicial officers in the Union Territory from 60 to 62 years, subject to assessment of their fitness, eligibility, suitability, performance and continued utility.

According to an order issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the decision follows a recommendation of the Full Court of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh made on August 10, 2026.

The competent authority has accorded sanction to the enhancement, subject to the High Court evaluating whether an officer is fit and eligible to continue in service beyond the age of 60.

The Full Court had resolved to recommend that the retirement age of judicial officers in Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice regarding Correction of Name in Aadhaar It is hereby notified for information of the general public that I, Habib Bhatt S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhatt, R/o Burzawachan, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, UT of J&K, have applied for correction of my name in my Aadhaar record.
My correct and full name is HABIB BHATT, whereas the name has been mentioned as HABIBULLAH BHAT in the Aadhaar record.
Any person having any objection regarding the said correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period. In the absence of any objection, the necessary correction may be carried out as per rules.
Applicant
HABIB BHATT fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sahil Amin Malla, S/o Mohammad Amin Malla, R/o Dagga Mohalla, Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar, hereby notify that my name is Sahil Amin Malla.
However, in the school records of Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Hazratbal, my name has been recorded as Sahil Amin.
I hereby declare that "Sahil Amin" and "Sahil Amin Malla" refer to one and the same person, and my correct name is Sahil Amin Malla.
Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned name may contact the concerned School Authority, Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Hazratbal, or contact me on the number given below.
Sahil Amin Malla
S/o Mohammad Amin Malla
R/o Dagga Mohalla, Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar
Mobile: 9070523894
Date:___ inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Majeed Kumar F/o Bisma Majeed, R/o Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby declare that the name of my daughter has inadvertently been recorded as "Bisma Jan" in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8631-4894-0394, which is incorrect.
Her correct and actual name is "Bisma Majeed".
I have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding correction/updation of her name in the above-mentioned Aadhaar record through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Any person having any objection in this regard may approach the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul Majeed Kumar
F/o Bisma Majeed
R/o Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Marefat Akbar D/o Mohammad Akbar Ganie, R/o Chand Koot Reshipora Athoora, Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Marfat Akbar" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7987-6916-1013, which is incorrect.
My correct and actual name is "Marefat Akbar".
I have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding correction/updation of my name in the above-mentioned Aadhaar record through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Any person having any objection in this regard may approach the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
Marefat Akbar
D/o Mohammad Akbar Ganie
R/o Chand Koot Reshipora Athoora, Baramulla fko

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Bemina Srinagar.

The candidate whose photograph is above repots that she has lost her Qualification Certificate/s having following description:-



Roll No	710323
Class	12th
Year & Session	April-May-1991
Registration No	7970-HT-IX-85
Name	YASMIN JAN
Fathers Name	GH MOHMAD MIR
Mothers Name	AAYESHA
Date Of Birth	06-03-1971
Residence	HARIPARIGAM AWANTIPORA

Now the candidate had applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S.Before the case shall be processed under rules, if somebody has /have any kind of objection in this regard he / she shall approach the office of undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publishing of this notice. No claim shall be entertained.
(Besides, the "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S" bearing S.NO: **117995 is** be treated as "CANCELLED"

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

No. F(Certs-KD-DQC/B)KD/22
Dated:06-10-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mysara Bano D/o Mohammad Abdullah Waza, R/o Khanpeth, Pattan, Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby declare that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Maseera Bano" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6719-3007-3967, which is incorrect.
My correct and actual name is "Mysara Bano."
I have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding correction/updation of my name in the above-mentioned Aadhaar record through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Any person having any objection in this regard may approach the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
Deponent
Mysara Bano
D/o Mohammad Abdullah Waza
R/o Khanpeth, Pattan, Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hameed Mir F/o Aftab Hameed Mir, R/o Chukar Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby declare that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as "Altaf Hamid Mir" in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6348-8806-6878, which is incorrect.
His correct and actual name is "Aftab Hameed Mir".
I have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding correction/updation of his name in the above-mentioned Aadhaar record through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Any person having any objection in this regard may approach the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul Hameed Mir
F/o Aftab Hameed Mir fko
R/o Chukar Pattan, District Baramulla

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



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No:. 112007538 Session: Annual (PVT) Bi-Annnual Year 2021-2022 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the self error against my name and Father's Name As Sidak Preet S/o Divender Singh Instead of Sidakpreet Singh S/o Divinderjit Singh
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. 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: Sidakpreet Singh
Father's name: Davinderjit Singhh
Mother's Name: Kulwinder Kour
DOB: 24-04-2006
Residence: Qadian Gurdaspur Punjab - 143516
Mobile no: 9103973235
fko

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



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 12th) under Roll No:. 312001303 Session: Annual (PVT) Bi-Annnual Year 2026 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Tthe error has been committed by the self error against my Father's Name As Wali Mohammad Mapnoo Alais Mi Instead of Wali Mohammad Mapnoo Alais Mir
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. 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: Tariq Ahmad Mapnoo Alais Mir
Father's name: Wali Mohammad Mapnoo Alais Mir
Mother's Name: Ameena Bagum
DOB: 10-11-2003
Residence: Shahpora Churwan Gurez
Mobile no: 9419446643
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ganai Nasir Ul Haq, R/o Al Falah Lane, Malla Bagh, Naseem Bagh, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been erroneously recorded as Ganie Nasirul Haq on my Driving License.I have recently updated and corrected my name to Ganai Nasir Ul Haq on my Aadhaar Card, and I now intend to apply for the same correction on my Driving License.
If anyone has any objection to the aforementioned name correction, they may file their objection in writing with the concerned issuing authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice at the following address:
Address for Communication/Objections:Al Falah Lane, Malla Bagh,Naseem Bagh
Media line advt

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL
PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, EMAIL-exenifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM N O T I C E I N V I T I N G T E N D E R

e-NIT No: 29 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on ***Aggregate Percentage Basis*** from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S N o.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertise ment Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	**Sumbal Canvas Canal - Modernization by way of construction of lining walls, bed treatments, RCC channels and jacketing at spots from RD 0 to 1800 Mtr's (L=550m at spots) and supply channel (RD 0 to 428m L=220m.**	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/GBL Order No: 36 of 2026-27 Dt: 02.09.2026	197.00	10000/-	5,91,000/-	12 Working Months	AAY	MH 4701 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	06-10-2026	11:00 A.M
02	Download Date Start	06-10-2026	11:00 A.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	06-10-2026	11:00 A.M
04	Bid submission Date End	17-10-2026	04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	19-10-2026	11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on **19.10.2026 at (11:00 AM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of **Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan** (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and **earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR** pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal from any scheduled or nationalized bank, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
5) **All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.**
6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:
A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
B} encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
C} criminal proceedings.
D} Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.
7) The earnest money shall be forfeited if: -
a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.
d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.
8) **Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.
b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act- 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
c) The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at Serial No. 1.
e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents.

NO: IFCD/GBL/7184-7233
DIPK-6447/26 Dated: 06.10.2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Gand

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank Passbok as Aaqib Mushtaq while my correct name as per adhaar card is Aaqib Mushtaq Waza . 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 JK Bank within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Aaqib Mushtaq Waza
S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Waza fko
R/o Palhallan Pattan

J&k Private School Association (Regd.) Distt unit Anantnag Holds Gratitude Press Conference



The Private Schools Association, Anantnag, held an gratitude press conference under the leadership of In-charge President Zameer Ahmad Mir and District Secretary Aejaz Ahmad Wani Addressing the press conference, association representatives said that the issue of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for private schools had remained pending for past 15 years. They said the association had repeatedly approached the Lieutenant Governor's administration as well as successive governments seeking a resolution to the issue. The association expressed gratitude to the present government, particularly, Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha sahab, Hon'ble CM Omer Abdullah sahab,and Hon'ble Education Minister Sakina Itoo for issuing a recent order aimed at streamlining the NOC and registration process for private schools. According to the association, the order enables private schools to complete and submit the required four NOCs through the prescribed process, helping address a long-pending issue faced by the private school sector. The association said the move is aimed at simplifying the approval and registration process and reducing difficulties faced by private schools managements. The representatives also expressed gratitude to Patron G.N. Vaar and the other state body members President Bilal Sahab, State General Secretary M S Wani and other office bearers of the association. They hoped that effective implementation of the order would pave the way for resolving other pending issues concerning private schools as well. The four NOCs generally refer to clearances required from the concerned departments/authorities as part of the school recognition and registration process, including building/ safety, health/sanitation, fire safety and other prescribed departmental clearances. The exact four clearances should be mentioned according to the wording of the government order to avoid any discrepancy. Purpose of the order: The order is intended to simplify and streamline the NOC/registration process for private schools and facilitate the completion of pending approvals through a prescribed procedure.
Regards . District Secretary
Pvt schools Association Anantnag
JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hameed Malik, F/o Mubashir Hameed, R/o Khamander Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, Post Office Tangmarg, District Baramulla, do hereby declare that I am a permanent resident of J&K UT and state as under:
That the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as "Mohd Mubashir Malik" in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9603-8771-2181, which is incorrect. His actual and correct name is "Mubashir Hameed."
It is, therefore, requested that the notice regarding the correction of his name may kindly be published in the Government Gazette for necessary action and further process.
Deponent
Abdul Hameed Malik
F/o Mubashir Hameed
R/o Khamander Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg,
Post Office Tangmarg, District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rafika Banu, W/o Ghulam Mohd Bhatt, R/o Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am a permanent resident of J&K UT and state as under:
That my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Rafika Banu" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2218-1614-2125, which is incorrect. My actual and correct name is "Rafeeqa Begum."
I, therefore, seek publication of a Gazetted Notification regarding the correction/change of my name in the Government Gazette, Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu, for necessary action and further process.
Deponent
Rafika Banu
W/o Ghulam Mohd Bhatt fko
R/o Pattan, Tehsil Pattan,
District Baramulla
Cell No. 7006446686

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Hassan Mir, F/o Zakeriya Hassan, R/o New Colony Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Pattan, District Baramulla, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am a permanent resident of J&K UT and state as under:
That the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded as "Zakria" in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4218-6763-1444, which is incorrect. His actual and correct name is "Zakeriya Hassan."
It is, therefore, requested that the notice regarding the correction of his name may kindly be published in the Government Gazette for necessary action and further process.
Deponent
Ghulam Hassan Mir
F/o Zakeriya Hassan fko
R/o New Colony Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan,
Post Office Pattan, District Baramulla

اطلاع عام

مظہر کو اپنے Sozni کام کارخانہ بنام G M K Handicrafts Emporium کی رجسٹریشن محکمہ ہینڈی کرافٹس بڈگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے۔اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر اسسٹنٹ ڈائریکٹر محکمہ ہینڈی کرافٹس بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں بعد از میعاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتہر ۔ پرپرائٹر محمودہ اختر زوجہ غلام رسول خان
ساکنہ لبرتل بڈگام MBC

SMC Makes Home Composting Mandatory for Gazetted Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has made home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers, wherever practicable, as part of efforts to strengthen source-level waste management and promote decentralised processing of biodegradable waste.

An order issued by SMC Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb directs all Gazetted Officers to segregate biodegradable and wet waste generated at their residences and subject it to home composting through appropriate and scientifically suitable methods.

Under the order, the officers have been asked to submit geotagged photographs of the home-composting activity as proof of compliance within 10 days.

The concerned Zonal Officers and Sectional Heads will maintain records of compliance and submit a consolidated report to the Corporation, the order said.

The order also provides for verification of compliance before processing the salary of the concerned officer for the current month, subject to applicable service and financial rules.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the quantity of wet waste requiring transportation to municipal waste-processing facilities and encouraging responsible waste-management practices among the Corporation's own officers.

> **The concerned** Zonal Officers and Sectional Heads will maintain records of compliance and submit a consolidated report to the Corporation, the order said.

The move forms part of the SMC's broader efforts to promote source segregation, decentralised processing of biodegradable waste, reduce waste transportation and strengthen sustainable waste-management practices across Srinagar.

Haseeb said the initiative reflects the Corporation's commitment to making source-level waste management an integral part of everyday civic practices and building a cleaner and more sustainable Srinagar.

Srinagar Hosts Workshop on RuTAGe Smart Village Centre

Observer News Service



Srinagar: A workshop on "RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC)" was held in Srinagar, with the objective of exploring technology-enabled, inclusive and sustainable solutions for rural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was chaired by Babila Rakwal, Administrative Secretary, Science & Technology Department.

Among others who participated included Sapna Poti, Director Strategic Alliance, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, GoI, Dr. P. R. Dhar, CEO JAKEDA and senior officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Education, Tribal Affairs and others besides representatives from SKUAST-Kashmir, NABARD, J&K SRLM, universities, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), NGOs and other partner institutions.

The workshop focused on the concept of RuTAGe Smart Village Centres as platforms for convergence of technology, local resources, government programmes, institutions and community participation to address the specific needs of rural communities. The discussions highlighted the need for location-specific, need-based and technology-enabled solutions, keeping in view the diverse geographical and socio-economic conditions of Jammu & Kashmir, including remote mountainous, border and tribal areas.

Emphasis was laid on inter-departmental and institutional convergence, particularly in areas such as agriculture and horticulture, post-harvest management, food processing, storage, market linkages, rural livelihoods, women-led enterprises, skill development, renewable energy, digital connectivity, health and education. The RSVC model can provide a platform for identifying, demonstrating and taking appropriate technologies closer to rural communities.

The workshop also explored the potential of decentralized renewable and clean-energy solutions to improve the power availability in remote and underserved areas and the use of digital and technology-enabled interventions to enhance access to health and education.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 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

24 Rabi-Ul-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

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

Woman Succumbs Day after Being Struck by E-Rickshaw

Agencies

Srinagar: A 50-year-old woman succumbed to her injuries a day after she was struck by an e-rickshaw near Ishber Chowk in Nishat area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official told KNO that an e-rickshaw bearing registration number JK01BE-5707 hit the pedestrian near Ishber Chowk in Nishat on Monday evening.

He said that the woman was shifted to a hospital for treatment, where her condition remained critical during the night. However, she succumbed to her injuries on Tuesday morning.

The deceased woman was identified as Shafiqa Bano (50), wife of Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, a resident of Ishber Nishat. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and further details are awaited—(KNO)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 166-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR **Date: 06.10.2026**

Sr.DEN-III/FZR 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 **www.ireps.gov.in** portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to **www.ireps.gov.in.**

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 / 15:00 Hrs**

S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	166-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR	**Rubberization at 55 nos. level crossing in c/with rubberization at 76 nos. of level crossings in the section of Sr. DEN-III/FZR.**			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money (Rs.)**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**
		54558932.70	**1091200.00**	**60 days**	**12 Months**
		Similar nature of work:- "Road Work or LC Gate Road or Paving Work."			

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against the tender. **3466/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
IARC Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

'E-AUCTION NOTICE'

[Rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules)]

The undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 notify the Sale of the secured assets detailed herein-below for realization of dues of the Bank on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatsoever there is" and "no complaint" basis.

1. Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale)	Land Measuring 74 Kanals and 02 Marla's along with all civil structure and immovable on the project land (gross block) situated at Ladhu, Pulwama. Out of the said land 58 Kanals and 04 Marla's are owned land and 15 Kanals, and 18 Marla's are Leased Land
2. Reserve Price	Rs.1093.00 Lakhs (Rupees Ten Crore Ninety-Three Lakhs Only)
Name of the Borrower Firm.	M/s ABS Infrastructure Registered Address: Lethpora, Tehsil Pampore, District Pulwama, Kashmir. 1.Mr. Bharat Chowdhary S/o Vijay Kumar Mahajan R/o Shakti Nagar, Jammu 2.Mr. Ajay Chowdhary S/o Vijay Kumar Mahajan R/o Shakti Nagar, Jammu 3.Mr. Pranav Gupta S/o Satish Gupta R/o 74-B/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu
Amount outstanding as on 30-09-2026 for the recovery of which the property is sold	1. Rs 27,38,66,201.97/- (Rupees Twenty-Seven Crore Thirty-Eight Lakhs Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred One and Paisa Ninety-Seven Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs 100.93 Lakh (Rupees One Crore Ninety-Three Lakhs Only), being 10% of auction/reserve price of the property.
Bid Increase Amount	Rs 5.00 Lakh. (Five Lakhs Only)
Name of the Branch	Impaired Assets Recovery Centre, J&K Bank, Corporate Headquarters, M.A. Road, Srinagar (J&K).
Last Date & Time of submission of Bid	27.10.2026 (5pm)
Date and Time of e-Auction	28.10.2026 (3pm To 4pm)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s details by RTGS to Account Number	THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED Business Unit: Impaired Assets Recovery Centre, IFSC CODE: JAKA0IMPIRD Account no.0490070700000003 in the name of 'Sundry Pointing IMPIRD'.

The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD details through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net and can obtain user ID and password free of cost by registering on the website. The detailed notice containing all the terms and conditions are available at Bank's website https://www.jkbank.com/pdfs/eauction. For any query related to the said auction, the interested bidders may contact Branch Manager, Impaired Assets Recovery Branch on cell no.8491008880.

Date: 06.10.2026. **(Authorized Officer)**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. 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 online payments against these tenders. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on **www.ireps.gov.in** portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Closing Date/Time	Date and Time of Opening E-Tender
Open	Single Packet System	06.10.2026	28.10.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.	28.10.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.
S.No.	**Tender Number**	**Details of Tender**		
1	03-26-CAMC-HABD-JAT-R	"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for Hot Axle Box Detection (HABD) system installed at 04 locations (NDAM, RMJK, SJNP and JK station) of JAT Division for the period of 02 Years"		
Advertised Value	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
Rs. 20,53,377.48/-	Rs. 41,100/-	60 Days	24 Months	

Funds are available in Allocation Number 07036032. For more details, please log on to **www.ireps.gov.in**. **3459/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on **https://www.ireps.gov.in** against **Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-52-26-27** Closing Date/Time **29.10.2026 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 this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

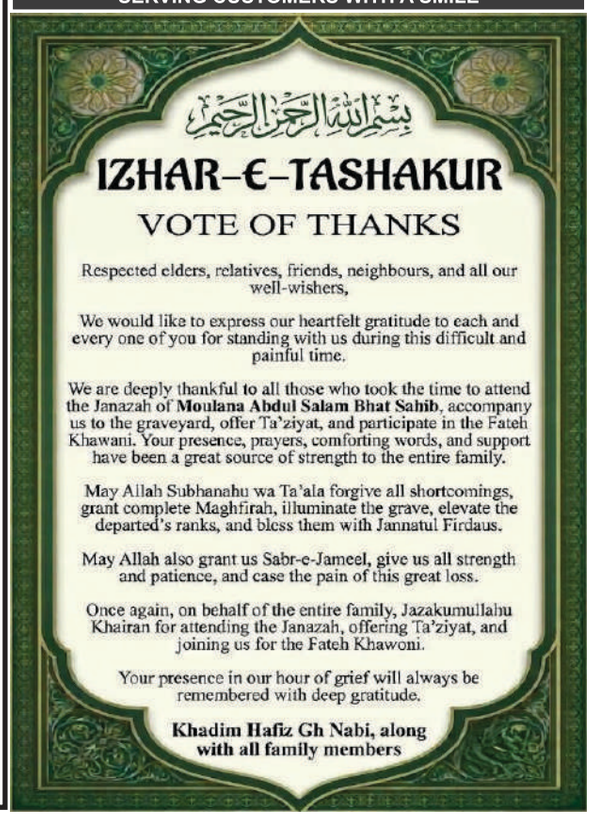
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	**Works**		
Name of Work	S&T work in c/w (1) Repl. of steel girder with RCC slab of Bridge No.102 UP&DN, 111 UP&DN, 119 UP on JUC-ASR sec., B.no.180 on ASR-ATT & br. no.103 on VKADBNK section. (ii) Construction of LHS of internal size 5 m X 3.5 m LHS in lieu of LC C-7 at KM 4/13-14 on JUC-NRO section under ADEN-JUC over firozpur division. (iii) Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0 X 5.0m at manned L-xings No.A-5 on VKADBNK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-I/ASR. (iv) Construction of RCC box (2 nos. twin boxes) bridge in lieu of steel trough bridge no.158 in PHR-LNK section.		
Tender Closing Date Time	29.10.2026 15:00	**Date Time of Uploading Tender**	05.10.2026 19:14
Advertised Value (Rs.)	10311974.40	**Bidding Start Date as per IREPS**	15.10.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	206200.00	**Period of Completion**	6 Months
NOTE	Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.		

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-52-26-27 Date:- 06.10.2026 Closing Date/Time : 29.10.2026 15:00 **3451/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



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KO VIEW

Congress's Kashmir Struggle

Kashmir's political life is increasingly playing out on phones.

Leaders announce programmes on social media, workers share photographs, and political arguments spread through short videos.

Amid this growing digital space, India's grand old party seems strangely absent.

Congress, once at the centre of Kashmir's political life, now struggles to make its presence felt.

The party still has an office on M.A. Road, facing the Media Complex, but its presence often feels tied to the arrival of a senior leader from Delhi. The building becomes busy, microphones appear, cameras gather and statements follow. Once the visitors leave, the wider political scene seems to move on.

That is a striking change for a party that was once part of the government-making process and had a direct role in many of the larger political decisions concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress was last part of a J&K government in 2008, when its coalition with the PDP ended. It later supported the National Conference-led government but was not part of the ministry. After the 2024 Assembly election, Congress returned to the ruling alliance with the National Conference, which formed the government, but it did not join the council of ministers. Congress won six seats, five of them in Kashmir and one in Jammu. The party knows it has a problem. It has begun rebuilding its district organisation under the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan. District presidents were appointed across Jammu and Kashmir in January, and the leadership has since discussed block, mandal, panchayat and booth committees.

There have also been protests for restoration of statehood and a campaign around the slogan Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq. Congress leaders say the campaign has been running for nearly two years and is meant to bring the issue back into public life.

But organisational activity is one thing, political presence is another.

The party also has an internal problem. Its Jammu and Kashmir unit has faced public differences between senior leaders, prompting the high command to appoint an inquiry panel in June over alleged indiscipline and anti-party activity.

Meanwhile, the National Conference and the PDP continue to fight over their own political space, while the BJP has expanded its public presence and digital reach.

Congress has a chance to occupy some of the space left open by that struggle, but it cannot do so through press conferences alone.

Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra gave Congress its last major burst of visibility in the valley. Since then, the party has been trying to rebuild the machinery that can produce such visibility without waiting for a leader from Delhi.

The Ally Congress Swallows

Uttar Pradesh sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha, and the party that once owned the state now survives by feeding on the voters of its partners.



Haider Abbas

Uttar Pradesh holds some 50 million Muslims, the largest number in any state. They are asked to stop the BJP alone, while upper-caste votes moved from Congress to the BJP with ease and with every reward. Elections come in early 2027, and the post-poll options include a BSP-BJP understanding, a Congress-BSP tie, a Congress-MIM coalition and a BSP-MIM agreement.

Uttar Pradesh is the heartland of Indian politics, sending 80 members to Parliament, the most of any state, and 403 to its own assembly, down from 85 and 425.

About 250 million people live inside those numbers.

Congress ruled the state almost without interruption for decades. In 1984, it held 269 assembly seats and 84 parliamentary seats, and by 1989, after the locks of the Babri Masjid were opened in 1986 at its behest, those numbers had fallen to 94 and 15.

Even the Emergency had cost less in parliamentary terms than this slide would: 47 seats and a zero in 1977, then a recovery.

The 1989 fall had no recovery.

The old formula gave Dalits benefits, Muslims promises and Brahmins the chief ministership. OBCs never counted for much in it.

When V.P. Singh implemented the Mandal Commission report in 1990, those left out by the formula eventually became its biggest challenge.

Sharad Yadav, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Ram Vilas Paswan, Kanshi Ram and Mayawati were all OBC or Dalit, and each of them built a politics that Congress had no way to answer.

The BJP filled the vacuum on the other side of Mandal. It launched the Ram Mandir movement, used religion openly as an instrument, and watched riots follow riots until the mosque fell and, after a Supreme Court order, a temple rose on its ground.

Upper-caste cadres and leaders moved to the BJP in a mass, a migration that was easiest in Uttar Pradesh.

Congress looked like a spurious wine once the real one had been poured. The BJP then accused it of Muslim appeasement anyway, as if it had become the Muslim League.

Dalits went to the BSP, and Muslims, since the early 1990s, have preferred Mulayam Singh Yadav's Samajwadi Party.

The assembly tallies read like a fever chart: 28 in 1993, 33 in 1996, 25 in 2002, 22 in 2007, 28 in 2012, 7 in 2017 despite an alliance with the SP, and 2 in 2022.

The one brief relief came in the 2009 general election, with 21 seats, when Muslims turned away from an SP that had allied with Kalyan Singh, a convict in the Babri demolition case.

The SP abandoned that move soon after and later supported the UPA government at the Centre until 2014.

The BSP shows what a wrong alliance costs. It stood against Brahmin monopoly and then allied with the BJP three times. It won 6 parliamentary seats in 1996, 14 in 1999, 19 in 2004 and 20 in 2009, then none in 2014, 10 in 2019 and none in 2024. Its lone MLA has recently died.

Dalit voters drifted to the BJP in 2014 and 2019, the SP won many of them in 2024, and Muslims, who once backed the BSP wherever its candidate could beat the BJP, no longer list it among their priorities.

Congress, meanwhile, went looking for partners and called the search secularism. The party it allied with in Bihar, the RJD, is nearly finished. The same story hangs over Sharad Pawar's NCP in Maharashtra.

In Karnataka, an alliance with the JD(S) pushed the Gowdas toward the BJP, and Congress took power in 2023 only because almost all Muslims abandoned the JD(S) and voted for it.

The party's decline has continued in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Haryana. Since 2014, the BJP, meanwhile, has sought to consolidate OBC voters around issues involving Muslims and Christians, with Dalits also becoming part of this political coalition.

Mob lynching cases have often involved attacks on Muslims and other marginalised groups, though available data does not establish that most accused belong to OBC or Dalit communities.

In 2024, Congress took six seats in Uttar Pradesh as the SP's partner while the SP won 37, its best result, built on the development record of Akhilesh Yadav's government until 2017 and on a fear that a two-thirds BJP majority would end the Constitution.

Congress draws a different lesson: it wants a share of its partner's secular base, which here means the Muslim base.

West Bengal followed the same course. Mamata Banerjee left power in 2026 after ten years, and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress's loudest Bengal voice, has asked her to join his party.

Assam supplies the arithmetic, where Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF held 18 of 126 assembly seats in 2011, 13 in 2016 and 16 in 2021, and now holds 2, after falling from 3 MPs in 2014 to one in 2019 and none in 2024.

Of Congress's 19 MLAs there, 18 are Muslim, from 20 candidates fielded.

A party with no vision document for Dalits or a plan to win back upper castes, and with OBCs never in its camp, has found its one dependable harvest.

Its presence lives mostly in the media, which wants Rahul Gandhi as the face against Narendra Modi, a framing that suits the BJP because Congress is nowhere on the ground.

Salman Khurshid, twice its state president, once spent his energy attacking Mulayam Singh Yadav, and MP Imran Masood now directs the same energy at Akhilesh Yadav.

Uttar Pradesh holds some 50 million Muslims, the largest number in any state. They are asked to stop the BJP alone, while upper-caste votes moved from Congress to the BJP with ease and with every reward.

Elections come in early 2027, and the post-poll options include a BSP-BJP understanding, a Congress-BSP tie, a Congress-MIM coalition and a BSP-MIM agreement.

Asaduddin Owaisi's rhetoric, amplified by the media, may win only a decimal fraction of the vote, but in a close contest a decimal fraction is the part that decides who governs.

—

The author is a former UP State Information Commissioner and a political analyst. He can be reached at rizvisha4u@yahoo.com.

Congress Is Winning the Scroll

A week of YouTube data, a month of X rankings and a surge on Instagram show a BJP that can still draw a crowd but can no longer be sure it is the only one speaking.



Dr. Aditya Rathi

Between August 29 and September 4, the ten biggest political channels on YouTube drew 94.9 million views, and Narendra Modi's channel took 13.1 million of them, a 14 percent share.

The Indian National Congress channel alone took 51.3 million, or 54 percent, nearly four times the Prime Minister's total. The Indian Youth Congress added 8.6 million and Uttar Pradesh Congress 5.7 million.

The BJP's own channel recorded 4.5 million, Aam Aadmi Party 3.4 million, Rahul Gandhi 3.4 million, AAP Punjab 2 million, Yogi Adityanath 1.6 million and Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party channel 1.4 million.

A party that spent a decade showing India how politics looks on a phone now watches its rivals fill the screen.

The DataBeings figures do not make Gandhi's channel larger than Modi's, and Congress has not passed the BJP in subscribers or lifetime audience. Modi's footprint remains far bigger.

The figures measure current attention, the ability to stop a thumb mid-scroll, and that week Congress held more of it.

Combine the Congress channels with Gandhi's and they drew about 69 million views, while Modi, the BJP and Adityanath together drew 19.2 million, a difference of roughly 3.6 times.

Views are not votes, and the channels differ in size, output and strategy, so no election result can be read from the gap. But a party that keeps winning attention keeps winning chances to set the terms of the argument.

The X data for August 2026, covering spokespersons and news-media panellists, tells a similar story.

Congress's Supriya Shrinate recorded 2,403,015 engagements and Pawan Khera 1,213,712, with AAP's Sanjay Singh next at 934,525.

The BJP's best-placed names, Sambit Patra with 585,949 and Pradeep Bhandari with 572,600, trailed well behind, and Shrinate's total was more than four times Patra's.

Alok Sharma (490,088), Saurabh Bharadwaj (449,045), Ragini Nayak (442,026) and Surendra Rajput (384,604) filled out the list, which Congress names dominate at the top.

Instagram complicates the story usefully.

On party handles, average engagement per Congress post rose from about 50,000 to 72,000, up 43.4 percent, while the BJP's rose from about 25,000 to 34,000, up 37.1 percent. Congress therefore leads at the party level.

Among individuals, Modi remains enormous: after the CJP-led protests his average per post jumped from roughly 1.19 million to 4.63 million, up 289.9 percent, and Gandhi's climbed from about 152,000 to 426,000, up 180.7 percent.

The two sets of figures describe different contests.

Modi can still produce extraordinary numbers when an issue turns charged, while the opposition is building engagement across party accounts, leaders and youth-oriented handles, which means it no longer depends on a single face.

A face that has dominated for more than a decade invites a hypothesis, and "Modi fatigue" needs to be treated as one rather than a finding.

A politician can stay popular without staying surprising. The speeches, rallies, announcements and achievement videos are common now, and a loyal supporter may feel no change in preference while feeling less curiosity about the next clip.

Younger voters sharpen the point, since they meet politics in Reels, Shorts, podcasts, long interviews, memes and clips forwarded on WhatsApp, and parties of every colour are moving to Instagram and YouTube to find them.

A chat between Gandhi and students becomes a long YouTube video, then dozens of Shorts and Reels, then posts on X and forwards on WhatsApp, with the Youth Congress, state units and spokespersons all adding to the same story. A single event lives for weeks.

That habit favours anyone who can feed many outlets at once.

A chat between Gandhi and students becomes a long YouTube video, then dozens of Shorts and Reels, then posts on X and forwards on WhatsApp, with the Youth Congress, state units and spokespersons all adding to the same story. A single event lives for weeks.

The BJP built this model by taking one message and distributing it through thousands of accounts.

The tools it once held almost alone now belong to the opposition, to independent journalists, to political creators and to ordinary users who can turn an issue into a meme or short video and reach millions without a newsroom behind them.

The older route began with a politician's statement, passed through television editors who judged its importance, then anchors, then newspapers, and ended with a public handed a finished narrative.

The new route can run backwards. A citizen records something, a creator posts it, the clip spreads, political accounts respond, television follows and a government or opposition is forced to answer.

A party skilled at setting the agenda finds itself answering one.

The CJP episode showed how quickly that can happen. Whatever one thinks of the movement, it mobilised young people and dominated online discussion outside any established political structure, and leaders responded by moving onto formats they had not prioritised. Modi himself appears to have noticed.

His turn to Instagram and selfie-style videos after the July 20 protests broke from the formal manner long associated with him, and the surge in his engagement followed.

That surge is the strongest evidence against any simple story of decline.

A leader who had lost his digital appeal would have seen engagement collapse, and Modi's multiplied.

What changed is the field around him, where other actors can now draw large audiences to rival narratives in the same week.

The BJP's difficulty may be less a shortage of supporters than the end of being the only source they hear from.

—

The author is a political analyst and policy commentator who writes on Indian politics. He can be reached at adityaprsamvad@gmail.com.

J&K GCC Summit 2026

The Arithmetic of a Capability Centre

Why should GCCs even consider J&K?



Ask the chief financial officer of a Global Capability Centre what it costs to run. The answer begins with people. Salaries and benefits take the largest share of a centre's annual budget. Rent and technology account for most of the remainder. Plant and machinery barely feature.

That simple fact should shape how Jammu and Kashmir competes for the sector. And that simple fact is what the J&K Government is going to position at the J&K GCC Summit 2026, being organized by Government of J&K and IIM Jammu. A capability centre is a ten-year commitment to recurring cost. The location decision turns on what the centre will cost to run in its fifth and eighth years, discounted to today. The one-time cost of setting up is a minor line in that calculation.

We have 55 investors from the world's leading Fortune 500 GCC and GCC-enabling companies and India's leading multinationals descending at IIM Jammu on 9-10 October for the Summit. And each one of them perhaps already knows that a capital subsidy, however generous, only addresses the smallest part of the problem. A subsidy is easy to announce and it makes good PR. But what moves a location decision is sustained relief on recurring cost. That means employment-linked support for each professional hired and retained, a defined share of payroll cost reimbursed for a limited period, lease rental assistance, electricity duty exemption, stamp duty relief on leases and a grant for each candidate trained and placed.

Outcome-linked support also has a fiscal property that capital subsidies lack. Its cost rises only when jobs rise. The exposure of the exchequer is therefore bounded by success and can be budgeted year by year against verified employment. A capital subsidy is paid at the start, whatever happens afterwards. Recovering it from a centre that underperforms is slow and uncertain.

Retention is the second variable. Here Jammu and Kashmir holds a structural advantage. Consider an illustrative centre of 500 professionals. At an annual attrition rate of 20 per cent it must replace 100 people every year. At 10 per cent it replaces 50. Over a decade the difference is 500 replacements, equivalent to rebuilding the entire centre once over. Each replacement carries the cost of recruitment, training and months of reduced productivity.

Professionals who work in Jammu and Kashmir are, for the most part, working where their families live. The pull of a marginally better offer across town, which drives much of the churn in metropolitan clusters, operates with far less force here. Add office, talent and utility costs well below metropolitan levels and the Union Territory has a cost position that rests on its own fundamentals.

The competition is real. At least eight States have notified dedicated GCC policies, from Karnataka, which moved first, to Haryana in May 2026. Tamil Nadu addresses the sector through a dedicated framework and Andhra Pradesh through its IT policy. Their incentive menus vary widely. So do the thresholds at which benefits begin. A Union Territory without an existing GCC base cannot borrow a threshold designed for a mature cluster. It must set thresholds that a first entrant can realistically meet.

J&K's GCC Policy has been drafted and will be showcased to the prospective GCC multinationals that are attending the J&K GCC Summit. These multinationals will benchmark J&K against the above expected benefits. Be that as it may, we should assess support for the sector in J&K against five rules.

First, pay for outcomes. Support from the J&K Government should be attached to jobs created and sustained, payroll actually paid and candidates actually placed, each verified against EPFO and ESIC records. The exchequer should pay for delivery and only after it.

Second, setting a horizon. Every incentive should reduce over time and end on a known date, so that a centre's economics is tested on its own profitability rather than continuing purely because of support.

Third, avoid paying twice. A Union Territory instrument should fill the gaps left by Central and Union Territory schemes already in force for industry and skilling, chiefly on operating and lease cost and not vice versa.

Fourth, weigh the return. At an illustrative average salary of ₹10 lakh a year, a centre of 500 professionals pays ₹50 crore in salaries every year, much of it spent locally. It pays stamp duty on its leases. Its local spending and the consumption of its employees generate GST. It supports a comparable number of indirect jobs in facilities, transport and hospitality. For a Union Territory working to strengthen its own revenue base, a sector whose spending stays local is fiscally attractive.

Fifth, publish the ledger. The incentives paid and the jobs verified against them should be disclosed every year. Transparency is the cheapest way to sustain public confidence in industrial incentives.

But then, the caveat is that no incentive can compensate for an unclear approval timeline, a building that is yet to be built or a talent pipeline that falls short of an employer's requirement. And that is where the J&K Government is ensuring that investors, and not just from the GCC ecosystem, are provided clear approval timelines, assessed and industry-ready talent pool and infrastructure that is plug-and-play ready than bare land.

As I mentioned earlier, the J&K GCC Summit 2026 at IIM Jammu on 9 and 10 October gives the Union Territory a rare opportunity to hear from operators what actually can work for us to be considered as the emerging destination for GCCs. Join the conversation and give us your inputs on what may work. Well, this is a first step, and we hope one that goes a million miles.

The writer is Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

From Graduates to Global Careers at the J&K GCC Summit 2026

How Mission YUVA, the Skill Development Department and the PM-SETU ITI network are being showcased at the J&K GCC Summit 2026 (9-10 October 2026)

Kumar Rajeev Ranjan



You may already know about it. The Department of Labour and Employment, Government of J&K is working closely with IIM Jammu to organise a benchmark event, the J&K GCC Summit 2026, where 55 panelists interact with leading government officials and other stakeholders over two days to find out the optimal path to make J&K an emerging destination for GCCs.

But what are GCCs? The earlier BPOs were outsourced, but Global Capability Centres are fully owned in-house centres that companies build to centralise many core business operations, including technology, R&D, corporate processes (HR, payroll, you name it) and so on… And no, they are not data centres. While data centres are physical infrastructure based, GCCs are intrinsically human capital based – and that's where the phenomenal story builds. GCCs hold the key to build employment in a way to current industry can. So should J&K promote GCCs? But before you ask that no-brainer question, perhaps you should ask, does J&K have the talent to support GCCs?

Well, ask what Jammu and Kashmir exports and most people will name apples, saffron, walnuts and handicrafts. The list leaves out the export that costs the Union Territory most: its graduates. Every year engineers, accountants, analysts and designers trained here take their first jobs in other States. They do well there. Their salaries are spent there too.

The figures explain the pattern. The Mission YUVA Baseline Survey 2024-25, drawing on the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24, places youth unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir at 17.4 per cent against a national rate of 10.2 per cent. More than 3.6 lakh educated young people were registered with the Union Territory's employment exchanges in September 2025. Talent is in surplus. Private employers of scale are in short supply.

The Global Capability Centre sector addresses that shortage directly. India's GCC workforce is projected to grow by 84 per cent to about 3.46 million professionals by 2030. A growing share of it will be based outside the metropolitan clusters. The Mission YUVA baseline itself identified high-skilled, knowledge-sector enterprises as the route to better-paying jobs. Capability centres are among the largest employers of that kind in India.

The roles are more varied than is commonly assumed. Capability centres hire for finance and accounting operations, data analytics, software engineering, cybersecurity, human resources services, customer experience, legal process work and healthcare data management. Many of these roles are open to commerce, science and humanities graduates after focused training. The sector can therefore absorb a far wider section of our graduates than engineering alone would suggest.

Mission YUVA, the Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan, is the J&K Government's principal instrument for this work. It was conceived by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with IIM Jammu, NABARD, J&K Bank and other financial institutions. It aims to create 1.37 lakh enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs over five years. By May 2026 it had received more than 1.07 lakh applications, sanctioned 25,000 cases and disbursed over ₹1,100 crore. The target for 2026-27 alone is 50,000 enterprises.

The Mission was built for entrepreneurship. Its machinery serves employment at scale equally well. Twenty district-level Small Business Development Units and 80 Business Help Desks give it a presence in every district. Its app and portal track outcomes enterprise by enterprise. The same infrastructure can match a capability centre's hiring requirement to candidates, track their training and verify their placement.

There is a second link that is easy to miss. A centre of 500 people needs caterers, transport operators, facility managers, security services and IT support vendors. Each is an opening for a Mission YUVA enterprise. Every capability centre that comes to Jammu and Kashmir therefore creates two streams of opportunity: salaried jobs inside the building and local businesses around it.

But to make it happen, the Department of Labour and Employment, J&K Government is working on four lines of work with the sector.

First, training will start from a stated requirement. When an employer specifies the skills and numbers it needs, the Department will convene the universities, the Skill Development Department and the ITI network to deliver them against a fixed cohort size and date. The upgrade of ITIs under PM-SETU allows part of that network to prepare technicians for the IT infrastructure, network operations and facilities roles that surround every centre. The Department's district employment and counselling centres will add guidance on capability centre careers, so that students choose courses with these roles in view.

Second, internships will be designed as recruitment, with a defined project, an assigned supervisor, a formal assessment and a stated expectation of conversion to employment.

Third, the Department will build a register of professionals from Jammu and Kashmir who now work in capability centres elsewhere in India and overseas. Many would consider returning if the work were here. They are the fastest route to the experienced managers a new location needs most.

Fourth, the sector offers the clearest route to formal employment for educated women who cannot relocate for work. Mission YUVA was built to address unemployment that weighs most heavily on young people and on women. Placement in capability centres will carry the same priority.

As the Administrative Secretary of the Department of Labour and Employment in J&K, I am presenting the Summit Report at the Valedictory Session of the J&K GCC Summit 2026 on 10 October. My request to every GCC investor and employer present is specific: tell us the roles, the numbers and the dates. The Department will build the pipeline to match. Success will look like a graduate in Anantnag or Rajouri who chooses a global career and stays home to pursue it.

The writer is Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

58% Of J&K Farmland Without Irrigation Cover

Agencies

Srinagar: Only around 42 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's net sown area was under irrigation during 2023-24, leaving nearly 58 per cent without assured irrigation coverage and dependent largely on rainfall and seasonal water availability.

Government data cited in a recent assessment showed the net irrigated area at around 3.10 lakh hectares against the total net sown area, highlighting the continuing gap in irrigation coverage across the Union Territory.

The data also points to significant regional variation, with several districts recording comparatively higher irrigation coverage, while parts of the hilly Jammu region continue to have large areas dependent on rainfed agriculture.

The government has been expanding irrigation infrastructure through various schemes. Under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, official data shows additional areas being brought under irrigation during successive financial years.

Kashmiri Delicacies On Menu For Swiss President

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Famous delicacies from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including Nadur Kebab, Haakh, Phaymer and Kahwa, featured at a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu for Swiss President Guy Parmelin at Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

The curated dinner, hosted for Parmelin and his wife Caroline Parmelin on Monday, showcased distinctive ingredients and culinary traditions from the two Union Territories.

The menu featured sea buckthorn, apricot, wild nettle, yak cheese and barley from Ladakh, while saffron, morels, lotus stem and fragrant spices from Kashmir and traditional sweets and street-food specialities from Jammu were also included.

The menu drew inspiration from the culinary traditions of the Himalayan regions, describing them as cuisines shaped by seasonal produce and the resources available in the mountainous terrain.

The dinner began with Za Thuk, a Ladakhi wild nettle soup with winter peas and roasted millet pearls, served with assorted breads. A Labo-Na Tsonma salad featuring Ladakhi Labo and Chhurpi, Jammu's Kalari cheese, dried apple, walnuts and wild capers was also served.

Among the appetisers were Kimb Chaat, a Jammu street-food delicacy made with boiled taro root, sweet potatoes and rice flour crispies, and Nadur Kebab with Dooyn Chetin, featuring lotus stem patties seasoned with Kashmiri spices and served with walnut chutney.

The main course included Haakh, seasoned collard greens cooked with mustard oil and asafoetida, along with Dum Oluv, Kana Gucch Pulao made with Kashmiri morels and whole spices, Mujj Chatin, Sheermal and Katlam breads.

Desserts included Shufta, made with dry dates, cashew nuts, raisins and coconut, and Phaymer, a Ladakhi preparation of roasted barley, jaggery and butter served with Chura soft cheese.

Guests were also served Kahwa, the traditional Kashmiri tea flavoured with cinnamon, cardamom and saffron, along with Gur Gur Chai, the traditional Ladakhi butter tea, and wild rose tea.

In her banquet speech, Murmu said there were greater opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment between India and Switzerland following implementation of the India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement.

She described Switzerland as an important trade and investment partner for India and welcomed Parmelin to the country.

India and Switzerland on Monday signed a migration and mobility partnership pact, while agreeing to expand Swiss market access for Indian exports and deepen cooperation in nuclear energy and defence.

Parmelin began his three-day visit to India on Monday. It is his first State visit to the country and his second visit this year after attending the AI Impact Summit in February.

Two More Arrested In Kishtwar Minor's Death Case

Agencies



Jammu: The investigation into the death of a minor girl in Chatroo area of Kishtwar district has widened further with the arrest of two more persons, taking the total number of arrests in the case to 12.

The latest arrests include a medical shop owner and a government teacher, whose alleged roles surfaced during the ongoing investigation into the circumstances surrounding the minor's pregnancy, subsequent medical treatment and events preceding her death.

The case was initially registered at Police Station Chatroo and was later transferred to the Special Crime Wing of the Crime Branch, where a fresh case was registered and a Special Investigation Team constituted to examine the role of persons connected with the matter.

Investigators have collected medical records from health facilities in Chatroo, Kishtwar and Doda, besides examining witnesses, transportation details and electronic evidence. Biological samples and other material have also been preserved for forensic examination.

The Crime Branch is continuing to ascertain the individual roles of the accused and others who came into contact with the minor during the period under investigation.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

J&K Eases School

the 2010 Rules. These include specified requirements under clauses relating to different categories of school permissions and approvals.

The amendments formally modify Rule 4 and Rule 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Rules, 2010, with the order issued by the School Education Department at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

Cabinet Hails Modi's

engagement through the G20 and BRICS, advocacy for the Global South and the inclusion of the African Union in the G20. It also referred to Vaccine Maitri and international honours received by Modi.

On climate and cultural issues, the resolution cited Modi's initiatives on renewable energy, yoga, millets and heritage projects including the Kashi Vishwanath Dham and Ram Lalla's consecration.

The resolution concluded by reiterating the government's commitment to Modi's vision of a prosperous, self-reliant and developed India by 2047.

J&K Braces

forenoon hours.

Generally dry weather is forecast from October 11 to the evening of October 13.

Another spell of generally cloudy weather, accompanied by light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds, is likely at many places on October 14 and 15, the Met Centre said.

The weather department advised farmers to ensure safe storage of harvested apples and paddy from October 6 to 10 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

People have also been advised to stay away from loose structures, electric wires and old trees during periods of strong winds.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar urged people to take necessary precautions during the forecast wet spells.

AI-Generated Content

representing mobile operators and organisations across the ecosystem and adjacent industries.

The prime minister highlighted the potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a transformative force, particularly for developing countries.

He noted that discussions on DPI with several world leaders have demonstrated its growing global relevance and added that such platforms can serve as a springboard for countries of the Global South.

Addressing the growing challenge of digital and cyber fraud, Modi said the problem requires technology-driven solutions. He suggested sustained awareness messages for users to warn people about potential fraud calls.

Modi also highlighted the need for global standards and common rules for emerging technologies.

On the growing threat of deepfakes and AI-generated content, he suggested exploring mechanisms to allow users to immediately identify its origin.

The GSMA board members highlighted India's emergence as a global leader in digital and mobile connectivity.

They noted the rapid expansion of 4G and 5G, the scale of digital public infrastructure and the growth of the telecom and mobile manufacturing ecosystem.

They appreciated India's investment-friendly policy framework and emphasised the role of secure, resilient and trusted digital infrastructure in supporting continued digital growth, the statement said.

The board members also highlighted growing opportunities for international cooperation with India in areas including 5G, 6G, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, digital inclusion and satellite connectivity.

Forest Rights in

national workshop on the Forest Rights Act held in Poonch, which brought together legal experts, environmentalists, civil society representatives, rights activists and members of forest-dependent communities from six states and Jammu and Kashmir.

Participants at the workshop discussed the implementation of individual and community forest rights as well as mechanisms for managing minor forest produce.

They cited Odisha, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as examples where stronger implementation of forest rights, coupled with community-based management of minor forest produce, has contributed to rural livelihoods and forest conservation.

The activists also sought training programmes and workshops for officials of the Tribal Affairs, Revenue, Forest and Rural Development departments, besides community organisations.

They said greater awareness and understanding of the legislation among officials and communities could help speed up the processing of claims and improve coordination with forest-dependent communities.

Rather assured the delegation that he would take up the matter with the chief minister and the minister concerned with Forest and Tribal Affairs.

He also said he would press for implementation of the law across districts of Jammu and Kashmir and support further training programmes and seminars on the subject.

The delegation invited Rather to Maharashtra to see firsthand communities where implementation of forest rights has contributed to improvements in local livelihoods.

The activists' intervention has brought renewed focus on the long-pending forest-rights claims in J&K, with the central concern being how quickly rights provided for under law can translate into actual recognition and access for forest-dependent communities.

Enumeration Completed

Ramban with 418, Anantnag with 377 and Baramulla with 359. Reasi completed 345 Enumeration Blocks, while Udhampur completed 313.

Sharma said the exercise was completed in difficult and remote terrain following extensive preparations and coordination among district administrations, Census functionaries, Enumerators, Supervisors and other agencies.

Population Enumeration was also completed in 125 Special Charges in J&K and 47 in Ladakh, covering defence establishments, Central Armed Police Forces and other Central forces. These establishments were enumerated through paper schedules due to operational and security considerations. The data will subsequently be digitised and integrated into the main Census database through a secure mechanism.

The remaining non-snow-bound areas of J&K, including Jammu and Srinagar, are scheduled to undergo Population Enumeration in February 2027. Ladakh will not be part of that exercise as enumeration has already been completed across the UT.

Sharma said J&K ranked first among Union Territories and eighth nationally in self-enumeration, attributing the performance to public participation and awareness campaigns.

"This is India's first paperless Census, with self-enumeration introduced for the first time," he said.

Sharma said work on the District Census Handbook is also progressing, with fieldwork scheduled to be completed by October 30. The Census Directorate has now shifted its focus to post-enumeration processes in the areas already covered while preparations continue for the February 2027 exercise in the remaining parts of J&K.

Kashmir Study Eyes

analysed thematically to identify factors that contribute to mental health difficulties, substance use and suicidal behaviour among young people.

The intervention is based on selected skills from Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, which the researchers describe as suitable for group administration and applicable across different mental health concerns.

The programme has seven modules covering locus of control, self-knowledge, mindfulness, emotional regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, dealing with addictions and psycho-spiritual wellbeing.

The researchers have also proposed cultural adaptations to the intervention, including the use of local Kashmiri emotional vocabulary, culturally familiar imagery and symbols, breathing practices, Kashmiri poetry and nature-based references.

The intervention will use demonstrations, guided meditation, reflective exercises, art, storytelling and folklore, supported by a manual, presentation material and participant handouts.

The proposed programme comprises 15 sessions spread over four weeks. Eight sessions are planned for one hour each, while seven sessions will run for about 80 minutes.

Before administration, the intervention will undergo content validation and a feasibility assessment.

The study proposes screening students from selected higher secondary schools and colleges using the Problem Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers (POSIT), Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) and Generalised Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7).

The participants will include young people aged 16 to 24 from both genders who are identified as having moderate or high levels of risk. Those showing no identified risk or who do not provide consent will be excluded.

The researchers have proposed selecting two higher secondary schools and two colleges in an urban educational hub district, with separate institutions for boys and girls. Universal screening will initially be conducted, followed by selection of participants for the intervention.

The planned sample comprises 60 participants, with 15 participants each from the four institutions. The researchers arrived at an initial sample size of 36 using G*Power and increased it to 60 to account for possible attrition.

Participants will be assessed at baseline and again eight weeks later. The researchers will examine changes in substance-use risk, depression and anxiety, along with expected improvements in mindfulness, emotional regulation, interpersonal skills and the ability to deal with addiction-related challenges.

The study is being conducted in phases, with the first year devoted to mapping risk factors and developing the intervention, the second year involving screening and baseline assessment, and the intervention and follow-up planned for the third year.

The researchers said the findings could provide a foundation for developing mental health education in schools and colleges and contribute to a greater emphasis on primary prevention.

The study, however, is a protocol and the effectiveness of the proposed intervention has yet to be established. The researchers have also acknowledged limitations, including the use of a single-group pre- and post-intervention design and the limited generalisability of findings beyond the selected institutions.

J&K Raises Retirement

and Ladakh be raised to 62 years, provided the officers meet the prescribed conditions.

The decision was taken after consultation with the High Court. The Finance Department also gave its concurrence, while the Council of Ministers approved the proposal on September 22, 2026.

The revised retirement age will take effect retrospectively from March 31, 2026, subject to the prescribed conditions and necessary amendments to the relevant rules.

The order said the required amendments to the relevant rules would be undertaken in consultation with the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The move follows an earlier direction of the Supreme Court asking States and Union Territories to consider enhancement of the retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years in consultation with their respective High Courts.

Omar Backs SC

Uniform Civil Code, Abdullah ruled out its implementation in Jammu and Kashmir and argued that a uniform law should be debated and enacted by Parliament.

"We will not implement the Uniform Civil Code here," he said, adding that such matters should not be dealt with separately by individual states and Union Territories.

"If you have the courage, bring legislation in Parliament. Debate it in Parliament, and then let's see whether it passes in Parliament or not," he said.

On the deportation of Bangladeshis from J&K, Abdullah said foreign nationals entering India without authorisation cannot stay illegally.

"Looking at it practically, their presence here has not really caused us any particular trouble. However, it is also true that they cannot stay illegally," he said.

The Chief Minister, however, distinguished between unauthorised Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya refugees, saying the latter were being "needlessly targeted".

He said Rohingyas had been given refuge in India after being expelled from their country and questioned the recent action against them.

"This falls under the Government of India, and they are taking the assistance of the police for this. The police are not under our control either. So, it is better that you ask this question to those who have command over the police," Abdullah said.

New J&K Industrial

industry policy," Choudhary said, adding that the government's endeavour was to ensure that shortcomings of the past were not repeated.

On the Rs 28,400-crore industrial package announced in 2021, he said industrialists and chamber members would perhaps not have raised concerns had the package been implemented properly. The Deputy Chief Minister also ruled out any proposal to shut down public sector undertakings in J&K, saying the government was instead exploring ways to revive underperforming units.

"There is no policy of Omar Abdullah-led Government to shut down any PSU," he said.

Choudhary said the PSUs were part of J&K's heritage and their financial losses should be examined to determine the reasons behind the deficits and fix accountability.

"Why should PSUs be shut down? We will have to find the causes. We will have to find the reasons. How did the PSU go into a deficit? The officers who put it in a deficit should be held accountable," he said.

He said committees had been constituted to examine the functioning of certain units and explore whether and how they could be revived.

On the CAG report concerning PSUs, Choudhary said its findings would be examined before the government reached any conclusion.

"The report has come, CAG's report has come. We will see what is there and what is not. There will be a discussion on it, there will be a debate. After that, we will come to a conclusion," he said.

Choudhary also highlighted the products displayed at the Jammu and Kashmir Industries showroom at the Government Silk Weaving Factory in Rajbagh, saying local products could compete with major brands if properly marketed.

Earlier, he laid the foundation stone for a Café House and renovation of the existing Guest House at the Government Silk Weaving Factory. The project is being executed by J&K SICOP and is aimed at improving facilities, attracting visitors and stakeholders and generating additional revenue for JKI.

During his visit, Choudhary inspected the JKI showroom displaying mulberry silk and local wool products and stressed the need to preserve traditional skills, particularly those associated with Kashmiri mulberry silk.

He also called for improved production and sales and greater promotion of local crafts to generate economic opportunities and employment.



J&K FDA Cracks Down on Street Food Vendors





Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has inspected 395 street food vendors across all districts of the Union Territory as part of a UT-wide enforcement and awareness drive, compounding 38 cases and imposing a cumulative fine of Rs 50,500, officials said.

The drive, aimed at ensuring compliance with food safety standards and the availability of safe, hygienic food to consumers, focused on personal hygiene of food handlers, sanitary conditions of vending premises, safe storage and handling of food, use of food-grade utensils and packaging, and proper management of cooking oil.

According to an official statement, 68 cases have been recommended for statutory action before the Adjudicating Authorities — Additional Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts. This includes 39 cases under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which carries a penalty of up to Rs 1,00,000 for unhygienic processing or manufacturing of food, and 29 cases under Section 58, which provides for a penalty of up to Rs 2,00,000 for using non-food-grade utensils or packaging materials.

About 130 kg of unsuitable food and snack articles were destroyed as per prescribed procedure.

Officials said 92 awareness and sensitisation sessions were conducted across the UT, educating vendors on personal hygiene, cleanliness, safe food handling, avoidance of non-food-grade wrapping materials and newspapers, prohibition of unauthorised synthetic food colours, prevention of cross-contamination, and proper disposal of used cooking oil.

Special focus was laid on Used Cooking Oil (UCO) management, with 75 oil samples tested using Digital Oil Testing Meters. All samples were found within the permissible range, with no instance of Total Polar Compounds exceeding the prescribed limit of 25 per cent.

The department intensified inspections over the past week in view of the large number of consumers associated with street food establishments, conducting 519 inspections, particularly near religious shrines, prominent markets and other high-footfall areas. During these, 23 cases were filed under Sections 56 and 58, while 17 were compounded under Section 69, attracting a total fine of Rs 21,000.

The FDA reiterated that street food vendors form an important part of the food supply chain and advised them to proactively comply with food safety and hygiene norms and cooperate with enforcement officials. Consumers can report suspected unsafe or adulterated food products on the Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

CM Omar Reviews Preparations for Kashmir Marathon



Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed the preparations for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon, which is scheduled to be held on October 25 this year.

The event, which drew large participation last year, will have a dedicated category for athletes from Jammu and Kashmir to encourage and reward local runners.

"Chief Minister chaired a meeting to review preparations for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled for October 25," Abdullah posted on his official X handle.

Abdullah said the event this year will feature full and half marathons, a three-day Marathon Expo and a total prize pool of Rs 3.17 crore.

"The event will also have a dedicated J&K Local category to encourage and reward local runners," he added.

The chief minister directed the Tourism Department to ensure seamless inter-departmental coordination, comprehensive arrangements for runners and focused publicity to attract participants from across India and abroad.

He also directed the inclusion of an untimed fun run and virtual races in future editions to broaden participation.

Darakhshan Andrabi Honoured with Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Aalam Award 2026

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, was honoured with the Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Aalam Award 2026 by Kashmir Markaz-e-Adab-wa-Saqafat (KMAS), Charar-e-Sharief, in recognition of her contribution to the propagation of the Rishi-Sufi ideology and development, restoration and upgradation of spiritual shrines across Jammu & Kashmir.

The award was presented in the presence of eminent scholars, members of the J&K Waqf Board and representatives of KMAS.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Andrabi expressed gratitude to the organisation for conferring the honour and said the Rishi-Sufi tradition represents a profound expression of Kashmir's spiritual heritage, carrying a message of peace, compassion, tolerance, brotherhood and harmony.

She said serving the Sufi shrines of Jammu & Kashmir was not merely an administrative responsibility but a sacred commitment to preserving the spiritual legacy of the region.

Dr Andrabi said shrines associated with Awliya, Rishis and Sufi saints are centres of faith and spiritual guidance and should be maintained with dignity while preserving their historical and architectural character.

She said her vision was to develop these sacred spaces by combining heritage conservation with modern amenities, cleanliness, pilgrim facilities and a spiritual ambience, while ensuring that the message of the saints remains accessible to future generations. *(Observer News Service)*

Pantha Chowk Sheds Declared Temporary Holding Centre for Illegal Migrants

SRINAGAR: The Home Department of Jammu & Kashmir has declared temporary sheds on the outskirts of Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar as a temporary holding center for illegal immigrants.

In a notification issued by the department, the Union Territory administration has notified 12 sheds at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar as a temporary holding center/camp for restricting the movement and providing temporary accommodation of illegal migrants.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (e) of sub-section (2) of Section 7 and Section 13 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, read with Notification S.O. 3998(E) dated 01.09.2025 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, hereby notifies the 12 sheds situated at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar, as detailed in the annexure to this notification, to function as a temporary holding centre/camp for restricting the movement and providing temporary accommodation of illegal migrants, as defined under Section 2(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955," the notification reads.

The notification was issued on September 30, 2026. On Monday, the government shifted 150 Bangladeshis staying illegally in Jammu & Kashmir to their native country. *(Observer News Service)*

Dr Maqbool Shah Reinstated at GMC Jammu

Suspension Revoked; Departmental Proceedings to Continue

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has revoked the suspension of Dr Syed Maqbool Ahmad Shah, Associate Professor of Cardiology at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, nearly four months after he was suspended over allegations concerning cardiac procedures and reimbursement claims under the PMJAY-SEHAT health insurance scheme.

According to a government order, Dr Shah's suspension has been revoked under Rule 31(3) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, following recommendations of the Suspension Review Committee.

The order states that Dr Shah has been reinstated in service with immediate effect and directed to report forthwith at his original place of posting at GMC Jammu.

However, the government has made it clear that revocation of the suspension does not bring the departmental proceedings to an end.

"The period of suspension shall be decided separately, upon conclusion of the departmental proceedings, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable service rules," the order states.

Dr Shah was placed under suspension through Government Order No. 504-JK(HME) of 2026, dated June 20, following allegations that surfaced during scrutiny of cardiac procedures and reimbursement claims submitted under the PM-JAY-SEHAT scheme at GMC Anantnag.

According to the allegations contained in the departmental proceedings, scrutiny by the State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) pointed to discrepancies between entries uploaded on the Transaction Management System and records maintained in the Cath Lab Procedure Register at GMC Anantnag.

The inquiry also raised questions over claims involving 103 cases categorised under the package for Dual Chamber Pacemaker Implantation. Investigators alleged that the procedures performed in these cases were Left Bundle Branch Area Pacing (LBBAP).

The matter subsequently came under expert scrutiny, with specialists from the Department of Cardiology at SKIMS Soura reviewing 55 selected cases.

The expert assessment, as cited in the inquiry, reportedly raised questions regarding the medical indication for the procedure in 27 cases. Nearly half of the reviewed patients were alleged to have had normal left ventricular function.

At the height of the controversy, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo had said that the government had ordered an inquiry and that action would be taken against anyone found responsible after the process was completed.

Dr Shah, however, strongly denied the allegations, describing them as fabricated. He had also argued that the allegations contained in the departmental memorandum were being portrayed in public discourse as a final verdict even though the departmental inquiry was still underway.

The revocation of his suspension now allows Dr Shah to resume his duties, while the departmental proceedings against him will continue separately.

Army, CAPFs Covered Under Census 2027 in J&K, Ladakh

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Director of Census Operations, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, on Tuesday, said the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other Central forces had been covered under Census 2027, with population enumeration of Special Charges completed through paper schedules in view of security concerns. Addressing a press conference here, Sharma said there are 125 special charges in Jammu and Kashmir and 47 in Ladakh, covering the armed forces, paramilitary forces and other central forces.

"Population Enumeration is conducted for special charges, while there is no house listing operation (HLO) for them. Special Charges include the military, paramilitary forces and other Central forces," Sharma said, announcing that the enumeration exercise was successfully completed.

He said the census authorities had adopted a separate mechanism for special charges because of their distinct operational and security requirements.

"The enumeration for these Special Charges is being conducted through paper schedules. There are security concerns involved, so their information cannot essentially be collected over the internet. Therefore, the paper schedules were printed in a timely manner and the required information was collected through these schedules," he said.

Sharma said the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, had also held an exclusive meeting with representatives of the special charges during his visit to Ladakh in September and reviewed their preparedness.

"He held an exclusive meeting with the special charges and asked them about their preparations. He also reviewed the arrangements and was very satisfied after interacting with the concerned personnel," Sharma said.

He said regular meetings were held with the Ministry of Defence, helping streamline the census exercise involving the Army.

"One very positive development this time is that we had regular meetings with the Ministry of Defence. The Army, which has a very large presence among the Special Charges, is directly providing the required data to us," Sharma said.

He said the arrangement had made the exercise considerably easier as the Army has a vast geographical spread, with battalions and companies deployed at different locations.

"The Army has a central database. After incorporating the required Census fields, they are directly providing the data to us from that database," he said.

For the 125 special charges in Jammu and Kashmir and 47 in Ladakh, the census activity was completed through paper schedules, Sharma said, adding that any doubts and queries raised during the exercise were addressed in real time.

"Our national trainers were directly overseeing and coordinating the exercise. They were involved in the process until even the last couple of days," he said.

Sharma said conducting the census for special charges through paper schedules was a detailed exercise involving close coordination with the respective establishments.

"It may sound simple, but coordinating with special charges, providing them with everything required and getting the information collected through paper schedules is a detailed exercise," he said.

JKPSA Hails Simplified Private School Setup Process

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- An association of private schools here on Tuesday welcomed the amendments made to relevant laws by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that will simplify the procedure for setting up private schools in the Union Territory.

"Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools' Association welcomes the government decision to simplify and rationalise several No Objection Certificate and compliance requirements applicable to private schools. It is a historic, progressive and long-awaited regulatory reform that will provide substantial relief to educational institutions," the association said in a statement.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (Up To Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 55/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2026-27 Dated: 06-10-2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head Of Account	Advertised cost (in Lacs) (Inclusive of GST)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	Project Authority	AAA No. & Date	Technical sanction No. & Date
1	Construction of Sub Centre Village Haff Shopian.	UT-Capex Budget 2026-27	64.478	128956/-	AAY	08 Months	1600/-	Director Health Services Kashmir	26/DHSK of 2026 Dated: 08-07-2026	56/TS/DHSK of 2026-27 Dated: 03-10-2026
2	Restoration/ Renovation of Ashthapan of Mangla Bhagwati Mata at Village Wachi.	CAPEX Budget Component-Development of infrastructure at Religious Tourist/ Sufi Circuit (2026-27)	24.60	49200/-	BEE/ CEE	06 Months	800/-	Director Tourism Kashmir	82-PS/DTK/ PLN of 2026 Dated:- 15-09-2026	57/TS/DTK of 2026-27 Dated: 06-10-2026

Position of funds: -Committed

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

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-10-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-10-2026,06:00 P.M to 23-10-2026, 06:00 P.M
4.	Bid submission Start Date	06-10-2026 From 06.00 P.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	23-10-2026 up to 06:00 P.M
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	24-10-2026 at 01.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Zainapora.

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099 as the cost of the tender document. Note: - The Date of Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee and EMD must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 Participation in the tender shall be subject to the bidder depositing the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee exclusively through the online payment gateway linked to the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099, established for e-tendering purposes. This requirement is in pursuance of the instructions contained in Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and endorsed by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir, vide Endorsement No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026, as amended from time to time. Accordingly, submission of EMD in the form of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR), Term Deposit Receipt (TDR), Call Deposit Receipt (CDR), Bank Guarantee (BG), or any other offline/physical instrument shall not be accepted and such bids shall be treated as non-responsive. The bidder shall ensure that the requisite EMD and Tender Fee are successfully remitted through the prescribed online mode on or before the bid submission deadline. Any bid not accompanied by proof of successful online payment of the prescribed EMD and Tender Fee within the stipulated time shall be liable to rejection at the technical evaluation stage without any further notice.

1.2 The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @5% of allotted cost in cash to the designated authority/Account which shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) beyond 60 days.

1.3 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Zainapora (Tender receiving authority).

1.4 Unbalanced Bid:

The successful bidder L1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in cash to the designated authority/Account before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply there to: -

1.41 Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

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

1.43 The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

1.44 The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

1 Bidders are advised to quote Rates without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority

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

3 The earnest money/ Performance Security shall be forfeited If: -

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

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

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

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) as well as this NIT.

Sd/- CC | Sd/- DM | Sd/- AAO | Sd/- TO | Sd/- (Er. Shabir Ahmad Tak) Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora

No: R&B/ZNP/DIV/NIT/4386-97
Dt: 06-10-2026

DIPK-6471-26
DT: 06/10/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

JAMMU & KASHMIR ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES

LAL MANDI, SRINAGAR/CANAL ROAD, JAMMU

Email: sec-jkaacl@jk.gov.in

NOTICE

J&K WRITERS & ARTISTS WELFARE FUND SCHEME

Applications are invited from eligible Writers and Artists of J&K for registration under the Writers and Artists Welfare Fund Scheme launched by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) to support artists and writers in case of death, life threatening disease or permanent disability.

Benefits include:

- Initial Relief– ₹50,000/-
- Medical & Health Resettlement assistance –up to 1,50,000/-
- Scholarships – ₹2,000/- per month for a maximum period of 3 years (10th, 12th & Graduation) - up to 10 Awards yearly

Eligibility:

Minimum 5 years' experience in art/literature; domicile of J&K; not availing similar Govt. scheme; registration fee ₹200/-, monthly subscription ₹200/-.

Apply within 30 days in the prescribed format available at JKAACL offices Jammu/Srinagar or download from www.jkaacl.ac.in

No.: JKAACL/2026-27/2422
Dated: 06.10.2026

DIPK-6466-26
DT: 06/10/2026

Secretary
JKAACL

Pak, Türkiye Join Saudi Arabia to Counter Houthis

Press Trust of India



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Türkiye have agreed to deploy their military forces in Saudi Arabia under the trilateral defence agreement between the three countries in the wake of renewed fighting with Ansarallah of Yemen.

The three sides had convened an emergency meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee (SPDC) of the Makkah Alliance for Defence in Riyadh on Monday to address the regional developments and threats facing Saudi Arabia, according to a joint statement.

The trilateral defence agreement, signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye in August, establishes a framework for collective deterrence and stipulates that an armed attack against any one of them would be regarded as an attack against all.

The SPDC on Monday reviewed the outcomes of the political and military consultations preceding the meeting and approved the recommendations submitted to it. It affirmed that the Makkah agreement embodies a firm commitment to collective defence and a unified position in confronting threats.

The committee "decided to move immediately to the practical implementation of the collective defence commitments and to take the necessary measures to provide the agreed military forces and capabilities and ensure their rapid deployment in the Kingdom".

"The three countries affirmed that the security of each party is an integral part of the collective security of the three countries," the statement said.

The statement did not give any details or schedule of troop deployment.

It also did not specifically name the Houthis as a threat, but the development comes against the backdrop of escalation of war between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir attended the meeting from Pakistan's side.

Khawaja Asif, in an interview with Geo News, said that Pakistan and Türkiye had a "presence in theatre", but only Saudi troops were involved in combat operations.

"Whatever assistance they require is being provided. But right now, the Turkish and Pakistani armies are playing a supportive role," he said, noting that Pakistan was involved in reconnaissance.

The three sides also condemned in the strongest terms the attempted targeting of Makkah and Madinah, as well as the continuing attacks targeting cities and civilian and economic facilities in the Kingdom.

Pakistan and Türkiye commended the vigilance and readiness of the Saudi Armed Forces in countering the threats and attacks facing the Kingdom, the statement said.

As part of the institutional development of the alliance, the committee decided to appoint General Nauman Mahmood (Retd) of Pakistan as the first Secretary-General for a three-year term.

The SPDC meeting was held as Yemen's Saudi-led coalition government launched a major military campaign on Sunday to recapture territory held by the Yemeni fighters.

The SPDC is a key organ of the Makkah pact and comprises the foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of army staff of the three members.

Last month, the chiefs of defence forces and chiefs of general staff of the three countries met in Riyadh and reviewed the security situation and the threats facing Saudi Arabia.

Also, the foreign ministers of the three countries met on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York last month and discussed the challenges faced by the kingdom.

India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Begins in Uttarakhand

NEW DELHI: A joint military exercise involving troops of India and the UAE began on Monday in Uttarakhand, aiming to enhance inter-operability, mutual understanding and cooperation, with a focus on mountain warfare.

A total of 92 personnel, with equal representation from both armies, are participating in 'Exercise Mountain Guardian'. The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from a Bhairav Battalion, while the UAE Army contingent has troops from a Mountain Infantry Battalion, the defence ministry said.

"Women officers and combatants from both armies are also participating in the exercise across specialist roles," it said in a statement.

The India-UAE joint military exercise commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

The exercise, being conducted from October 5-18, aims to enhance inter-operability, mutual understanding and cooperation, with a focus on mountain warfare, it said.

During the exercise, troops will undertake joint planning, tactical drills, firing practices, surveillance, drone operations, physical endurance training, rock climbing, obstacle training and integrated field exercises.

"The training will also incorporate technology-enabled operations and exchange of tactics, techniques and procedures relevant to operations in challenging mountainous terrain," it said.

Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 will provide an opportunity for both armies to exchange professional experience, enhance tactical proficiency and exchange best practices in operational procedures. It will further strengthen military cooperation between India and the UAE, and reinforce bonds of friendship and trust between the two nations, the ministry said. **(PTI)**

Parents Can Not Force Adult Daughter to Live with Them: Allahabad HC

PRAYAGRAJ: Dismissing a habeas corpus writ petition, the Allahabad High Court has ruled that parents cannot turn to such petitions to force an adult daughter to live with them against her wishes.

In an order dated September 28, Justice Sandeep Jain stated, "A major cannot be compelled against her expressed will to reside with a particular person merely because such person happens to be her parent."

The judge dismissed a habeas corpus petition filed by Kalawati Devi, who sought the production of her 25-year-old daughter, Kumari Pooja, before the court, holding that the daughter -- being a major and a competent person -- shall remain at liberty to reside at the place and with the person of her choice.

As per facts of the case, Kalawati Devi had filed a habeas corpus writ petition seeking directions for the production of her daughter before the high court.

On August 17, 2026, the court directed the state to produce her. In pursuance of the court order, the daughter was produced in court.

During her interaction with the court, Pooja stated that she is residing independently in Delhi of her own volition and is not in any illegal or unlawful detention.

She further stated that she did not wish to reside with her mother. She alleged that her mother's conduct and behaviour towards her has not been cordial and she has frequently been subjected to assault and abuse at her parental home.

On the other hand, the mother denied these allegations and expressed desire that her daughter should reside with her at the parental home. **(PTI)**

SC Seeks Report on Illegal Sand Mining from Riverbeds

Press Trust of India



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to submit a report on sand mining from riverbeds, saying it has a "disastrous effect" on the river ecosystem and has to be stopped.

The CEC, a statutory body since 2023, was originally formed in 2002 on the Supreme Court's order. Its primary role is to advise the apex court on writ petitions related to environment and forest matters and assist in monitoring and compliance with its orders.

The court also asked Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to file within two weeks their compliance affidavits on its directions for effective implementation of environmental and statutory safeguards in the regions within and around the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary that are affected by rampant illegal sand mining.

The top court was hearing a suo motu case titled 'In Re: Illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary and threat to endangered aquatic wildlife'.

The bench was told that one of the pleas, which was listed for hearing along with the suo motu case, has sought directions to the authorities to immediately take steps to completely stop alleged illegal sand mining in the Ken River in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh.

"Let us focus on sand mining from the river beds because this concerns us. Sand mining from river beds has a disastrous effect. The river flow gets affected and the worst effect is on the river ecosystem," it observed.

Senior advocate Nikhil Goel, who is assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in the suo motu case, said the bench may consider expanding the scope of the matter to include the aspect of illegal sand mining from river beds.

UN No Longer Represents Entirety of Global Interest: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India



NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called for reform in the United Nations, saying the global body has become "irrelevant" to the decision-making on major global issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Gulf.

He said this in response to a question during an interactive session held at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave here on Monday.

Jaishankar last month addressed the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

At the conclave, the external affairs minister (EAM) was asked what in his view is the future of the UN, and the future of multilateral institutions in the world.

"Where the UN is concerned, I think it's obvious to everybody by now that the UN is gridlocked. If you look at the big issues of the day, whether you look at the conflict in the Gulf, whether you look at the conflict in Ukraine, whether you look at other issues in Africa, whether you look at Covid, actually, the United Nations has been largely irrelevant to the decision-making," Jaishankar said.

"I think, again there's a widely held view that a lot of it is because the (UN) Security Council is gridlocked, that the Security Council no longer represents the entirety of the global interest," he said.

Jaishankar, in the past too, has taken critical view of the UN at multiple fora.

"The world has evolved into a smart, interconnected and multipolar arena and its members have increased fourfold since the UN's inception. Yet the UN remains a prisoner of the past," he had said at the 2nd Foreign Ministers meeting of G20 Brazil 2024.

