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MAJOR RESHUFFLE

49 IAS, JKAS Officers Shifted

- Mamta Yadav Posted As Dir Information, Basharat Qayoom Named SMC Chief
- Athar Aamir Moves To NHM; Vikas Kundal Named Jammu Divisional Commissioner



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday ordered a major administrative reshuffle involving 49 IAS and JKAS officers, with Mamta Yadav, IAS, posted as Director, Information, J&K, Basharat Qayoom, IAS, appointed as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), and Shaleen Kabra, IAS, assigned additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department.

A copy of the order said the transfers and postings have been ordered with immediate effect in the interest of administration.

The order reads: Shaleen Kabra, IAS (AGMUT: 1992),

Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department (Additional charge of the posts of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K and Administrative Secretary, Estates Department), shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, relieving Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS of the additional charge.

Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS (AGMUT: 1994), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Tourism Department (Additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department) has been transferred and posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), | [More on P6](#)

Gravity Of Offence Alone Cannot Justify Prolonged Custody: HC Grants Bail To Accused In NDPS Case

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: Observing that the gravity of an offence cannot, by itself, justify indefinite pre-trial incarceration, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has granted bail to an accused in a drug trafficking case, holding that the material relied upon by the prosecution was not, at this stage, sufficiently compelling to attract the statutory rigour of Section 37 of the NDPS Act.

A bench of Justice Sanjay

Parihar passed the order on a bail plea filed by Khayal Shafi Badana, noting that no contraband or other incriminating material had been recovered from his possession.

The court further observed that the call detail records relied upon by the prosecution merely established contact between Badana and the principal accused but did not disclose the nature or contents of their conversations.

Badana is | [More on P6](#)

3 Vacancies, A Long List Of Aspirants: CM Faces Cabinet Test

CM to consult Farooq Abdullah after GST meet; expansion could test NC's internal equations

KO Web Desk

Srinagar :Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's latest indication that he will take up the long-pending expansion of his Council of Ministers after the GST Council meeting has brought the issue back into focus, with only three berths available against a much larger pool of National Conference aspirants.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar on Wednesday, Omar said a decision on the cabinet expansion would be taken after his return from Delhi and consultations with National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah.

"Tomorrow the GST Council meeting is in Delhi.



So we will complete it and then we will consult with Dr Farooq Abdullah, party president, and we will do what we have to do," he said, according to KNS.

Omar did not announce a specific date for the exercise, nor did he clarify whether it would involve only an expansion or also a reshuffle of

portfolios.

The limited number of available berths is likely to be the biggest political challenge for the Chief Minister. Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the Council of Ministers cannot exceed one-tenth of the total strength of the 90-member Legislative Assembly. With six members, including Omar, currently in the Council, only three positions remain vacant.

The number of aspirants within the National Conference, however, is considerably larger.

The party has several senior legislators with multiple terms in the Assembly and previous ministerial experience. | [More on P6](#)

5 Terrorist Associates Arrested In Kulgam

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Police have arrested five terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, recovering two pistols, three magazines, and three grenades from them, police said on Wednesday.

A police spokesman said that on a credible input, security forces arrested five terrorist associates at Khewan Chadder in the south Kashmir district.

The police identified the arrested as Tajamul Hussain Mir, a resident of Gufbal, Rehmat Ali Naikoo, Tehrim Ahmed Bhat, and Manzoor Ahmed Bhat -- all residents of Khrewan, and Kifiyat Ahmed Dar, a resident of Maltalhama, Kulgam.

The spokesperson said arms and ammunition, including two pistols, three magazines, 40 9mm rounds and three grenades, have been recovered from their possession.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Kulgam police station, and | [More on P6](#)

Medical Interns Give Govt 5 Days To Hike Stipend Threaten To Resume Agitation If Order Not Issued

Agencies

Srinagar: The Association of Interns and Medical Students Association (AIMSA) on Wednesday urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to issue a formal order within five days on the enhancement of stipends for MBBS and BDS interns, warning that failure to meet the deadline would leave them with no option but to resume their agitation.

According to the details, a delegation of medical interns and AIMSA representatives on Wednesday met Peerzada Zahoor Ahmad, JKAS, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Minister for Health and Medical Education to seek an update on the pending file and issuance of the formal order.

The association said the concerned officer informed the delegation that all required levels of processing and signatures have already been completed. The officer

assured the representatives that the order would be issued within the stipulated timeframe and is expected in the next few days.

Following the assurance, the intern representatives decided to give the administration some more time to complete the process, while making it clear that their patience would be limited to five days.

AIMSA State President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said, "The government must hike the stipend within the given timeframe. We have already waited for a long time and now expect the written assurance to be honoured without any further delay."

Meanwhile, the association said: "If the order is not issued within the stipulated five days, we will most likely resume our strike. We will subsequently hold a press conference in Srinagar and formally announce the next course of action," the | [More on P6](#)

Govt Postpones Urs Holiday To Oct 9

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has postponed the provincial holiday on account of the Urs of Sheikh-ul-Aalam Sheikh Noor-Ud-Din Noorani by a day, with the holiday now scheduled to be observed on October 9 instead of October 8.

The General Administration Department (GAD), in Government Order No. 1614-JK(GAD) of 2026 dated October 7, said the holiday would be observed on Friday, October 9, in Kashmir Province only.

The order partially modifies Government Order No. 1894-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated December 12, 2025, under which the holiday had been scheduled for Thursday, October 8.

The order was issued by the GAD by order of the Lieutenant Governor and signed by M. Raju, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government.

The revised notification has been circulated | [More on P6](#)

Hail Lashes J&K Parts; Snowfall In Higher Reaches

MeT forecasts more showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rain and hailstorm affected parts of Jammu and Kashmir amid a fresh spell of unsettled weather, with hail reported from several areas of Rajouri district and fresh snowfall recorded in the higher reaches of Kashmir, including the Gulmarg and Zojila areas.

Several areas of Rajouri witnessed a heavy hailstorm on Tuesday night, with hailstones covering roads and open spaces as weather conditions

deteriorated.

Meanwhile, higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, with snowfall reported in the Aharwat-Gulmarg belt and towards Zojila. Lower-lying areas experienced rain and drizzle.

Light to moderate rain was recorded at several places across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours, with Jammu-Chatha receiving the highest rainfall of 53.5 mm, according to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar. | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt Sacks Surgeon After 2 Yrs' Absence

Observer News Service

Srinagar: : The Jammu and Kashmir Government has terminated the services of Dr Saima Nanda, Consultant Surgeon at District Hospital Budgam, after she remained absent from duty without authorisation for nearly two years.

According to Government Order No. 745-JK(HME) of 2026, dated October 6, Dr Nanda was required to resume her duties on March 1, 2024, after being sanctioned 30 days' earned leave. However, she failed to return to duty from March 1, 2024.

The Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Budgam, subsequently issued an explanation notice to her on March 13, 2024, directing her to resume duties within three days and explain her absence. She neither resumed duty nor submitted a reply at the time.

The Medical | [More on P6](#)

J&K Crosses 55% Rooftop Solar Target, 46,133 Homes Covered

17,416 Loan Applications Rejected, CS Directs Banks To Review Rejections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 55.24 per cent of its rooftop solarisation target under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, with 46,133 residential rooftops installed against the Union Territory's target of 83,500 by March 31, 2027.

The progress was reviewed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo at a meeting on Wednesday, where he directed the Power Development Department and implementing agencies to address bottlenecks affecting the pace of installations, particularly financing, vendor availability, metering and execution of Power Purchase Agreements.

The UT's achievement is higher than the national progress of 50.80 per cent, the meeting was informed.

Of the total residential



installations, 17,809 have been completed in Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited areas with a capacity of 62.69 MW, while 28,324 have been completed in Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited areas with a capacity of 102.55 MW. The cumulative rooftop solar capacity installed across J&K stands at 165.24 MW.

The government has so far credited 344.14 crore in Central subsidy and 13 crore

in UT subsidy to beneficiaries. Against the target of 83,500 installations, the UT has received 89,680 applications. Of these, 82,591 applicants have selected vendors, 69,460 consumer agreements have been uploaded and 42,686 rooftop systems have been commissioned.

Financing emerged as a major concern during the review. Around 75 per cent of rooftop solar installations in KPDCL areas are | [More on P6](#)

J&K Sets Oct 10-11 For Special Voter Enrolment Drive

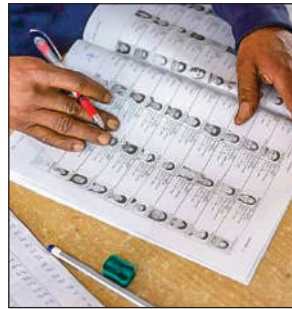
BLOs to remain stationed at all polling stations; Forms 6, 7 and 8 to be accepted

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Election Department will conduct a two-day Special Intensive Voter Enrolment Drive across the Union Territory on October 10 and 11 to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral rolls.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Sanjeev Verma announced the drive on Wednesday during a review meeting with District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs).

The drive will be held at all polling stations across J&K from 9 am to 5 pm on both days, allowing eligible citizens to enrol as voters and update or correct their electoral particulars.



Verma directed the election machinery to undertake extensive outreach and ensure effective facilitation during the drive.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will remain stationed at all polling stations throughout the two-day exercise to assist citizens with the submission of Forms 6, 7 and 8.

Form 6 will facilitate voter enrolment, | [More on P6](#)

SC To Examine Plea Seeking Recall Of CEC Appointment Verdict

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine a plea seeking recall of its recent split verdict on whether challenges to the 2023 law governing the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners should be referred to a larger Constitution bench.

On September 23, a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma gave split opinions on whether a batch of pleas challenging the validity of a 2023 law that excludes the Chief Justice of India from the panel for selecting the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) should be referred to a larger Constitution bench.

It had said due to a difference of opinion, the matter be placed before | [More on P6](#)



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Srinagar | Thursday | 08-10-2026

2

Iron Transporting Protein May Help Early Diagnosis Of Heart Disease: Study

Press Trust Of India

Lower levels of serotransferrin, the blood protein that transports iron through the body, are an early indicator of coronary artery disease (CAD) and can help identify heart conditions earlier than routine clinical diagnoses, say scientists.

Iron deficiency is prevalent in patients of CAD, a common cardiovascular condition characterised by a narrowing of the coronary arteries due to atherosclerosis, primarily resulting from an accumulation of plaque or fatty deposits. An analysis of blood serum proteins by Delhi's Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-

Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) has revealed the critical role of serotransferrin in identifying cardiac disease.

"Serotransferrin may have value as an early diagnostic marker, meaning it could potentially help identify CAD earlier than routine clinical diagnosis," Sagarika Biswas, corresponding author on the study, told PTI.

A deeper understanding of how CAD develops is crucial for developing effective diagnostics and therapeutics, the IGIB researchers said. Serotransferrin, found in previous studies to contribute to CAD, presents a potential avenue for investigation, they said.

Exploring molecular and



cellular processes related to serotransferrin may help shed light on how CAD develops and identify new targets for treatment, the team said.

"Of the total 197 differentially expressed proteins, serotransferrin (TF), an

iron transporter, showed downregulation in samples from CAD patients compared to healthy," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Acta Cardiologica. Downregulation means lower than normal levels

The study, involving 50 CAD patients and 40 healthy people, also showed an increased level of the cardiac marker 'troponin I' among those affected by the heart disorder, demonstrating an inverse relationship with serotransferrin levels.

Troponin I is a specialised protein present in heart muscle cells, a damage or injury to which causes the protein to leak and enter the bloodstream.

"TF (serotransferrin) protein was significantly associated with CAD progression and inversely correlated with cTnI (troponin I), suggesting it (serotransferrin) could be a potential therapeutic target pending further molecular and clinical investigation," the authors said.

GOVT OF U.T OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER GOVT. BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
NUNNAR GANDERBAL Udise No: 011911102002

AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC AUCTION OF POPLAR TREES

On behalf of the Auction Committee public notice is hereby given to the general public, timber dealers and extraction contractors that the standing poplar trees within the premises of Government Boys High School, Nunner, Ganderbal shall be disposed of through open public auction as per the following schedule:

Date of Auction: 10.10.2026 (Saturday)

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: Government Boys High School, Nunner, Ganderbal

Terms & Conditions

The auction shall commence at the reserve price. Interested bidders may inspect the trees at the school premises before participating in the auction.

The successful highest bidder shall deposit the prescribed security amount and comply with all terms and conditions of the auction.

The successful bidder shall remove the auctioned material from the site within one week from the date of auction, at his/her own risk and expense.

Any damage caused to school property during extraction/removal shall be recovered in full from the successful bidder.

The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

In case the auction date happens to be a holiday or is postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, the auction shall be held on the next working day at the same venue and time.

Headmaster

GOVT. BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
NUNNER, GANDERBAL

MEDIA LINE ADVT

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for issuance of "D Class" Contractor card from the office of the R&B/Civil Branch of the Public Works Deptt (PWD) Srinagar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the above mentioned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Younus Maqbool Dar
S/o Maqbool Hussain Dar
R/o Nooripora Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nisar Malla S/o Gh. Mohd. Malla, R/o Hassanabad Rainawari, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that I am working in the Police Department as Sg. Constable, Belt No. 367/Security Kashmir, PID No. ARP 035598.

That my name has been recorded as "Nisar Hussain Malla" in my service records, whereas my true and correct name is "Nisar Malla", as reflected in my Matriculation/12th Certificate.

I intend to get my name corrected in my service records from "Nisar Hussain Malla" to "Nisar Malla."

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khawaja Arfaat Ahmad, hereby inform the general public that my name has been inadvertently recorded as "Khawaja Arfat Ahmad" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5436 7937 9657, whereas my correct and actual name is "Khawaja Arfaat Ahmad."

I have submitted the necessary supporting documents, including my old Aadhaar Card, newspaper cutting, 1st Class Magistrate Affidavit and Domicile Certificate, for verification and issuance of the Gazette Notification.

Accordingly, I intend to get my name corrected from Khawaja Arfat Ahmad to Khawaja Arfaat Ahmad in the Gazette and other relevant official records.

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Wikar Ahmad Khan, S/o Mohammad Dawood Ahmad Khan R/o Padgam Pora, Awantipora, hereby give notice to the general public that the Date of Birth of my daughter Adeevah Wikar has been mistakenly entered in her School Records as 09/03/2013. The correct Date of Birth of my daughter is 04/09/2013. Therefore, the concerned School Authorities and all other concerned departments/authorities are requested to kindly rectify/correct the Date of Birth in the school records from 09/03/2013 to 04/09/2013. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/- Wikar Ahmad Khan
Father of Adeevah Wikar
R/o Padgam Pora, Awantipora
Date: ____

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

ss

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from irshad Mushtaq kashoo to irshad Mushtaq in future I will be known as Irshad Mushtaq. If anybody has any objection may file to Regional Passport office (RPO), srinagar within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Irshad Mushtaq
H No 108 Hafiz colony behind police headquarters peer Bagh Srinagar pin 190011 Jammu and Kashmir India

ss

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No 4271-6767-6138. Now I want to change my name from IMONA AKHTER (Old Name) to AIMAN AKHTER (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- AIMAN AKHTER
D/O:- GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANIE
R/O:- check qadoos khansahib, Jammu And Kashmir- 191111

inf

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Bemina Srinagar.

The candidate whose photograph is above reports 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 YASMINA JAN
Fathers Name GH MOHAMMAD MIR
Mothers Name AAYESHA
Date Of Birth 06-03-1971
Residence 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 being treated as "CANCELLED"

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is wrongly registered on the name GH MOHI ULDIN SHAH S/O HABIBULLAH SHAH R/O. KREERI. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021040000583 wants to be registered on my correct name SYED GHULAM MOHI UD DIN S/O SYED HABIBULLAH. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...SYED GHULAM MOHI UD DIN
S/O...SYED HABIBULLAH
R/O .. KREERI
BLOCK..WAGOORA

fko

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-Annual 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 Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Sidakpreet Singh
Father's name: Davinderjit Singh
Mother's Name: Kulwinder Kour
DOB: 24-04-2006
Residence: Qadian Gurdaspur Punjab - 143516
Mobile no: 9103973235

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 2566 8971 9151 the name is entered as Ruqava Qazi while my actual name is Rukaya Chisti. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

RUKAYA CHISTI
W/O NAZIR AHMAD CHASTI
R/o OLD COLONY GOURIPORA RAWALPORA.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 6821 1027 9829 the name is entered as Salima while my actual name is Saleema Bano. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SALEEMA BANO
W/O BASHIR AHMAD BHAT
R/o RANGRAT BAGH KRAL PORA.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No 4031-4245-6162. Now I want to change my name from DEEBA (Old Name) to AISHA (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- AISHA
D/O:- IRSHAD AHMAD YATOO
R/O:- DORU khansahib, Jammu And Kashmir- 191111

inf

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL JAL SHAKTI DIVISION GANDERBAL

NEAR GIRAJ ---- PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, FAX-0194-2416246, EMAIL- exenifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

No:- I&FCD/Gbl/ 7343-50

Date: - 06.10.2026

Sub: - Extension of dates for e_NIT No: - 24 of 2026-27 issued under endorsement No: IFCD/GBL/CC/6628-77 Dated: 28.09.2026

EXTENSION NOTICE-1st

In order to call healthy competition for the aforementioned eNIT and as per the requests put-forth by the various Contractors, the dates of below mentioned tender ID's are hereby extended as per the details given below: -

S No	Bid Submission End Date	Bid opening date
01	09.10.2026 up to 04:00 PM	10.10.2026 up to 11:00 AM

Tender ID No: -

1) 2026_IFC_326255_1

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in e_NIT No: 24 of 2026-27.

Executive Engineer

Irri and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal

DIPK-6488/26
dated: 07-10-2026

Health & Medical Education Department, Govt. of J&K

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

Email ID: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

Subject: Engagement of Junior Resident in Government Medical College Anantnag.

Order No.: 723 -GMCA of 2026

Dated: 06-10-2026

Whereas, this office vide Advertisement Notice No. 08 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 24.04.2026 invited applications from the eligible candidates possessing requisite qualification for filling up tenure posts of Junior Residents in the Government Medical College, Anantnag; and Whereas, the written test for the said posts was conducted on 1st of June, 2026 at Main Campus Dialgam, GMC Anantnag; and Whereas, the merit list of the candidates who appeared in the said written test was published vide this office notification dated 16.06.2026; and

Whereas, on the basis of merit secured and vacancies available, candidates were selected as Junior Residents vide this office Notification No.'s 11 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 03.07.2026, 14 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 30.07.2026 and 17-GMCA of 2026, Dated: 09-09-2026, with directions to report the Establishment Section (Main Campus) of Govt. Medical College, Anantnag for verification of their credentials and documents; and

Whereas, in view of prevailing shortage of staff and the exigencies of patient care, the selected candidates were permitted to join and were allotted to various departments for provisional duties, subject to submission of an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate regarding the pending CID Verification reports; and

Whereas the CID Verification report in respect of the candidate mentioned below has been received by this office from the concerned quarters, and upon verification thereof, the below mentioned candidate is engaged as Junior Resident in Government Medical College, Anantnag, with effect from the date of his/her initial joining, for a period of six (06) months extendable upto maximum of one (01) year subject to the satisfactory performance to be certified by the concerned Head of the Department.

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Date of Joining	CID Verification Details	Department Alloted
1)	Shakir Naseer	14.09.2026	Form No.: 158411 Dated: 20.06.2026	General Surgery

Terms and Conditions:

1. The selected candidate shall have to submit an affidavit in the Establishment Section (Main Campus), Govt. Medical College Anantnag duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) to the effect that:

a) I understand and accept all the terms and conditions stipulated in the Agreement (Form A of S.O. 364 of 2020) and undertake to abide by all such terms and conditions duly executed by me.

b) My engagement shall be purely temporary and tenure-based and shall not confer upon me any right to claim regular appointment or continuation beyond the prescribed tenure.

c) My engagement shall remain subject to satisfactory performance, conduct, attendance and fulfilment of all applicable conditions, as certified by the concerned Head of the Department and approved by the competent authority.

d) In the event of unsatisfactory performance, misconduct, unauthorised absence, or violation of any of the terms and conditions of engagement, my engagement shall be liable to be terminated forthwith without any notice to that effect.

e) The tenure of my engagement shall initially be for a period of six (06) months, extendable up to a maximum period of one (01) year, subject to satisfactory performance, as certified by the concerned Head of the Department and approved by the competent authority.

f) I undertake that whenever I intend to leave, abandon or discontinue the post during the period of my engagement, I shall submit one month's prior notice to the institution. In case of failure to serve the requisite notice period, the salary for one month shall be liable to be withheld as per the applicable terms and conditions.

g) In the event of my leaving or discontinuing the post of Junior Resident before completion initial tenure of six (06) months, I shall not be entitled to claim an experience certificate in respect of the said engagement or violates the terms and conditions mentioned here.

2. During the tenure of engagement, the candidate shall be entitled to 7 1/2 days of Casual Leave. Any leave beyond the admissible entitlement, if sanctioned by the competent authority, shall be treated as leave without stipend/remuneration, as applicable under the prescribed terms and conditions.

3. Department allocation may be altered in the interest of institutional requirements.

4. The services of Junior Resident shall be liable to termination without prior notice in the event of misconduct, participation in any strike or unauthorized cessation of duties or unsatisfactory performance.

5. The engagement shall be full-time and non-practising in nature. The Junior Resident shall not undertake private practice or any other professional engagement during the period of tenure.

Prof. (Dr) Junaid S Wani,
Principal, Govt. Medical College,
Anantnag.

No. GMCA/Estt/2026/8659-64
DIPK-6498/26
Dated: 07-10-2026

GMC Sgr Faces Shortage of 347 Faculty, 1,853 Non-Gazetted Staff

Agencies

Srinagar: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar is facing a significant shortage of manpower, with 347 faculty posts, 1,853 non-gazetted posts and 158 gazetted posts lying vacant.

According to details obtained by KNO, the shortage has been reported across different categories of posts, raising concerns over the availability of adequate human resources for patient care, teaching and other hospital services at the premier healthcare institution.

The details reveal that GMC Srinagar has a sanctioned strength of 620 faculty posts, of which 347 are vacant, leaving only 273 positions filled.

Among the faculty posts, out of 125 sanctioned posts of Professors, 37 are vacant. Similarly, 107 posts are vacant out of 187 sanctioned Associate Professor posts.

The highest number of vacancies has been in the Assistant Professor category, where 203 posts are lying vacant against a sanctioned strength of 307.

The shortage is not confined to the teaching faculty. Among non-gazetted employees, 1,853 posts are vacant against a sanctioned strength of 4,840, leaving a substantial gap in the workforce required for day-to-day functioning of the institution.

Likewise, 158 posts are vacant among the gazetted category against a sanctioned strength of 379.

The vacancies assume significance as GMC Srinagar caters to a large number of patients not only from Srinagar but also from different districts of Kashmir and other parts of the Union Territory, with many patients being referred to the institution for specialised and tertiary-level treatment.

Patients and attendants said that adequate staffing is essential for ensuring timely consultations, investigations, procedures and other healthcare services, particularly in departments witnessing heavy patient footfall.

An attendant at the hospital said that patients often have to wait for consultations and other services and that strengthening

“Patients come here from different districts with the hope of receiving specialised treatment. Adequate staff is important so that patients can get consultations and other services without unnecessary delays

the available manpower could help improve the overall patient experience.

“Patients come here from different districts with the hope of receiving specialised treatment. Adequate staff is important so that patients can get consultations and other services without unnecessary delays,” the attendant said.

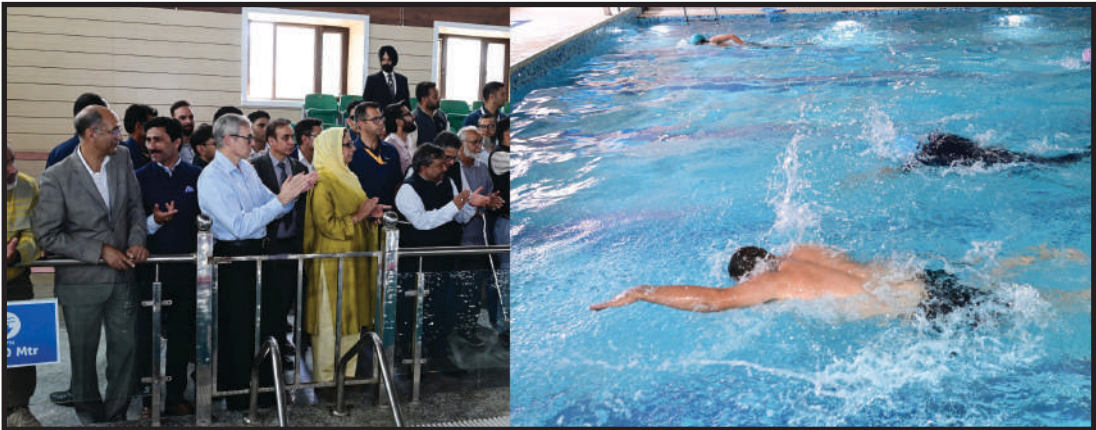
Another patient said that doctors and other healthcare workers are already dealing with a large number of patients and that filling vacant posts would help reduce the pressure on the existing workforce.

“We understand that doctors and staff have a heavy workload. If the vacant posts are filled, it can benefit both patients and the staff by improving the availability of services,” the patient said.

The shortage of faculty members also has implications for medical education and training, as GMC Srinagar serves as an important teaching institution for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students.

With hundreds of faculty posts vacant, the existing teaching staff has to shoulder responsibilities related to academics, clinical services, research and patient care.

Similarly, vacancies among gazetted and non-gazetted employees can affect administrative, technical, nursing, support and other essential services, depending on the departments and categories involved.



Srinagar Gets Olympic-Sized Swimming Pool, Indoor Gymnastics Hall

CM Omar Inaugurates ₹30.35-Cr Sports Infrastructure Package at Gindun Rajbagh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday inaugurated a 30.35-crore package of sports infrastructure at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi Sports Activity Centre (SKMSAC) at Gindun Rajbagh, significantly expanding facilities for swimming and gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir.

The newly developed infrastructure includes a 50-metre by 25-metre, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an all-weather heated training and toddler swimming pool, and a modern indoor gymnastics hall equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

The facilities aim to provide young athletes with access to specialised training, encourage participation in non-traditional sporting disciplines and create opportunities for year-round preparation, including during the winter months.

Speaking at the inauguration, Omar Abdullah said the new infrastructure would expose students and young athletes to a wider range of sporting disciplines and provide them with facilities to train throughout the year.

“Through this facility, we are trying to provide students with a new sports milieu. For example, there is an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Kashmir for the first time. Now, there is an arrangement for heating, which will be done through solar energy so that children can practise and train here for 12 months a year,” he said.

The main swimming pool has been constructed at a cost of 19.96 crore. It features 10 competition

lanes and diving platforms at one, three and five metres, besides modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems. The facility also includes changing rooms, washrooms, storage lockers and spectator seating for around 300 people. It has been designed to support competitive swimming, diving and other aquatic sporting activities.

Another component of the project is the 5.35-crore training and toddler swimming pool facility, which has been designed for year-round use. It includes a heating system, an indoor lap pool, a child-friendly toddler pool, anti-skid pool decking and modern filtration and disinfection systems, along with changing and shower facilities.

The facility is expected to cater to athletes and students as well as the wider community, while providing an avenue for sustained aquatic training during the winter season.

A 5.04-crore indoor gymnastics hall has also been established as part of the infrastructure package. Spread over 36 metres by 21 metres with a height of 10 metres, the hall has been equipped with modern gymnastics equipment and is expected to provide a dedicated training and coaching facility for aspiring gymnasts in Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has already been conducting coaching camps and working towards developing a dedicated Gymnastics Academy.

Highlighting the need for such infrastructure in Kashmir, the Chief Minister said there was considerable interest among children in taking up gymnastics, but the absence of dedicated facilities had

restricted their opportunities.

“Generally, when we talk about gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir, we only talk about Jammu. However, our children are interested in it and want to do it in Kashmir. But due to the lack of infrastructure, they could not do it,” Omar said.

“A magnificent indoor gymnastics hall was inaugurated today. In the same way, we will keep adding more sports so that we can give our children options and alternatives. And they can also develop an interest in new sports,” he added.

During the inauguration, the Chief Minister witnessed live swimming and gymnastics demonstrations by sportspersons and trainees at the newly developed facilities.

The new infrastructure is expected to strengthen grassroots participation in sports, widen access to professional coaching and create better pathways for young athletes to compete at national and international levels.

The availability of heated aquatic facilities is also expected to address one of the major constraints faced by swimmers in Kashmir by enabling regular training during the colder months.

Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary J&K Sports Council Tazayun Mukhtar Kawoosa, besides students, sportspersons and other concerned officers, were present at the inauguration.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

HIGHWAY STATUS
• Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
• Mughal Road - (Open)
• Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



HIJRI CALENDAR
25 Rabi-ul-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 06
ZUHR	12:19
ASR	4: 29
Magrib	6: 12
ISHA	7: 31

This Day In History

- 1480- Great Stand on the Ugra River: Standoff between forces of Akhmat Khan, Khan of the Great Horde, and Ivan III, Grand Prince of all Rus, ends with a Tatar-Mongol retreat, leading to the disintegration of the Horde
- 1619- Duke of Bavaria Maximilian I and Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II sign the Treaty of Munich
- 1625- English Admiral George Villiers' fleet sails from Plymouth to Cadiz, Spain
- 1740- Chinese assault on Diestpoort, Batavia
- 1769- Captain James Cook lands in New Zealand for the first time near present-day Gisborne on the East Coast of the North Island. A misunderstanding, possibly over a ceremonial challenge, causes the English to shoot and kill Ng ti Oneone leader Te Maro.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-22-R3-2025-26

Name of work : Electrical work in c/w Augmentation/Upgradation of Transformer, HT, LT and APFC panels in existing substation and other associated works over Firozpur Division.

App. Cost (in Rs.) : Rs. 1,36,26,912.02/-

Earnest Money (in Rs.) : Rs. 2,72,500.00/-

Completion Period : 06 Months

Opening of tender : 29.10.2026 after 17:00 hrs.

Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 24-R3-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 07.10.2026 3483/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Dept of Posts Holds Two Day Workshop on ‘One State One GST’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Posts organised a two-day Zone-wise Workshop on ‘One State One GST’ at Srinagar, on October 5th and 6th to review the preparedness and requirements for implementation of the initiative across the Department.

Col. Sagar Hanuman Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Jammu & Kashmir Postal Circle, inaugurated the workshop in the presence of Shri Shreeshaail Malge, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, Department of Posts, Dak Bhawan, New Delhi. The two-day workshop focused on the preparedness of participating Postal Circles and the operational requirements for implementation of ‘One State One GST’. The participants discussed implementation related issues, shared experiences and deliberated on measures for uniformity in GST related processes across the participating Circles.

Hindi Pakhwada Concludes at NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday concluded its Hindi Pakhwada celebrations with a valedictory ceremony and felicitation of winners and participants who excelled in various competitions and Hindi language examinations.

Organised by the Rajbhasha Cell, the programme featured competitions, awareness activities and training sessions aimed at encouraging the use of Hindi in official communication and strengthening its presence in the institute’s administrative functioning.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, while noted multilingual writer and broadcaster Dr. Satish Vimal attended as the Guest of Honour. The programme was attended by Dean P&D Dr. Yaswant Mehta, In-charge Hindi Officer Dr. R.P. Shukla, AR (Rajbhasha) and Hindi Teaching & Training Supervisor Mohammad Iqbal Dar, AR Accounts Shahid Hamid, Hindi Anuvadak Dr. Sabzar Gani Batoo, faculty coordinators of the Rajbhasha Cell and ministerial staff from various departments.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Principal

Government ANMT School Baramulla

Tel: 01952351001

Subject: Notification for admission to the leftover seats in various Paramedical Diploma Courses in Govt. ANMT School Baramulla.

Ref:- 1) S.O 333of 2024 dated:13-06-2024
2) Communication from JKBOPEE Vide No.BOPEE/Exam/15/2025 (7661343)

NOTIFICATION

The Application for admission against leftover seats undergoing Paramedical courses on the prescribed format at ANMT School Baramulla for session 2026-27, Notification in pursuance of followed by Standard Operating Procedures (SOP.s) issued by Administrative Department of Health & Medical Education vide No.378-JK(HME) dated: 13-06-2024, & State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K vide No. SAHC-J&K/NOTICE/leftover Diploma/1/547-52 dated: 24-09-2026.

The eligible candidates should submit their application forms complete in all respects from 09th October-2026 to 20th October-2026 to the office of undersigned along with the attested copies of the following certificates.

a. Domicile Certificate.
b. Date of Birth Certificate.
c. Marks Card 10th.
d. Marks Card 12th
e. Passport size Photograph

1. Selection will be purely made on merit basis i.e. marks obtained in 12th class.
2. If upon verification any certificate is found ineligible his/her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio. The details of the course/Duration/Intake/eligibility for admission are given below as under:

S.No	Name of the Course	Duration of the training Course	Leftover Seats	Eligibility
01	Medical Laboratory Technology	02 Years	18	
02	Medical Assistant	02 Years	47	
03	Dental Assistant	02 Years	48	
04	ECG Technology	02 Years	36	10+2 with Science (PCB/PCM)
05	X-Ray Asstt./Technology	02 Years	54	
06	Ophthalmic Assistant/Technology	02 Years	54	

Terms and Conditions
Only domicile of UT of J&K shall be admitted against the left-over seats.
A Candidate must have not crossed upper age 35 years as on 01-01-2026 Applicant must submit Medical Fitness Certificate at the time of admission.
Applicant must have passed 12th class examination.

Note:-
1. Application form can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
2. Incomplete forms will be rejected.

Principal
Govt. ANMT School
Baramulla

No. ANMT/BLA/2026-27/ 604-609
DIPK-6510/26
Dated: 07-10-2026

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

ہم سب اللہ ہی کے ہیں اور اسی کی طرف لوٹ کر جانے والے ہیں۔

تعزیت نامہ

نہایت ہی ر غم کے مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ہمارے پیارے والد محترم

جناب محمد لطیف صوفی

ساکن: کئی تر، لال بازار، سری نگر

اس فانی دنیا سے کوچ کر گئے ہیں۔

آپ سب سے گزارش ہے کہ انہیں اپنی دعاؤں میں یاد رکھیں اور ان کی مغفرت اور درجاتِ بلند کی (جنت الفردوس) کے لیے دعا فرمائیں۔

فاتحہ خوانی:

بروز جمعہ، بعد نماز جمعہ ٹھیک پونے تین بجے (2:45 PM)، دانا مزار، نور باغ، سری نگر

سری نگر میں انجام پائے گی۔

اس کے بعد گھر پر تعزیت یا کسی قسم کی اجتماعی دعا کا کوئی انتظام نہیں ہوگا۔

فاتحہ خوانی کے فوراً بعد قبرستان ہی میں تعزیت کا سلسلہ اختتام پذیر ہو جائے گا۔

اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جو اجر رحمت میں جگہ عطا فرمائے اور سوگوار خاندان کو صبر جمیل عطا فرمائے۔ آمین

سوگواران: اہل خانہ اور پسماندگان

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Where Does J&K's Health Money Go?

Government spending accounts for 71 percent of J&K's health expenditure, but the real test is whether that money delivers affordable medicines and reliable care to patients.



Irshad Mushtaq

A prescription for a long illness returns monthly, and with it the bill for medicines, consultations, diagnostic tests and the travel to reach them. Families living on that schedule know the price of a strip of tablets better than any budget speech does.

They also have a claim to understand what they pay for, and the evidence suggests the public purse in Jammu and Kashmir already pays more of the total than many residents assume. The Central Government should be credited for widening access to affordable medicines. The next task is proving that the money reaches the counter where the patient stands.

Government information shows household out-of-pocket spending falling from 62.6 percent of India's total health expenditure in 2014-15 to 39.4 percent in 2021-22.

That describes a smaller household share of the financing, which leaves open whether any particular family spent fewer rupees.

The verified National Health Accounts for 2021-22 put J&K government health spending at 4,336 per person against 3,169 nationally.

Government money made up 71 percent of J&K's health spending, while the national figure was 48 percent.

Households here paid 1,581 per person out of pocket, against 2,600 nationally, and total spending reached 6,104 per person against 6,602.

These figures cover the whole Union Territory, rather than the Kashmir division alone. A newer 2022-23 report exists, but mixing years would blur the comparison. Two of these numbers invite misuse.

J&K's 25.9 percent household share measures a slice of health spending and says nothing about the portion of a resident's income that goes to care.

The 1,866 crore in the 2026-27 budget is the Health and Medical Education capital allocation. Salaries and routine services lie elsewhere in the accounts, so dividing that sum by the population would invent a per-person figure that no document supports.

Public funding plainly has a large load here, and neither the Centre alone

nor the average family's experience can be read from it.

The Jan Aushadhi network is the most visible effort to make medicines more affordable.

A parliamentary reply counted 18,646 Kendras across India as of February 28, 2026. J&K had 355, compared with 3,944 in Uttar Pradesh, 1,755 in Kerala, 1,637 in Karnataka and 1,559 in Tamil Nadu.

But the number of shops tells only part of the story.

What really matters is how easily people can reach them, how well-stocked they are and how often patients use them.

Government information says the medicines cost 50 to 80 percent less than comparable branded products. They are made by WHO-GMP-compliant manufacturers and undergo batch testing at NABL-accredited laboratories.

They are generics, and the loose label "organic" belongs to neither the product nor the scheme.

Sales from 2021-22 through 2025-26

public health infrastructure and service management up to March 2022. Its overview lists medicine procurement and quality control, single-supplier purchase of suture items, store management, the non-implementation of e-Aushadhi, non-functional equipment, prescription auditing, financial management, staffing, infrastructure and regulation.

These issues warrant scrutiny, but appearing in an audit does not prove criminal fraud. The overview identifies no recipient of any commission and gives no estimate of financial loss. Its findings are also old.

Authorities owe the public the present position and the corrective action taken, so that nobody has to treat 2022 as today or dismiss it as history.

An idle machine, an empty medicine shelf or an unexplained delay costs a patient money even when the allocation was spent on paper. No verified administrative-cost percentage exists for J&K, so calling the salary bill or hospital overheads waste would mislead.

machinery looks like.

Tamil Nadu's Medical Services Corporation was incorporated in July 1994 and began buying, storing and distributing medicines in January 1995. Rajasthan's was set up in May 2011, and the state reports an essential list of 1,829 medicines, surgical items and sutures, plus more than 66 crore free diagnostic tests between April 2013 and December 2023, a count of services rather than patients or rupees saved.

Rajasthan also won recognition in 2024 for running its free-medicine scheme on e-Aushadhi, the software the J&K audit found unimplemented.

Checking where J&K stands today costs little.

England sells a prepayment certificate that fixes the cost of chargeable NHS prescriptions for a period, and Australia cut its general PBS co-payment to A\$25 per prescription from January 2026. The US Department of Justice announced charges against 324 defendants in June 2025 over alleged schemes with US\$14.6 billion in intended losses, though charges are not convictions and intended losses are not actual ones.

No system on this list has ended shortages, hardship or fraud.

A patient-first agenda follows from the disparities. J&K can publish essential-medicine availability and shortage-resolution procedures, strengthen supplies at existing Jan Aushadhi outlets and report corrective action on audit findings.

It can make procurement and supplier performance auditable, explain prescriptions and treatment duration with clinically suitable cheaper options, and provide itemised bills with reasons for diagnostic tests.

Documented conflicts of interest can be investigated fairly, and district-level costs, travel burdens and household hardship can be measured.

Patients with PM-JAY grievances can call helpline 14555, and the Anti-Corruption Bureau takes information on alleged corruption. Prescriptions, bills, dates and messages turn a complaint into something an investigator can act on.

Kashmir can do without blind trust and blanket suspicion. A budget announcement ends when the speech does, while the prescription returns next month and the bill returns with it.

Whether the number printed there has come down is the audit most families will ever conduct.

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

KO VIEW

Stop Digging Kashmir

There is something absurd about spending public money to repair a road and then allowing another department to dig it open again. Kashmir has lived with this for years.

A road gets built, the surface is repaired, traffic returns, and soon another agency arrives with cables to lay. The work begins again, so does the expense.

The proposed Common Duct Policy 2026 could put an end to much of this needless disruption. Its basic idea is sensible: telecom, internet and power cables would use shared underground ducts, giving agencies a common route for their networks instead of repeatedly cutting into finished roads.

Such a policy should have come much earlier. Still, what matters now is whether it changes the way government departments work.

Kashmir's problem here is hardly a shortage of money or engineering skill. It is the habit of agencies working on their own. One department plans a road, another plans a cable, while a third comes later with another utility project. The road becomes the place where these separate plans collide.

Poor coordination comes at a cost for the public. Roads are dug up soon after repairs, traffic is disrupted and surfaces are damaged. Fresh public money then goes into fixing damage that better planning could have prevented.

There is also a human cost that rarely appears in government project figures. People arrange their daily lives around roadwork.

Businesses face disruption, commuters lose time, and residents watch public works being undone almost as soon as they are completed. After a while, such scenes create a weary acceptance that government work will always mean another round of digging.

That attitude is dangerous, as it lowers expectations of public administration.

The Common Duct Policy gives the government a chance to raise those expectations again.

A road project should take account of utility work planned for the same area. Departments dealing with power, telecommunications and internet services should know what others are planning before fresh surfaces are laid. Underground utilities need proper mapping, while contractors need clear rules. Departments that ignore the system need to answer for the consequences.

The policy will also test whether Kashmir can move away from a culture in which departments measure success by the completion of their own projects. A road department can say a road has been repaired. A utility agency can say its cables have been laid. Both may be right. The public experience can still be one of repeated disruption and wasted spending.

Good public administration is sometimes about avoiding work that never needed to be done twice.

That is why the Common Duct Policy should be treated as a serious governance reform, rather than another technical rule. Its success should be judged by what people see on the ground: fewer freshly repaired roads being opened, fewer repeated excavations and less public money spent fixing damage caused by poor coordination.

Kashmir has enough roads that need genuine repair. It can stop creating new reasons to dig them up.

Lost in the Salon

A public beating on Boulevard Road and the vanished barber shops of old Srinagar suggest that Kashmir's young have lost the places where they were known.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

During the morning rush on Boulevard Road in Srinagar, a woman swung her car in front of another and forced it to stop.

She stepped out, seized two young boys and began to slap and kick them while traffic stacked up behind her.

We pulled over and ran to intervene. She turned on us instead.

"Please don't stop me," she shouted. "These boys have been teasing me ever since Dalgate. They are of the same age as my own children."

After we helped clear the road, we asked her again to let them go, telling her they had probably learnt the lesson of their lives. She pointed at their unusual hairstyles and earrings.

Their parents, she thundered, had allowed such haircuts without caring about the company their sons kept. She was taking the boys to

the police station so those parents would learn how they behaved.

Whether she was right to judge them by their appearance is open to debate. The judgment itself interests me more, because I suspect she was applying an old rule: a haircut tells a neighbourhood who raised you.

Our home kept that rule on the first Sunday of the month.

As the youngest, I went to invite the barber, Wasta Sidiq, who arrived in traditional attire with his simple tools, just as his father had once come to my grandfather's household.

Trust, familiarity and mutual respect held the arrangement together through generations, with no written contract anywhere in it.

The whole family sat for haircuts under our father's watchful eyes. Fashionable styles and experiments were out of the question, since a neat, classic cut was taken as proof of good upbringing, discipline and a respectable family. Appearance was expected to match character.

Consider what that arrangement meant for a boy.

His head was supervised by his father, trimmed by a man who knew his family's history, and judged by neighbours who shared the standard.

The woman on Boulevard Road seemed to be looking for that supervision, and finding no one to

The two boys on Boulevard Road had hair that someone had been paid to cut. The woman who followed them from Dalgate found nobody in the city whose work was to watch them, so she called the police station and their parents to account, and used her own hands in between.

supply it, she supplied it herself, with her hands.

The barber's chair also taught arithmetic. Many of my school friends received fifty paise for a haircut and set out to find a barber who charged a few paise less, so the difference could go to sweets.

Barbers worked almost anywhere along the roadside, and in many neighbourhoods a cup of rice settled the bill, so barter lived alongside cash.

Outside Hotel Lala Rukh in Lal Chowk, under the zig zag pavement, a row of roadside barbers sat with customers waiting around them.

A slip of the razor during a shave was com-

mon, and the barber would rub a piece of alum over the cut. Customers learnt to endure the sharp sting without complaint.

His work went well beyond hair. He trimmed fingernails and shaved armpits, especially for the elderly in the family, and no haircut finished without a vigorous head massage.

The koshur barber kneaded the scalp, tapped the head with his fingertips and ended with gentle, tingling movements that left a person refreshed.

Free advice came with it, on health, family matters, village happenings and how to live a disciplined life.

That old hairdresser was part therapist, part adviser and part family friend.

In our twenties, choosing a barber of our own became a sign of independence, and the neighbourhood shops had a charm of their own.

Calendars from several past years hung one over another on the walls, because nobody had the heart or the time to remove the old ones, and torn film posters covered the cracks.

Our local barber served as the unofficial newspaper of the locality.

Births, weddings, quarrels, property disputes, examination results, promotions and engagements all reached him, often before the people concerned.

He also kept a private habit of renaming his

customers after Bollywood actors.

A cunning fellow became Pran, the screen villain, a cheerful and humorous man became Dhumal, and a gentle man devoted to his household became Om Prakash.

Regulars understood the names at once, and the satire stayed harmless.

A man who heard about engagements before the couples did would surely have known the boys in his lane, their fathers and the company they kept.

Any boy with a strange haircut would have been known there, already named, teased and talked about by elders who could correct him with a joke instead of a slap.

Today's salons have cushioned chairs, air-conditioning and fashionable styling, but nobody in them is paid to notice who a boy is.

The two boys on Boulevard Road had hair that someone had been paid to cut. The woman who followed them from Dalgate found nobody in the city whose work was to watch them, so she called the police station and their parents to account, and used her own hands in between.

The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir. He can be reached at mbhatilias@gmail.com.

Building J&K's Place in India's GCC Future



Atal Dulloo

On 9 and 10 October 2026, something quite interesting is going to happen at IIM Jammu. The J&K GCC Summit 2026, being organised by IIM Jammu in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and in knowledge partnership with NASSCOM, will bring together some of the country's leading Global Capability Centre (GCC) companies, policymakers, academics and industry leaders.

But I believe the significance of these two days goes well beyond a summit. For perhaps the first time, some of the senior-most administrative leaders of Jammu and Kashmir will sit across the table with leaders of India's GCC industry in a series of candid, no-holds-barred conversations about a question that matters deeply to us: What will it take for Jammu and Kashmir to enter India's growing GCC ecosystem, and to do so as a credible Tier-2 and Tier-3 destination?

That may sound like a familiar proposition at a business summit. It is not. Economic growth is ultimately driven by two sets of stakeholders—the government that creates the enabling environment and the businesses that take the risk of investing in it. Genuine growth begins when these two sides are willing to listen to each other, ask difficult questions and speak honestly about what works and what does not. That is precisely the spirit in which we are approaching the J&K GCC Summit.

Let me explain why.

In June 2025, a train crossed the Chenab on the world's highest railway arch bridge, connecting the Kashmir Valley to the national rail network. The bridge was decades in the making. Its deeper value, however, can be expressed in one word that matters as much to an investor as it does to a traveller: predictability. A journey that once depended heavily on weather and a single highway can now be planned with greater certainty.

That is the journey we want to begin for J&K's GCC ecosystem. Building a significant GCC destination will not happen overnight. It may take years. Perhaps decades. But the journey can be made predictable if we learn from those who have already travelled it. Be they leading GCC companies or States that have successfully attracted such investments.

That is why the Summit is bringing industry leaders together with representatives of States such as Gujarat, Bihar and Tamil Nadu, which have valuable lessons to share. We do not intend to reinvent the wheel. We want to understand what has worked elsewhere, what has not, and what can be adapted to J&K's own circumstances.

The opportunity before us.

India already hosts more than 2,200 capability centres employing around 1.9 million professionals and generating close to USD 65 billion in annual exports. Importantly, more than 220 of these centres have already chosen Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The next phase of the GCC story is increasingly moving beyond the established metropolitan centres, with locations outside the metros expected to account for a substantial share of the sector's future workforce.

This is where J&K must position itself. The question is not whether Jammu and Kashmir can replicate Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai or Pune. We should not try to become another metro. Our opportunity lies in becoming a different kind of GCC destination.

Over the last decade, the case for J&K has changed significantly. Rail and road connectivity has been transformed and air connectivity has expanded. The Union Territory today has an institutional ecosystem that includes an IIM, an IIT and an AIIMS, alongside CSIR-IIIM, NIT Srinagar, the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and the prestigious Universities of Jammu / Kashmir, among several other institutions offering new-age and specialised programmes.

In addition to that we also have something that every GCC ultimately needs—human resource. Jammu and Kashmir has a young, educated and increasingly aspirational population. Its universities and technical institutions are producing talent across disciplines. Office, talent and utility costs remain competitive compared to established metropolitan locations. And the security environment today provides a foundation for businesses to plan



for the long term.

Yet a good proposition is not enough. An investor looking at a new location will ask some very practical questions. Who will take my decision? How long will my approvals take? Where will my people sit on the first day? And who will do the work? The answers to these questions can determine where a GCC chooses to locate, often more decisively than the headline value of an incentive.

We have to answer each of them.

The first is facilitation. The hardest part of entering a new region for an established business is often not the investment itself, but understanding whom to approach and how to navigate the system. In J&K, an investor should not have to make multiple rounds of enquiries across Departments. The investor should have one phone call or one email to make.

We therefore need a named facilitation officer, with the authority to convene Departments, resolve issues and remain accountable as a single point of contact for the prospective investor. If banks can provide relationship managers to their customers, there is no reason why government cannot provide the same degree of institutional ownership to an investor.

The second question is time.

Approvals relating to registration, premises, power, fire safety and labour compliance should carry clear and published timelines. These should be tracked through the single-window system and, importantly, measured against

actual performance. An investor can plan around a known timeline. It is uncertainty that stalls a project. Strict adherence to prescribed timelines translates to confidence which is quintessential for attracting investments.

The third question is space and infrastructure.

J&K needs to identify and earmark ready-to-occupy office spaces in both Jammu and Srinagar, with floor plates, tenure and tariffs clearly stated in advance. A GCC that decides to come here should be able to occupy its premises within months, not years. The space has to exist before the decision is made.

There is also a unique advantage here that few locations can offer. Jammu and Srinagar are two major cities within one Union Territory, under one administration, one policy framework and one institutional point of contact. They draw upon different talent pools and can potentially serve as primary and continuity locations for the same GCC. A company should be able to scale across both cities without having to navigate two different administrations.

The fourth question is people.

Our commitment has to be simple: skilling must respond to actual employer demand. Here comes the role of Mission YUVA and our technical institutions. Mission YUVA, the Skill Development institutions, our universities and the ITI network being upgraded under PM-SETU must increasingly train people for specific roles, in specific numbers and within specific timelines.

every question and every answer over these two days will be an opportunity for us to learn and, equally important, to allow industry to tell us what it needs from us.

We are not approaching the Summit merely to showcase J&K. We are approaching it to listen. If we want global capability centres to look beyond the metros, then we must demonstrate that a Tier-2 or Tier-3 location can offer something equally compelling: access to talent, competitive costs, quality institutions, reliable infrastructure, responsive governance and, above all, confidence that commitments made today will hold tomorrow.

Jammu and Kashmir has many of these ingredients. The task before us is to bring them together into an ecosystem that works.

Our entrepreneurial spirit is gathering momentum. Our young people are increasingly looking towards new-age sectors and new forms of enterprise. The GCC ecosystem can benefit from this talent and ambition, even as its presence here can accelerate the development of that very ecosystem.

The Path Forward

I do not believe J&K needs to become the biggest GCC destination in India. I believe it can become one of the most differentiated.

We have learnt something from building the Chenab Rail Bridge. Great journeys begin with an audacious idea, but they are completed through engineering, patience, persistence and thousands of smaller decisions made correctly along the way.

The GCC journey will be no different. We have the ambition. We have the foundations. We have a growing pool of talent. What we now need is execution, industry partnership and the patience to build for the long term.

The first J&K GCC Summit is therefore not the culmination of a journey. It is the beginning of one. And if we get the beginning right, I believe the destination is within reach. A GCC ecosystem that proves that the next generation of India's growth need not come only from its largest cities, but can also emerge from its most promising Tier-2 and Tier-3 centres.

Jammu and Kashmir is ready to make that journey. The promise is not that it will happen overnight. The promise is that we are ready to make it happen.

(The writer is Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu and Kashmir)

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, pension, gratuity, power subsidy and social benefits take the largest share of UT's annual budget.

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. If 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 tariff subsidy, 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 nucleus 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 may 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 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.

Agriculture Production Department.

Sarmad Hafeez, IAS (AGMUT: 2009) Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department.

Ramesh Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2011) Divisional Commissioner, Jammu (Additional charge of the posts of Additional CEO, Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority and Resident Commissioner, J&K Govt., New Delhi) has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Culture Department, and continue to hold the charge of Resident Commissioner, J&K Govt., New Delhi.

Naveen S L, IAS (AGMUT: 2012), Secretary to the Government, Civil Aviation Department (Addl. charge of Commissioner, Civil Aviation) has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K.

Avny Lavasa, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Secretary to the Government, Transport Department (Additional Charge of the posts of Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department and Tribal Affairs Department) has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department. She shall continue to hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department.

Anjali Sehrawat, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Public Grievances Department.

Vikas Kundal, IAS (AGMUT: 2013) Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board has been transferred and posted as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Additional CEO, Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority.

Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu, IAS (AGMUT: 2013) Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K has been transferred and posted as Inspector General of Registration, J&K relieving Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray, IAS of the additional charge.

Rahul Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2014) Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation Limited (Additional charge of MD, JK Power Corporation Limited) has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department relieving Sh. Saurabh Bhagat, IAS of the additional charge of the Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation Limited.

Owais Ahmed, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), Director, Skill Development J&K (Additional charge of Special Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department) has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department. He shall also hold additional charge of the post of Director, Skill Development J&K.

Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), Special Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department (Additional charge of Mission Director HADP, JKCI, Agristack & Inspector General of Registration, J&K) has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (Additional charge of the posts of CEO, SPV, Jammu City and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri.

Rakesh Minhas, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Jammu has been transferred and posted as CEO, State Health Agency, J&K with additional charge of MD, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, J&K.

Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara has been transferred and posted as Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board.

Akriti Sagar, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K (Additional charge of Special Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department) has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation with additional charge of CEO, J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA).

Athar Aamir UI Shafi Khan, IAS (RJ: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Budgam has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K.

Basharat Qayoom, IAS (JH: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with additional charge of CEO, SPV for Srinagar City for implementation of the Smart City Project.

Ms Ayushi Sudan, IAS (AGMUT: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Samba has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation with additional charge of the posts of CEO, SPV, Jammu City and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission, (Urban).

Minga Sherpa, IAS (AGMUT: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS (AGMUT: 2018), Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production

Department. He shall hold the additional charge of Mission Director HADP and JKCI.

Abhishek Sharma, IAS (CG: 2018), Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara.

Rupesh Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2019), Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Samba.

Jatin Kishore, IAS (AGMUT:2020), Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Budgam.

M Shreya Singhal, IAS (AGMUT: 2020), Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation (Additional charge of CEO, JK ERA and Director, Information, J&K) has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal.

Ananth Dwivedi, IAS (AGMUT: 2021) CEO, State Health Agency, J&K with additional charge of MD, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, J&K and Additional Secretary to the Govt., Revenue Department has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur.

Mamta Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Director, Information, J&K.

Mahima Madan, IAS (AGMUT: 2021) Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Anantnag.

Vidhu Shekhar, IAS (AGMUT: 2021) Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority.

Pranjal Hazarika, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla has been transferred and posted as Director, J&K Archives, Archaeology and Museums.

Vivek Agarwal, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam has been transferred and posted as Director, Employment, J&K with additional charge of CEO, Mission YUVA.

Ishita Rathi, IAS (AGMUT: 2022), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu vice Sh. Vidhu Shekhar, IAS

Vikas Ahlawat, IAS (AGMUT: 2022), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Labour Commissioner, J&K.

Prince Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2023), Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri has been transferred and posted as OSD, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB).

Gaurav Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2024), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri.

Seerat Baji, IAS (AGMUT: 2024), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (West).

Ms Leena Padha, IAS (AGMUT), Mission Director, Skill Development Mission has been transferred and posted as Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K vice Md. Shafiq Chak who shall report to General Administration Department for further posting.

Rajinder Singh Tara, IAS (AGMUT) Secretary in the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment has been transferred and posted as Secretary in the Revenue Department.

Anoo Malhotra, IAS (AGMUT), Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K has been transferred and posted as Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission.

Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, JKAS, Director, J&K Archives, Archaeology and Museums has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

Charandeep Singh, JKAS, Labour Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Shopian.

Rakesh Kumar, JKAS Additional Deputy Commissioner, Reasi has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Lok Bhawan.

Sachin Jamwal, JKAS, Additional Secretary JKPCSP has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kathua.

Sushil Kesar, JKAS, Deputy CEO, SASB has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Reasi.

Irfan Bahadur, JKAS Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (West) has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Budgam.

Afroza Bano, JKAS Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Budgam has been transferred and shall await in the General Administration Department for further posting. By Order of the Lieutenant Governor.

Gravity Of Offence

facing trial in FIR No. 17/2023 registered at Police Station Rajbagh under Sections 8/21, 29 and 27-A of the NDPS Act. The case pertains to the alleged recovery of 11 kilograms of heroin-like substance and Rs 11.82 lakh in cash from premises occupied by the principal accused, Sajad Ahmad Badana.

According to the prosecution, Khayal Shafi had conspired with the principal accused and other co-accused in procuring and transporting narcotics, while part of the alleged sale proceeds was deposited into his bank account. The petitioner, however, maintained that the financial transaction was connected with a loan extended to his brother-in-law.

The court also took note of the fact that co-accused Abdul Rashid Kohli had

already been granted bail on substantially similar allegations. It found that the prosecution had failed to point out any material distinction justifying a different approach in Badana's case.

On the issue of call records, the court held that mere frequency of communication, without material indicating what had actually transpired during the conversations, could not by itself establish the petitioner's knowledge of the alleged narcotics activities.

Similarly, the court observed that deposits or transfers into a bank account could not automatically be treated as proceeds of drug trafficking in the absence of material establishing their nexus with the alleged offence.

The court, while noting the grave threat posed by narcotic trafficking to public health and social order, particularly its impact on the younger generation, emphasised that the seriousness of the offence alone could not justify prolonged pre-trial detention.

Accordingly, the court directed Badana's release on bail.

3 Vacancies, A Long

Former minister and NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, for instance, is a five-time MLA. Other senior legislators also have substantial political and electoral experience, making the choice of three names particularly sensitive.

The exercise, therefore, is not merely about filling vacancies. Omar will also have to manage the political fallout among those who are left out.

The cabinet expansion has already been delayed through several possible timelines. It was initially linked to the National Conference's Jantar Mantar protest for restoration of statehood, while Omar later indicated that the exercise would not take place before August 15. Both timelines passed without any change in the Council.

The autumn Assembly session subsequently emerged as another possible window. The session concluded on September 30, but the Council of Ministers remained unchanged. The government's second anniversary on October 16 was later seen as another possible occasion for the exercise.

Omar's latest remarks have now revived expectations that a decision could finally be taken.

The Congress factor, which had figured prominently in the earlier discussions, has also altered the political arithmetic. The National Conference had offered its alliance partner a cabinet berth, but Congress declined to join the government and maintained that it would remain outside the government until restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and constitutional rights.

With Congress not taking up the offered position, the limited vacancies can now potentially be used for NC legislators. But that has also made the internal competition for the three berths sharper.

The Chief Minister could also opt for a wider reshuffle-cum-expansion instead of simply filling the vacancies. Several ministers are handling multiple departments, and a reshuffle could allow the government to redistribute portfolios while accommodating newer faces.

Such a move, however, could create another layer of political sensitivity if sitting ministers lose important portfolios or are dropped.

The choice could also test Omar's approach towards seniority and generational change. While several experienced legislators are seeking a place in the Council, younger and first-time legislators have also emerged as significant voices within the party.

Political observers say the prolonged delay itself reflects the difficulty of balancing these competing demands.

"Once the number of aspirants becomes much larger than the number of available berths, a cabinet expansion becomes a political exercise rather than an administrative one. The Chief Minister has to calculate the reaction of those who are left out as much as the benefits of those who are inducted," a political analyst said.

Another analyst said the exercise could test Omar's authority within the party.

"Every cabinet expansion creates winners and losers. In the present circumstances, the number of aspirants is large and the space is very limited. If some senior legislators are repeatedly overlooked, it can create resentment within the party," the analyst said.

Sources in political circles said some legislators and their supporters have been lobbying for ministerial berths and have grown increasingly impatient over the delay.

The possibility of dissent within the party is consequently another factor Omar will have to consider while making the final choice, although there is no established indication of any organised rebellion within the NC.

The consultation with Farooq Abdullah is therefore significant not only as a formal party-level exercise but also because of the competing political interests involved in the selection of the new ministers.

For Omar, the central challenge is clear: there are only three berths, while the number of legislators with claims to a place in the Council is much larger.

The decision will consequently test his ability to balance seniority, political representation, administrative requirements and internal party expectations, while keeping the ruling National Conference united. (inputs from KNS)

Omar Warns SIR

Kashmir similarly to the delimitation exercise.

"There is a possibility that the SIR could be used in J&K in a manner similar to what had happened during the delimitation

exercise. We have already been victims of this game. We have not forgotten the delimitation," he said.

Omar alleged that the purpose of the delimitation exercise was to benefit the BJP and expressed apprehension that a similar situation could emerge during the proposed revision of electoral rolls.

The Chief Minister also referred to the proceedings underway in the Supreme Court, particularly in connection with Form 6, and expressed hope that the process would make it more difficult to exclude eligible people from the electoral rolls.

"I hope it will be difficult for them to get people out of the voter list," he said.

CEC Protests Part Of INDIA Bloc Programme

On the protests related to the Chief Election Commissioner and the detention of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Omar questioned the government's failure to initiate defamation proceedings against The Indian Express if its reporting was incorrect.

"If this is all fabrication, then why don't you take action against them? I have not seen any defamation against them. What The Indian Express has written is right. If it was not written, then the government would have taken action against them," he said.

"At least there would have been defamation," Omar added.

He said the ongoing protests were part of a programme announced by INDIA bloc leaders following their recent meeting in Delhi.

"This is the result of the INDIA bloc meeting that took place in Delhi the other day. And the calendar of the whole month was presented to the media. We are taking that forward," he said.

Omar's remarks come amid political debate over the proposed revision of electoral rolls and the INDIA bloc's protests on issues concerning the Election Commission.

Govt Postpones

among senior government officials, divisional and district administrations, heads of departments, public sector undertakings, constitutional and statutory bodies, and other concerned offices.

Hail Lashes J&K

Katra received 19 mm of rainfall, while Bhaderwah recorded 4 mm and Jammu 0.6 mm during the 24-hour period ending Wednesday morning. Srinagar recorded trace rainfall, while Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kulkernag, Gulmarg and Konibal received trace or no measurable rainfall.

The Meteorological Centre has forecast intermittent rain and showers at some places, along with the possibility of thunderstorms and gusty winds during the ongoing weather spell.

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 forenoon hours.

Generally dry weather is expected from October 11 to the evening of October 13, after which another spell of generally cloudy weather with light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds is forecast on October 14 and 15.

The weather office has advised people to take necessary precautions during periods of strong winds and stay away from loose structures, electric wires and old trees.

Farmers have also been advised to make arrangements for the safe storage of harvested apple and paddy crops between October 6 and 10 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

Despite the rain and hailstorm, no major weather-related damage or widespread disruption has been officially reported so far.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 24.6 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, 0.9 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 9 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 25 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.8 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 19 degrees and 9.2 degrees respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 24.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10 degrees, while Kulkernag recorded 24.4 degrees and 9.8 degrees respectively.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 14.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest among the Valley stations, while its minimum temperature was 6.8 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 32.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.9 degrees. Kathua recorded the highest maximum temperature in the division at 33.6 degrees, while Katra recorded 29.6 degrees.

The Meteorological Centre has advised residents to remain cautious during the forecast wet and windy conditions as another spell of unsettled weather is expected later in the week.

Medical Interns

association said.

The development comes after MBBS and BDS interns suspended their agitation last month following an assurance by the Health Minister that their stipend will be hiked and the formal order will be issued. The interns have sought an increase in the stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000 per month.

The interns had set October 9 as the

deadline for the government to fulfil its written assurance, with a warning that they could launch a hunger strike from October 10 if the order was not issued.

With the latest assurance from the authorities, the intern representatives have decided to wait for a few more days before taking any further step.

The association said its decision to defer the agitation was based entirely on the assurance given by the concerned authorities and that failure to adhere to the promised timeline would compel the interns to resume their planned course of action.

The interns have also urged Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo to intervene personally and ensure that the stipend enhancement order is issued at the earliest, saying the matter has remained pending despite repeated assurances.(KNO)

SC To Examine

CJI Surya Kant on the administrative side for constitution of a bench of appropriate strength for an effective and authoritative adjudication.

On Wednesday, a bench comprising the Chief Justice of India and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was told about the recall application by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

"We will examine and take a call," the CJI said.

Sankaranarayanan told the bench that the recall application had earlier been mentioned before a bench headed by Justice Datta, but the matter had subsequently been released from that bench and he was asked to mention it before the CJI.

"There is a split verdict on the Chief Election Commissioner issue. We have mentioned an application for recall of the judgment," the senior advocate said.

When the CJI asked whether there was any other interlocutory application (IA), Sankaranarayanan said that a curative petition had also been filed, but added that the recall application was a separate plea.

"A curative petition has been filed. That, I think, will have to go in its own form. Whether it is maintainable, I don't know. Ours is an IA seeking recall of the judgment. Curative often requires a review," he said.

The development comes after a two-judge bench of Justices Datta and Sharma delivered split opinions on September 23 on the Centre's plea seeking reference of the challenge to the 2023 law to a larger Constitution Bench.

Justice Datta declined the Centre's request for such a reference, while Justice Sharma favoured placing the matter before a larger bench.

In view of the difference of opinion, the matter was placed before the Chief Justice for the constitution of an appropriate bench.

The petitions had challenged the constitutional validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which replaced the selection mechanism laid down by the Supreme Court in its March 2, 2023 judgment.

In that judgment, a five-judge Constitution bench had directed that the CEC and ECs be appointed by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

Parliament subsequently enacted the 2023 law, under which the selection committee comprises the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet minister nominated by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The CJI is now not part of the statutory selection panel.

5 Terrorist

further investigation is underway.

J&K Govt Sacks

Superintendent later reported her continued absence through communications dated March 25 and April 23, 2024, and sought appropriate action under the rules.

The Government order said her prolonged absence had adversely affected patient care in the Surgical Department, where only one Consultant Surgeon was available.

The Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, subsequently issued a show-cause notice to Dr Nanda on June 6, 2024, directing her to resume duty within five days. She was also warned that failure to join could lead to disciplinary proceedings.

In her reply dated June 25, 2024, Dr Nanda cited personal circumstances for her absence, stating that her mother-in-law had been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and had undergone multiple surgeries requiring prolonged treatment outside Jammu and Kashmir.

She said she was the only available attendant to accompany her mother-in-law and requested that her absence be considered sympathetically on humanitarian grounds.

However, according to the order, Dr Nanda did not subsequently resume her duties.

The case was forwarded to the Administrative Department only on February 3, 2026, despite the show-cause notice having been issued in June 2024. The department sought details from the concerned authorities regarding the delay in submitting the case.

The Administrative Department issued another show-cause notice to Dr Nanda on June 3, 2026, asking her to explain her continued unauthorised absence and show cause why action should not be taken against her.

In her latest representation, submitted in July 2026, Dr Nanda did not express willingness to resume government service. Instead, she requested the competent authority to accept her resignation.

The Government said her conduct indicated that she had failed to satisfactorily complete the prescribed period of probation.

Invoking Rule 21(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, read with Article 128 of the J&K Civil Service Regulations, Volume-I, the Government terminated her probation and discharged her from the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service with effect from March 1, 2024, the date from which she remained unauthorisedly absent.

J&K Crosses 55%

dependent on bank financing. Of 61,566 loan applications submitted, 17,416 have been rejected, including 14,232 in KPDCL areas. Meanwhile, 38,773 cases have been sanctioned and disbursed, while 5,367 remain under process.

Dulloo directed the Discoms to take up all rejected loan cases with the concerned banks, ascertain the reasons for rejection and resolve the issues so that eligible consumers are not denied the benefits of the scheme due to financing bottlenecks.

He also directed the Discoms to ensure proportionate distribution of vendors across districts to improve their availability and accelerate installations.

The Chief Secretary sought district-wise progress from Deputy Commissioners and asked them to identify and resolve impediments through coordinated intervention by the concerned agencies.

Government Buildings

The meeting also reviewed solarisation of government buildings. Against a CAPEX target of 12,994 buildings, 8,850 have been solarised with a combined capacity of 95.64 MW.

This includes 4,793 buildings covered under PM Surya Ghar and hybrid projects with a capacity of 41.50 MW, while another 4,057 buildings have been solarised under the ongoing programme with a capacity of 54.14 MW.

Work on the remaining projects is at various stages. Materials have been supplied to 1,300 buildings, 943 sites are under active implementation and surveys are underway for another 1,901 buildings.

Under the RESCO mode, JAKEDA has proposed solarisation of 8,000 government buildings with a cumulative capacity of 152 MW, with work orders already placed for 5,185 buildings. NHPC has also proposed solarisation of 1,500 government buildings with a capacity of 23 MW under the arrangement.

The meeting was informed that a Power Purchase Agreement for 8 MW has been signed for the Health and Medical Education Department in Jammu, while a solarisation survey of School Education Department buildings in Jammu is underway.

Dulloo directed JAKEDA to coordinate installation of meters with the respective Discoms alongside solar installations so that metering does not delay commissioning.

He also directed the PDD to ensure installation of smart meters and called for expeditious completion of PPAs and other administrative formalities.

The Chief Secretary further asked JAKEDA to accelerate work under the RESCO mode, noting that progress under the component remained slow.

He called for time-bound action and close coordination among agencies to resolve financing, vendor availability, metering, PPA and execution-related bottlenecks and ensure that completed solar projects become operational without delay.

J&K Sets Oct 10-11

while Forms 7 and 8 will be used for deletion and correction or updation of electoral details, respectively.

Citizens will be able to submit the forms physically at polling stations as well as digitally through the Voter Helpline App.

The CEO also directed BLOs to undertake door-to-door outreach to identify eligible citizens who may have been left out of the electoral rolls. The exercise will particularly focus on youth, first-time voters, women, Persons with Disabilities and other eligible citizens requiring assistance.

The department has also planned regular weekend voter enrolment and facilitation drives, providing citizens with additional opportunities to approach their nearest polling station for enrolment and updation of electoral details.

Verma directed DEOs, EROs and AEROs to undertake institutional and public outreach to create awareness about the initiative.

He also called for regular ground-level updates through official social media platforms, with information carrying details of the concerned polling station, Assembly Constituency and district to help citizens access facilities available in their respective areas.

Urging eligible citizens to participate in the drive, Verma asked them to visit their nearest polling station on October 10 or 11 and avail themselves of the enrolment and facilitation services.

He emphasised the need for active citizen participation to keep the electoral rolls complete, accurate and inclusive.

The Election Department said the initiative was aimed at making voter enrolment more accessible at the grass-roots level and ensuring that every eligible citizen gets an opportunity to become part of the electoral process.

Two Festival Special Trains to Run Between New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In view of the extra rush of passengers during the festive season, Northern Railway has decided to run two reserved Festival Special Express trains between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra for the convenience of travellers and devotees.

Officials told KNO that the railway administration will operate Train No. 04083/04084 New Delhi – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra – New Delhi Reserved Festival Special Express for two trips each.

Train No. 04083 from New Delhi to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra will depart from New Delhi at 14:00 hrs on October 9 and



October 16, 2026 (Friday) and will reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 03:00 hrs the next morning.

On its return journey, Train No. 04084 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to New Delhi will depart from Katra at 10:00

hrs on October 10 and October 17, 2026 (Saturday) and will reach New Delhi at 23:30 hrs on the same day.

The train will cover a total distance of 655 kilometres and will have a total of 22 modern LHB coaches for the convenience of passengers.

En route, the festival special train will halt at Sonapat, Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Shaheed Captain Sunil Kumar Choudhary Kathua, Jammu Tawi and Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan stations.

In the same sequence, special train No. 04081/04082 is also currently being operated, which will remain operational till October 26.

Giving information in this regard, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, said, "During the festive season, there is a huge increase in the number of devotees visiting Mata Vaishno Devi. In view of this, these special trains are being run so that passengers can be provided with a smooth and comfortable journey with confirmed seats."

He appealed to passengers to plan their journey in advance and book tickets through the IRCTC website or railway reservation counters.

The Jammu Division Railway Administration is fully committed to providing better facilities to passengers during the festivals—(with KNO inputs)

5 Houses Damaged in Overnight Fire in Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Five residential houses were damaged after a fire broke out in the Qazi Mohalla area of Anantnag during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the fire damaged five residential houses in the area, leaving one person injured.

He said the Fire and Emergency Services Department rushed to the spot after receiving information and brought the blaze under control with the assistance of local residents.

The official said no loss of life was reported in the incident, while the injured man sustained minor burn injuries and was shifted to a hospital for medical assistance.

Meanwhile, the cause of the fire is under investigation, he added—(KNO)

Bear Mauls Man in Tral's Monghama

TRAL: A man was injured after being mauled by a bear in the Monghama Dankaad area of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the man was attacked by a bear in Dankaad area of Tral.

He said the injured was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tral for treatment, from where he was referred to Srinagar for further medical care. His condition is stated to be stable. The injured was identified as Bilal Ahmad, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Monghama Dankaad.

Meanwhile, the incident has triggered alarm in the area. It is the second bear attack reported in the Tral sub-division today—(KNO)

Wild Cosmos Blanket Bhaderwah's Manthala Hills

BHADERWAH: Manthala Hills in Bhaderwah, situated at an altitude of around 8,000 feet, have turned vibrant with the seasonal bloom of wild cosmos, locally adding a burst of colour to the valley's autumn landscape.

The flowers, blooming in shades of pink, white, magenta and orange, have appeared along stretches of the Bhaderwah–Jaie road, drawing the attention of locals and nature enthusiasts visiting the area.

Tourism strategist Rashid Choudhary said Bhaderwah's diverse floral landscape, ranging from wild foxglove and other seasonal blooms to cultivated lavender and marigold, offers scope for developing flower-based tourism in the region.

He called for greater promotion of Bhaderwah's floral heritage as part of efforts to showcase the area's natural attractions and draw visitors beyond the conventional tourism season. [KNT]

Taxpayers Are Partners in Nation-Building: IT Dept

Principal Commissioner Monika Dhami sensitises industrialists, hoteliers, DDOs on new tax provisions

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Tax is a tool for nation-building and should not be viewed as a burden, but as a contribution towards nation-building, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Monika Dhami said on Wednesday.

Dhami was addressing an awareness programme organised by the Income Tax Department at the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, to sensitise industrialists, traders, hoteliers, Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and other stakeholders about the provisions of the New Income Tax Act, 2025 and promote voluntary tax compliance. She was the chief guest at the programme.

The Principal Commissioner was accompanied

by Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Dr Ruveda Salam; Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax Sandhya Partap; and Income Tax Officers Vikash Parihar, Samsudin and Avinash Singh.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal Jatin Kishore was also present and addressed the gathering. He welcomed the initiative and stressed the need for greater awareness among the local business community about tax compliance, taxpayer services and facilities available to them.

Addressing the participants, Dhami called for timely, accurate and transparent compliance with income tax laws, while highlighting the role of taxpayers in strengthening the country's economic growth and development. She urged members of the business community to make full use of taxpayer services provided by the department and seek professional guidance wherever required.

Speaking to reporters, Dhami said the department had conducted extensive outreach in the district and interacted with the business community, chartered accountants and

taxpayers.

"Our main message was that tax is a tool for nation-building and should not be viewed as a burden, but as a contribution towards nation-building," she said.

She said the department now had better data, improved data processing and stronger connectivity, enabling it to "connect all the dots", and stressed that voluntary compliance was the way forward.

"We appeal to the people of Kashmir to join the nation-building process through voluntary compliance. The Income Tax Department, assesses and taxpayers are all partners in nation-building," Dhami said.

On DDOs, the Principal Commissioner said the department had planned a DDO Awareness Week programme and was ready to address their concerns. "We have explained various tools and measures to help DDOs improve compliance. I hope DDO awareness will become stronger and that they will not face difficulties in TDS filing," she said.

Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax Sandhya Partap delivered a detailed presentation on the New Income Tax Act, 2025, cov-

ering income tax return filing, deductions and exemptions, TDS-related documentation and other issues relevant to the business and industrial community.

The programme witnessed participation from taxpayers, traders, hoteliers and representatives of various trade and professional bodies, including the Bar Association and District Legal Services Authority.

The programme also provided an interactive platform for participants to raise queries and seek clarifications on tax-related matters. Income Tax officials addressed their concerns and provided guidance on compliance and other relevant provisions.

The department reiterated its commitment to facilitating taxpayers, strengthening taxpayer services and promoting voluntary compliance, transparency and taxpayer-friendly administration.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, to departmental officials, the district administration and participants for their presence and active participation—(KNO)

Urs Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) Begins at Charar-i-Sharief

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The annual Poshak Bandi ritual was performed with religious fervour at the revered shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) at Charar-i-Sharief in Budgam on Wednesday, marking the beginning of the annual Urs celebrations of the revered Sufi saint.

According to KNO, the sacred ritual of changing the cloth draped over the holy grave was performed by Senior Member of the J&K Waqf Board Syed Mohammad Hussain Hakani, Administrator Mohammad Amin Dar, and Mutawali Ziyarat Mohammad Younis Haji, in the presence of other Waqf board officials and a

large gathering of devotees.

The shrine reverberated with Manqabats, Naats, prayers and slogans in praise of Alamdar-e-Kashmir, as devotees gathered to witness the sacred ritual and offer prayers.

Popularly known as "Alamdar-e-Kashmir" and "Sheikh-ul-Aalam", Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) is among the most revered spiritual personalities of Kashmir, whose teachings, poetry and message of peace have deeply influenced the Valley's spiritual and cultural traditions.

The annual Urs attracts devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, who visit Charar-i-Sharief to pay their respects, offer prayers and seek blessings.

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e-NIT No: ED-II/20 of 2026-27 | Dated : 07-10-2026

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), e-bids are invited from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPPD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways for the following work

1	Name of the Work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of various electrical items required for Upgradation/Upekeement of Electrical Network at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar (CP&AO, Srinagar) under Capex 2026-27 with Scheme Code PDDSS2627100283
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs 9.41 Lacs

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below :

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in in from 10-10-2026; 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	10/10/26, 11:00 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	10/10/26, 04:30 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10/10/26, 05:30 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	31/10/26, 02:30 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening Date & Time	02/11/26, 03:30 PM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2 nd , Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document (e-challan/TR)	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of EMD/Performance Security Deposit	EMD for Rs 18820/- (Rupees Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Only) to be furnished and uploaded by all bidders for tender participation and Performance Security Deposit for an amount equal to 5% of the value of contract (to be furnished by L1 only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be Credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted. Further, No Bidder shall be exempted from depositing Cost of e-Bid document even if agency/bidder is MSME.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee for tender participation by all bidders, pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on EMD/Performance Security deposited with the Department. No Bidder shall be exempted from depositing of Earnest Money even if agency/bidder is MSME. The e-Bids of the bidders not submitting the certified copies of above mentioned documents at S.No. (1) and (2) in scanned form shall liable to be rejected.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the lowest tenderer instantly after opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The same must be submitted to this office within 03 days positively for award of contract.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBD is required to be uploaded.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' - (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original Performance Security and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover.

It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer.

Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
No : ED-II/TS/ 12333-37
Dated: 07-10-2026

DIPK-NB-1825-26
DT: 07/10/2026

Executive Engineer
KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh

Amazon Great Indian Festival Opens to All Customers with Year's Lowest Prices

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Amazon has opened its Great Indian Festival 2026 to all customers, offering the lowest prices of the year on lakhs of products across smartphones, electronics, fashion, beauty, home, kitchen and everyday essentials.

The festive sale features discounts of up to 80 per cent on select electronics, laptops, tablets and appliances, up to 80 per cent on fashion and beauty, up to 75 per cent on home and furniture, and up to 70 per cent on books, kitchen products, apparel and home essentials.

As part of a special offer on October 8, select customers in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi and Hyderabad will be able to purchase the iPhone 16

Credit Card can earn unlimited 5 per cent cashback.

Amazon said its Amazon Now quick-commerce service has expanded to more than 120 cities, offering deliveries within minutes on groceries, beauty products, home essentials, mobile accessories and other items. Customers can avail discounts of up to 50 per cent on groceries and everyday essentials through the service.

The company said festive shopping has also been enhanced with AI-powered tools. Its Rufus shopping assistant allows customers to compare products, track price history and set deal alerts through conversational searches.

"This is the biggest, fastest and most rewarding Amazon Great Indian Festival we have ever brought



at its lowest price of the year and have it delivered within minutes through Amazon Now.

Prime members will receive additional savings, including an extra 5 per cent discount on a large selection of products and ₹250 cashback on lakhs of eligible purchases. Customers can also avail themselves of an instant 10 per cent discount using SBI credit and debit cards and credit card EMI. Prime members using the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank

for customers," Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India, said.

Among the highlighted deals are the Apple iPhone 16 at ₹74,999, Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra at ₹84,999, Samsung Galaxy A56 5G at ₹31,999 and OnePlus Nord CE6 at ₹33,999.

Major offers are also available on products from Apple, Samsung, Sony, LG, Xiaomi, Nike, L'Oréal Paris, Levi's and WROGN, among other brands.

Minister Sakeena Stresses Skill Development



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government Degree College (GDC) D H Pora on Wednesday organized a programme on the theme "From Campus to Career", with Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo as the chief guest.

Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary in Higher Education Shafqat Iqbal, Director Colleges, Dr. Twinkle Suri and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges Dr. Seema Naz also attended the programme.

The programme commenced with a plantation drive inaugurated by the Minister in presence of Commissioner Secretary and other officers and students.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the efforts of the college in advancing the skill based education in the area. She emphasised focused attention on creating skilled human resource and the need for introducing demand-driven subjects and courses to enhance opportunities and enrolment in the college.

The Minister advised the students to channelize their energies in the right direction and focus on enhancing their skills, which would enable them to navigate the challenges of life with confidence. She emphasised that youth is the most productive phase of life and should be utilized for learning, innovation and self-development. She urged them to stay away from distractions, work with discipline and determination and contribute positively towards nation building.

The Commissioner Secretary exhorted the students to draw inspiration from the dignitaries present on the dais and emphasized the importance of treading the path of hard work to build successful careers. Encouraging the female students in particular, he urged them to galvanize themselves by looking at the three eminent women achievers on the podium as live symbols of women empowerment.

He informed that a proposal for creation of a dedicated Music Department in the college shall be submitted to the Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary in Higher Education Department emphasized the importance of skills, overall development and leadership qualities beyond mere degrees among the youth.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Principal, GDC DH Pora highlighted the college's efforts towards transforming the students' abilities into skills, opportunities and jobs.

Rahul, Priyanka Detained, FIR Filed as Oppn Protest Rocks Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI – Dramatic scenes unfolded in central Delhi as Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were forcibly removed and detained by police after opposition leaders staged a sit-in during their protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Gandhi siblings were among around 260 people detained after an INDIA bloc march towards the Election Commission was stopped by police. The protesters were demanding action over what opposition parties allege are irregularities in the functioning of the poll panel and the electoral-roll revision exercise.

The confrontation began after opposition MPs and leaders, who had gathered for a lunch meeting in central Delhi, proceeded towards Jantar Mantar in buses. Police stopped them from moving further, following which the leaders staged a sit-in near the Shangri-La hotel.

Rahul Gandhi and other lead-

ers sat on the road, while Priyanka Gandhi joined women leaders in the protest, carrying a copy of the Constitution.

As security personnel moved in to clear the protesters, Rahul Gandhi was forcibly removed and carried on the shoulders of police personnel before being put into a bus.

Congress leaders Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Udai Bhanu Chib climbed onto the bus carrying Gandhi, while Mumtaz Patel sat on its bonnet.

A large contingent of women police personnel then moved to remove Priyanka Gandhi and other women protesters from the road.

"They have scratched me all over. They have thrown us to the ground," Priyanka Gandhi alleged, accusing the police of manhandling elected representatives.

The Gandhi siblings were subsequently taken away in police buses and were later released, according to the Congress.

FIR adds fresh twist

The confrontation took another turn on Wednesday when Delhi Police registered an FIR against Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and their support-



ers over allegations that they forcibly entered the Akashvani Bhawan premises during the protest.

Police said the case was registered at Parliament Street Police Station following a complaint alleging that the Congress leaders, their supporters and other MPs accompanying them entered the premises without permission.

Police also said two guards

at Akashvani Bhawan allegedly sustained injuries when protesters attempted to enter the premises. A medico-legal examination was conducted, while police photographed parts of the premises where some damage was reportedly noticed.

Rahul Gandhi hit back at the FIR, saying he already had 45 FIRs against him and that his target was to have 100.

"I have 45 FIRs against me. My target is that there should be 100 FIRs against me. Every FIR against me is a medal for me," he said.

Congress attacks government

The Congress accused the government of using police action and FIRs to suppress opposition protests.

Party president Mallikarjun

Kharge alleged that the government was attempting to intimidate opposition leaders and said the Congress and its allies were prepared to take their campaign to the streets.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders were detained while attempting to protest against what the opposition calls the "capture" of the electoral system.

The Congress also accused the government of being "rattled" by Gandhi's campaign against SIR.

Opposition targets Election Commission

The INDIA bloc protest centred on allegations concerning the functioning of the Election Commission under CEC Gyanesh Kumar and the SIR exercise.

Opposition parties have alleged that the revision could result in eligible voters being excluded from electoral rolls and have demanded greater transparency in the process. The Election Commission has rejected the allegations and maintained that the revision is aimed at identifying duplicate and ineligible voters.

The opposition leaders were seeking to reach the Election Commission to submit their grievances and demand action against the CEC.

Police, however, said no permission had been sought or granted for the proposed march from Parliament to the Election Commission.

Akhilesh, Satheesan back protest

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav criticised the Delhi Police over the FIR against Rahul Gandhi, saying the police appeared to have little work other than registering cases.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief V D Satheesan, who joined the INDIA bloc protest, said every FIR against Rahul Gandhi for questioning electoral integrity amounted to an "attack" on democratic dissent.

The developments have further escalated the confrontation between the Opposition and the Election Commission over SIR, with the protest, police detentions and subsequent FIR turning the dispute into a wider political battle over electoral transparency and the right to dissent.

Bangladesh to Deliver Contraceptives Door-to-Door

Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh is all set to launch a year-long campaign to make contraceptives available at people's doorsteps as part of a government effort to contain population growth, a senior minister said on Wednesday.

The campaign, being conducted under the slogan "no more than two children, one is better", will be launched by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on December 1, Health Minister Sardar Sakhawat Hossain said.

It is aimed at expanding access to contraceptive methods while providing people with information and counselling on family planning, the minister said.

"Contraceptives will be made available at people's

doorsteps alongside the required advice," he said.

Hossain said family planning has emerged as "our weakest area as we could not do much in this regard", and the new campaign would seek to address the issue through intensified efforts over the next year.

"Unfortunately, the birth rate, which was once low, has increased by more than 2 per cent," he said.

"We will not just talk about it; rather, we will also supply and deliver all kinds of (contraceptive) materials such as tablets to people's doorsteps," Hossain said.

The announcement comes as Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries, seeks to revive momentum in its family planning programme.

US Proposes \$70,000 Fee for Foreign Student Workers

AP

WASHINGTON: The Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday proposed a USD 70,000 fee for international students seeking to work in the US, the latest effort from the Trump administration to crack down on foreign enrolment.

A proposed rule would require schools to pay the fee for every student who participates in the optional practice training programme, known as OPT, which allows students to work in jobs related to their major during or after their time in school.

Students are generally eligible for one year of work post-graduation, though certain science, technology, engineering and math majors are eligible for an

additional two years.

Schools would be required to pay the USD 70,000 for each new student's initial application to the programme, and a USD 30,000 fee for each renewal.

The change would represent a blow to American colleges and universities that heavily recruit students from overseas as a source of tuition revenue, as well as tech companies and other industries that hire many international students for technical roles.

The OPT programme allows international students to gain hands-on experience and fill labour shortages in high-demand STEM fields, said Fanta Aw, CEO of NAFSA, an association that represents international education.

"Driving away the tal-

ents, perspectives, and aspirations of international students will only hurt American innovation, economic growth, workforce development, and global leadership," Aw said in a written statement.

In a statement, DHS described the fee as a response to fraud and abuse of the visa programme, which it called a "pipeline for cheap foreign labour".

The public has 60 days to comment on the proposal before DHS can finalise it and put it into effect.

The proposal also could face legal challenges from higher education groups or business associations that could delay it.

President Donald Trump's administration has been putting pressure on international students in many ways as part of

its wider efforts to crack down on immigration and reshape higher education.

Last year, the Republican administration began suddenly terminating the legal status of thousands of international students, detaining and deporting many of them.

This summer, the administration finalised a rule that sought to prevent international students from staying in the US for more than four years without approval from the federal government.

The move drew swift backlash from higher education leaders who said it would increase the burden on schools and noted that many programmes are longer than four years by design. A federal court prevented the rule from taking effect in September.

VHP to Agnihotri: Who Are You to Question Hinduism?

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI:The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) hit back at 'Kashmir Files' producer Vivek Agnihotri on Wednesday over his latest remarks on Hinduism, asking who he is to question the religion and why he does not similarly comment on alleged superstitions and unscientific practices in other religions.

VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal, in a post on X, said Agnihotri's observation that people should not "share knowledge" about religion, particularly Hinduism, because "everyone here is already wise", also applies to those from the film industry.

"Everyone agrees with your statement that no one

should share knowledge about religion, especially Hinduism, here because everyone is wise. But this applies equally to people immersed in the film world," Bansal said.

The latest exchange followed Agnihotri's response to the criticism he received over his earlier "tax religion" remark.

In his latest post on X, Agnihotri said he has a "humble request" to devotees not to share knowledge about religion, especially Hinduism, on the platform, saying "everyone here is already wise".

He also said he keeps wondering what the creators of the Upanishads, great Hindu philosophers and Swami Vivekananda would have said if they were alive today.

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20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus

Duration (Years)	Corpus	Invested	Money grows to
5	₹4.1L	₹3.1L	1.4x
10	₹11.6L	₹6.0L	2.9x
15	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
20	₹51.8L	₹12.0L	6.5x
25	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x
30	₹1.9Cr	-	-

More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.

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